

Franklin County Commissioners Court  
Commissioner Court Minutes  
Workshop Session  
May 5, 2025

The Franklin County Commissioners Court met in a Workshop Session on May 5, 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

Members absent: Jerry Cooper – Commissioner Precinct 1  
Brook Bussell – County Clerk

**VISITORS:** Marie Redar, Beth Hedges, Ricky Jones, Max Cannaday, Marla White, Paris Tillery, Melissa Clawson, Brantin Carr, Yesi Valenzuela Castro, Angie Jackson, Mike Millender, Kathy Boren, Gary Boren, Mike Rambin, Joel Dihle, Nancy White, Mary McLennan, Ric Nelson, Jacqueline Miller, Laurie Dihle, Tom Austin, Russell McCurdy, B.F. Hicks, Alicia Daberkow, Ron Barker, and Scott Hommel.

County Judge Scott Lee called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM. Commissioner Smith offered prayer. The Pledges of Allegiance to the American flag and the Texas flag were recited.

Items discussed:

1. Mary McLennan introduced Nancy White from Van Zandt County. Nancy and Lamar County Republican Chair Scott Hommel spoke about challenges and dangers associated with solar farms and BESS facilities, and provided information about the 391 Commission for the Court to consider for Franklin County.
2. Elections – ADA compliance issues with the doors and concrete; and awning for curbside voting.
3. Court seal for courtrooms.
4. Plumbing at West Annex – Steve Slaton has done a temporary fix for now. He will provide info on a permanent fix soon.
5. Courthouse generator – still waiting on CenterPoint.
6. Economic Development – Russell McCurdy spoke about the GeoFrame Energy lithium plant. Judge Lee wants to schedule a town hall meeting.
7. Fire Department – schedule a joint meeting with the city council regarding a full-time fire department. The appraisal district will provide a comparison of number of residences within the city limits and in the county.
8. Globe Life insurance – Treasurer Paris Tillery addressed the differences as to what was presented in court and what was actually offered.
9. Sheriff Jones wants to rent a golf cart to move inmates from the jail to the new annex for approximately three months, and then purchase an 8-person enclosed golf cart. Funds can come out of Inmate Housing.

10. Holley Clay is working on the fix for the floor in the second floor courtroom.
11. Minor remodel for the County Attorney's office.
12. Ric Nelson introduced himself and talked about his experience with renewable energy.

**Adjourn** – Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:57 PM.

I, Brook Bussell, County Clerk, certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of the Commissioners Court Workshop Session on May 5, 2025.

Witnessed and recorded this 20th day of May, 2025.

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Brook Bussell, County Clerk