

Franklin County Commissioners Court
Commissioner Court Minutes
Workshop Session
April 28, 2025

The Franklin County Commissioners Court met in a Workshop Session on April 28, 2025, at 2:00 PM in the Commissioners Courtroom at the Franklin County Courthouse located at 200 North Kaufman Street, Mount Vernon, Texas.

Members present: Scott Lee – County Judge
Toby Godfrey – Commissioner Precinct 2
Scott Newsome – Commissioner Precinct 3
Scott Smith – Commissioner Precinct 4
Brook Bussell – County Clerk

Members absent: Jerry Cooper – Commissioner Precinct 1

VISITORS: Ellen Jagers, Paris Tillery, Melissa Clawson, Jill Major, Robert Zinn, Brantin Carr, Max Cannaday, Carla Fox, Ruth Greene, Mary McLennan, Kathy Boren, Gary Boren, Beth Hedges, Marla White, and Clint Bain.

County Judge Scott Lee called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Items discussed:

1. West Annex:
 - Issues with downspouts, concrete, and paint on cabinets.
 - Plumbing update – They are working on moving rock away from the lift station to pinpoint where the pipe is damaged. There is water standing in some of the flower beds. The sprinkler system is currently shut off.
 - District Clerk Ellen Jagers expressed a need for keyboard lap trays for her office as well as the tax office because the height of the countertops is taller than normal (due to ADA requirements) causing the staff pain in their arms and shoulders. She also stated that the juror chairs were not bolted in, but that has been fixed.
 - Tax Assessor Melissa Clawson stated they are unable to view the camera feed.
2. Resolution opposing BESS – draft is in the works.
3. Budget hearings are coming up in June. Tentatively scheduled for June 25, 2025. Auditor White mentioned specific things to consider such as a convection oven at the HUB meal center, lights at the sports complex, and remodel of the old fire training facility. She also stated she needs a priority list of other needs at the sports complex.
4. Sports Complex – possible upgrades to maximize the potential for more events and benefit to the county as a whole. The need to move the current employee from part-time back to full-time was noted.
5. Winnsboro Building – parking.
6. The HUB – new oven is in.
7. Second floor courtroom – there is minor buckling of the floor due to the flooding

- issue created by the geothermal system leak.
8. Minor remodeling/changes to the former District Clerk's office for the Justice of the Peace, and to the existing JP's office for the County Attorney.
 9. Courthouse generator – CenterPoint is coming to hook up the gas line tomorrow. Once the transfer switch is in, it should be operational.
 10. Commissioner Scott Smith suggested setting the clean up weeks for the same weeks each year to make it easier for the public to keep up with it.
 11. Fire Departments – Need for a full time 24/7 fire department. Currently talking with the City of Mt. Vernon in regards to a possible partnership. This would be in addition to the current volunteer departments, not to replace or take anything away from them.
 12. Preliminary tax evaluations – approximately \$400M increase from last year.
 13. Mary McLennan provided information about Regional Planning Commissions per Local Government Code Chapter 391 in regards to solar and renewables. Nancy White, a Van Zandt County resident, can come to a workshop meeting to provide further information. The Court expressed an interest in getting this meeting set up.
 14. Globe Life will be here Thursday starting at 9:00 AM.
 15. Tex Pool – Treasurer Paris Tillery would like to invest funds to maximize interest earnings. There will be a gentleman from Tex Pool to come speak to the Court.

Adjourn – Commissioner Newsome made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:18 PM.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners Court Workshop Session on April 28, 2025.

Witnessed and recorded this 30th day of April, 2025.

Brook Bussell, County Clerk