

Franklin County Commissioners Court
Commissioner Court Minutes
Regular Session
February 24, 2025

The Franklin County Commissioners Court met in a Regular Session on February 24, 2025, at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Franklin County Courthouse located at 200 North Kaufman Street, Mount Vernon, Texas.

Members present: Scott Lee, County Judge
Jerry Cooper, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Toby Godfrey, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Scott Newsome, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Scott Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 4
Brook Bussell, County Clerk

VISITORS: Marla White, Paris Tillery, Melissa Clawson, Lisa Lawrence, Max Cannaday, Brantin Carr, Matt Holz, Beth Hedges, Ricky Jones, Mike Millender, Ruth Greene, Kathy Boren, Gary Boren, Mary McLennan, Mike Rambin, Gary Morrow, Craig Lindholm, and Deryl Carr.

Judge Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Smith offered prayer. The Pledges of Allegiance to the American flag and the Texas flag were recited.

Public Comments: None

Agenda Item 1 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2025 WORKSHOP; FEBRUARY 10, 2025 REGULAR SESSION; AND THE FEBRUARY 13, 2025 WORKSHOP – COUNTY CLERK – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Item 2 – AUDIT CLAIMS AGAINST THE COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE THEIR PAYMENTS – COUNTY TREASURER – Commissioner Godfrey made a motion to approve payment of the claims against the county as presented, and Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

See Exhibit 02/24/2025 – A

Agenda Item 3 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON FOR THE PAWS ANIMAL SHELTER – COUNTY JUDGE – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Interlocal Agreement for Cooperative Work Between Governing Entities in regards to the PAWS Animal Shelter. Commissioner Godfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1, with Commissioner Cooper voting no.

See Exhibit 02/24/2025 – B

Agenda Item 4 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON FOR THE PAWS ANIMAL SHELTER – COUNTY JUDGE – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Mount Vernon for the PAWS Animal Shelter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Godfrey. Motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Cooper voting no.

See Exhibit 02/24/2025 - C

Agenda Item 5 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE ALLOCATED FUNDING FOR THE PAWS ANIMAL SHELTER – COUNTY AUDITOR – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the 2025 Budget Amendment recognizing additional operational expense for the PAWS Animal Shelter. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1, with Commissioner Cooper voting no.
See Exhibit 02/24/2025 – D

Agenda Item 6 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE REVISIONS MADE TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY SPORTS COMPLEX LEAGUE RENTAL/LEASE AGREEMENT – COUNTY JUDGE – Commissioner Newsome made a motion to approve the revisions to the Franklin County Sports Complex League Rental/Lease Agreement, and Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
See Exhibit 02/24/2025 – E

Agenda Item 7 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION PROJECT – ROBERT MOORE – Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the application for the FY 2026 State Homeland Security Program Grant # 5468801 for the Law Enforcement Protection Project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Godfrey. Motion carried 4-0.
See Exhibit 02/24/2025 – F

Agenda Item 8 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION FOR THE MDT UPGRADE PROJECT – ROBERT MOORE – Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the application for the FY 2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant # 5459201 for the MDT Upgrade Project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Godfrey. Motion carried 4-0.
See Exhibit 02/24/2025 – G

Agenda Item 9 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION FOR THE NEW DEPUTY RIFLE RESISTANT VEST PROJECT – ROBERT MOORE – Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the application for the FY 2026 Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Program for the New Deputy Rifle-Resistant Vest Project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Godfrey. Motion carried 4-0.
See Exhibit 02/24/2025 – H

Agenda Item 10 – RECORD CERTIFICATES OF COURSE COMPLETION OF THE CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING FOR RICKY JONES, CHRIS MARS, JACQUELINE MENDEZ, TEO MARQUEZ, YOLANDA WILLIAMS, DAVID ZUNIGA, SCOTT MCKINNEY, KASS WHITEHURST, JANET MIDDLETON, SCOTT LEE, BROOK BUSSELL, CLINT BAIN, JAMES HAWKINS, GUNNER AMERSON, RAY GREEN, BRIAN GURLEY, TELISA NEWMAN, CHANCE CRANE, AND SHANIECE HALL – COUNTY CLERK – The above-listed Certificates of Course Completion of the Cybersecurity Awareness Training were recorded as presented.
See Exhibit 02/24/2025 – I

Agenda Item 11 – RECORD TAC COURT ASSISTANTS' TRAINING CONFERENCE CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE FOR BETH HEDGES – COUNTY CLERK – The 2025 County Court Assistants' Training Conference Certificate for Beth Hedges was recorded as presented.
See Exhibit 02/24/2025 – J

Agenda Item 12 – RECORD MINUTES FROM JANUARY 13, 2025 FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD REGULAR MEETING – LINDA HAMMOND – The minutes of the January 13, 2025 Franklin County Child Welfare Board Regular Meeting were recorded as presented.
See Exhibit 02/10/2025 – K

Agenda Item 13 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE REVISED BID FROM ELLIOTT LESTER FOR PARKING LOT PAVEMENT AT THE FRANKLIN COUNTY ANNEX – COUNTY AUDITOR – Commissioner Smith made a motion to keep the contract as is with no revisions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Godfrey. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Item 14 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE LISTING SURPLUS EQUIPMENT WITH AUCTIONEER EXPRESS – COUNTY JUDGE – Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve listing surplus equipment with Auctioneer Express, and Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion:

- Judge Lee commended the Sheriff's Office for all of their hard work regarding the recent missing person/murder victim.
- Sheriff Jones recognized others involved in the ongoing investigation and thanked everyone for their joint efforts.
- Judge Lee addressed potential expenses related to a capital murder trial.
- Courthouse generator – Needs new automatic transfer switch. Wiring upgrades are also needed.
- Winnsboro Building – discussion on whether or not to sell the property.
- Deryl Carr asked to have his phone number taken off of anything related to the Sports Complex.
- Access to county information – ideas were tossed around to improve access. Most things are available online currently.
- Feral hog issue.
- Courthouse elevator – approximately \$25k to repair. Wait until contract is up to consider.

Agenda Item 14 - ADJOURN - Commissioner Godfrey made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:52 AM.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners Court Regular Session on February 24, 2025.

Witnessed and recorded this 24th day of February, 2025.

Brook Bussell, County Clerk