
MINUTES OF COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING

I.

Attached hereto is/are public notice(s) posted for the meeting of **January 25, 2024**.

II.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of Fayette County, Texas, Commissioners Court held in the Commissioners Courtroom (3rd floor - Room 303) at the Fayette County Courthouse located at 151 North Washington Street, La Grange, Texas.

III.

Attendance: County Judge Dan Mueller **Present**
County Commissioner – Precinct No. 1, Jason McBroom **Present**
County Commissioner – Precinct No. 2, Luke Sternadel **Present**
County Commissioner – Precinct No. 3, Harvey Berckenhoff **Present**
County Commissioner – Precinct No. 4, Drew Brossmann **Present**

IV.

County Officials/County Personnel present during all or any part of the meeting:
Brenda Fietsam, County Clerk; Cassie Austin, Court Administrator;
Roger Wunderlich, Constable Precinct 2; Billy Roensch, Constable Precinct 1;
Cindy Havelka, County Auditor; Paula Lewellen, Human Resources Manager;
Randy Noviskie, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Blake Watson, Assistant County Attorney;
Josh Vandever, EMS Director; Angela Hahn, Emergency Management Coordinator;
Clint Sternadel, County Inspector & Office of Development & Permitting

V.

Persons in attendance during all of any part of the meeting:
See Attached Exhibit A

VI.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE TEXAS FLAG

“Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.”

VII.

Meeting opened at **1:31 p.m.** on motion by Commissioner **Brossmann**,
seconded by Commissioner **Sternadel**, votes for **5**, votes against **0**.

AGENDA ACTION:

1. **SUBJECT: Consider and take appropriate action in approving the following minutes from previous meetings:**

i. **January 11, 2023 – Regular Meeting**

ACTION: Approved minutes from the January 11, 2023 Regular Meeting.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Brenda Fietsam, County Clerk

MOVED BY COMMR. McBroom, SECONDED BY COMMR. Berckenhoff

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

2. **SUBJECT: Open public comments – petitions, requests or statements by the public. Close.**

ACTION: Opened Public Comments.

Accepted All Public Comments.

Closed Public Comments.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Angela Hahn, Emergency Management Coordinator; Craig Moreau; Commissioner Harvey Berckenhoff

See attached hereto marked “Exhibit B1”

MOVED BY COMMR. Brossmann, SECONDED BY COMMR. Sternadel

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

3. **SUBJECT: Consider and take appropriate action concerning the following applications requesting the division of real property: Steve Hillhouse located in Precinct 1; Ken Oden located in Precinct 1; Stephanie Cotton located in Precinct 3.**

ACTION: Approved the following applications requesting the division of real property: Steve Hillhouse located in Precinct 1; Ken Oden located in Precinct 1; Stephanie Cotton located in Precinct 3.

See attached hereto marked "Agenda Action 3 Exhibit"

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Clint Sternadel, County Inspector & Office of Development & Permitting; William Bernsen

See attached hereto marked "Exhibit B2"

MOVED BY JUDGE Mueller, SECONDED BY COMMR. Berckenhoff

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

4. **SUBJECT: Consider and take appropriate action in re-appointing Commissioner Luke Sternadel as the Fayette County Commissioners Court Representative on the Combined Community Action Inc., Board of Directors.**

ACTION: Appointed Commissioner Jason McBroom as the Fayette County Commissioners Court Representative on the Combined Community Action Inc., Board of Directors.

See attached hereto marked "Agenda Action 4 Exhibit"

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Commissioner Luke Sternadel

MOVED BY JUDGE Mueller, SECONDED BY COMMR. Sternadel

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

5. **SUBJECT: Hear report from Fayette County Sheriff's Office.**

ACTION: Accepted report from Fayette County Sheriff's Office.

See attached hereto marked "Agenda Action 5 Exhibit"

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Randy Noviskie, Chief Deputy Sheriff

MOVED BY COMMR. Brossmann, SECONDED BY JUDGE Mueller

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

6. **SUBJECT: Hear report from Josh Vandever, EMS Director.**

ACTION: Accepted report from Josh Vandever, EMS Director.

See attached hereto marked "Agenda Action 6 Exhibit"

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Josh Vandever, EMS Director

MOVED BY COMMR. Brossmann, SECONDED BY COMMR. Berckenhoff

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

7. **SUBJECT: Consider and take appropriate action in approving the request from the Red Door Fund to place a single red ribbon on an oak tree on the Courthouse lawn along with two yard signs advocating for mental health awareness for the month February.**

ACTION: Approved the request from the Red Door Fund to place a single red ribbon on an oak tree on the Courthouse lawn along with two yard signs advocating for mental health awareness for the month February.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Susannah Mikulin, Fayette Community Foundation; Cheryl Pekar, Fayette Community Foundation

MOVED BY JUDGE Mueller, SECONDED BY COMMR. Berckenhoff

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

8. **SUBJECT: Consider and take appropriate action in entering into a two Contracts between Straight Line Services, LLC and Fayette County, Texas for the demolition, abatement (if applicable) and disposal of two residential homes located at 845 Country Club Drive and 901 Country Club Drive, La Grange, Texas.**

ACTION: Entered into two Contracts between Straight Line Services, LLC and Fayette County, Texas for the demolition, abatement (if applicable) and disposal of two residential homes located at 854 Country Club Drive and 901 Country Club Drive, La Grange, Texas.

See attached hereto marked "Agenda Action 8 Exhibit"

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Cassie Austin, Court Administrator

MOVED BY COMMR. Berckenhoff, SECONDED BY COMMR. Sternadel

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

9. **SUBJECT: Discuss and take appropriate action on a resolution to submit a grant application to the Texas General Land Office for the CDBG Regional Mitigation Program and authorize the County Judge to sign all necessary documents.**

ACTION: Approved a resolution to submit a grant application to the Texas General Land Office for the CDBG Regional Mitigation Program; and Authorized the County Judge to sign all necessary documents.

See attached hereto marked "Agenda Action 9 Exhibit"

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Angela Hahn, Emergency Management Coordinator

MOVED BY COMMR. Brossmann, SECONDED BY COMMR. McBroom
Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

10. **SUBJECT: Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action in possibly entering in to a mineral lease with Tidal Petroleum, Inc. for mineral rights owned by Fayette County located under Pine Springs Cemetery.**

ACTION: Approved entering into a mineral lease with Tidal Petroleum, Inc. for mineral rights owned by Fayette County located under Pine Springs Cemetery, once the County Attorney's Office and Commissioner Berckenhoff negotiate the bonus money amount.

See attached hereto marked "Agenda Action 10 Exhibit"

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Blake Watson, Assistant County Attorney

MOVED BY JUDGE Mueller, SECONDED BY COMMR. McBroom
Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____
Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

11. **SUBJECT: Consider and take appropriate action in approving the purchase for Precinct 4 Road & Bridge of a new 2023 Dodge 2500 Tradesman (VIN 3C6UR5CJ3PG518836) located at Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge, 1880 Highway 290 W, Brenham, Texas 77833, for the amount of \$49,995.00, using Precinct 4 Road & Bridge funds available and in the 2024 budget.**

ACTION: Approved the purchase for Precinct 4 Road & Bridge of a new 2023 Dodge 2500 Tradesman (VIN 3C6UR5CJ3PG518836) located at Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge, 1880 Highway 290 W, Brenham, Texas 77833, for the amount of \$49,995.00, using Precinct 4 Road & Bridge funds available and in the 2024 budget.

See attached hereto marked "Agenda Action 11 Exhibit"

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Commissioner Drew Brossmann

MOVED BY COMMR. Berckenhoff, SECONDED BY COMMR. McBroom

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

12. **SUBJECT: Consider and take appropriate action in approving the purchase for Precinct 2 Road & Bridge of a used 2014 Freightliner (VIN 3AKJGNDR2EDFL1071) located at Kennon Truck and Trailer Sales LLC, 4293 South Robinson Dr., Lorena, Texas 76655, for the amount of \$39,040.00, using Precinct 2 Road & Bridge funds available and in the 2024 budget.**

ACTION: Approved the purchase for Precinct 2 Road & Bridge of a used 2014 Freightliner (VIN 3AKJGNDR2EDFL1071) located at Kennon Truck and Trailer Sales LLC, 4293 South Robinson Dr., Lorena, Texas 76655, for the amount of \$39,040.00, using Precinct 2 Road & Bridge funds available and in the 2024 budget.

See attached hereto marked "Agenda Action 12 Exhibit"

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Commissioner Luke Sternadel

MOVED BY COMMR. McBroom, SECONDED BY COMMR. Brossmann

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

13. **SUBJECT: Acknowledge the 2023 Racial Profiling Reports as submitted by the Fayette County Constables, Precinct #1 and Precinct #2.**

ACTION: Acknowledged the 2023 Racial Profiling Reports as submitted by the Fayette County Constables, Precinct #1 and Precinct #2.

See attached hereto marked "Agenda Action 13 Exhibit"

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Roger Wunderlich, Constable Precinct 2

MOVED BY COMMR. Brossmann, SECONDED BY COMMR. Sternadel

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

14. **SUBJECT: Acknowledge the fiber upgrade plans of Colorado Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc (CVTC) to install new buried fiber optic cables and copper cables within the corridors of the following road(s): O’Quinn Branch Rd, Frank Rd, Elo Ln, Zimmermann Ln, Louis Herzik Rd, Klekar Gin Rd, Wolters Rd, Baumgarten Rd, E. Parker Rd (two sections), Bittner Rd, Truitt Cutoff Rd, Salem Freyburg Rd (Precinct 3), Wolters Rd (two section), Victor Ln, Michalke Rd, Marty Rd, Bucek Ln, and Bryant Rd (Precinct 4).**

ACTION: Acknowledged the fiber upgrade plans of Colorado Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc (CVTC) to install new buried fiber optic cables and copper cables within the corridors of the following road(s): O’Quinn Branch Rd, Frank Rd, Elo Ln, Zimmermann Ln, Louis Herzik Rd, Klekar Gin Rd, Wolters Rd, Baumgarten Rd, E. Parker Rd (two sections), Bittner Rd, Truitt Cutoff Rd, Salem Freyburg Rd (Precinct 3), Wolters Rd (two section), Victor Ln, Michalke Rd, Marty Rd, Bucek Ln, and Bryant Rd (Precinct 4).

See attached hereto marked “Agenda Action 14 Exhibit”

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: None

MOVED BY COMMR. Berckenhoff, SECONDED BY COMMR. McBroom

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

15. **SUBJECT: Consider and take appropriate action in reviewing, discussing, and potentially adopting amendments to the Fayette County Personnel Manual/ Employee Handbook in accordance with the December 22, 2022 Commissioner’s Court meeting.**

ACTION: Rescinded December 22, 2022 order on changes to the Fayette County Employee Manual for exempt employees; and

Approved proposed amendment to the Fayette County Employee Manual regarding tracking campaigning time taken during normal business hours for any employee running for public office.

See attached hereto marked “Agenda Action 15 Exhibit”

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Blake Watson, Assistant County Attorney; Commissioner Jason McBroom; Craig Moreau; William Bernsen; Mark Elvig

See attached hereto marked “Exhibit B1, B2, & B3”

MOVED BY JUDGE Mueller, SECONDED BY COMMR. Brossmann

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

16. **SUBJECT: Consider and take appropriate action concerning approving the payment of currently due Fayette County bills and expenses.**

ACTION: Approved the payment of currently due Fayette County bills and expenses.

See attached hereto marked "Agenda Action 16 Exhibit"

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT: Cindy Havelka, County Auditor

MOVED BY COMMR. McBroom, SECONDED BY COMMR. Sternadel

Commr. McBroom, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Sternadel, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Commr. Berckenhoff, vote for **X**, vote against _____

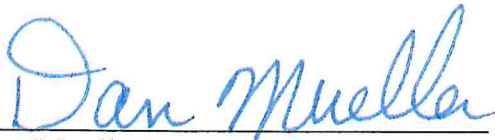
Commr. Brossmann, vote for **X**, vote against _____

Judge Mueller, vote for **X**, vote against _____

VIII.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m., January 25, 2024, on motion by Commissioner Berckenhoff, seconded by Commissioner Brossmann, votes for 5, votes against 0.

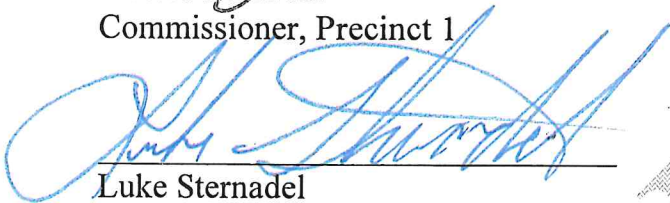
APPROVED this 8th day of February, 2024.



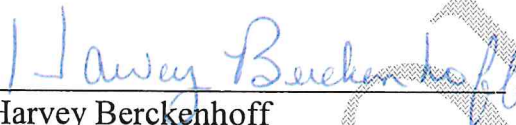
Dan Mueller
Fayette County Judge



Jason McBroom
Commissioner, Precinct 1



Luke Sternadel
Commissioner, Precinct 2



Harvey Berckenhoff
Commissioner, Precinct 3



Drew Brossmann
Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:



Brenda Fietsam
County Clerk

