

JULY 22, 2024 9:00 AM

The Wheeler County Commissioners Court met in Regular Session on the above date at 9:00 AM to consider the below listed agenda items. Members present were: Judge Pat McDowell; Commissioner Jackie Don May Jr; Commissioner Phillip Gaines, Commissioner David Simpson; and Commissioner John Walker. Also attending were Nichole Mock-County Auditor; Bobbie Walker-Deputy County Clerk; Renee Warren-County Treasurer; Leslie Timmons-County Attorney; Cindy Brown-County Tax Collector; Sherrri Jones-District Clerk; Rick Walden-JP #2; Natalie Thomas-JP #1; Ken Daughtry-Emergency Management; Kimberly Morgan-Tax Appraiser; Louis Stas-Wheeler Times and Taire Knight-County Star News. and Johnny Carter and numerous county employees and citizens of the county.

Court was called to Order by Judge McDowell and then he offered the opening prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

All offered during Budget Workshop period.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FEE REPORTS

David Simpson made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve the County Treasurers Claim report covering the period of July 9, 2024 through July 18, 2024 and totaling \$280,908.61. Motion carried unanimously.

COMPENSATORY TIME BALANCES APPROVED

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve and accept the compensatory time balances for the period ending July , 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

No action needed.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

No action needed.

BUDGET LINE ITEM TRANSFERS APPROVED

Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to approve the below listed line item transfers:

Treasurer-\$ 650.00 from Bond Premium to Conf Training Official
SO -\$3,000.00 to Telephone
-\$2,834.00 to Travel
-\$1,334.00 from Computer Expense
-\$1,500.00 from Conf Training Official
-\$ 900.00 from Employee Physicals
-\$ 966.00 from Equip Purchase
-\$1,134.00 from Utilities
BldgMain-\$1,089.00 from Ext Bldg to Equipment Purchase
VA -\$ 284.00 from Supplies to Conf Training Official
Auditor -\$ 45.00 from Equip rent to Dues & Publications
Non Dept-\$5,000.00 from Legal Fees to Indigent Defense
-\$17,217.00 from Contingency to Appraisal District
RB 1 -\$ 1,750.00 from Utilities to Supplies & Parts
-\$ 2,186.00 from Fuel to Supplies & Parts

Motion carried unanimously.

BURN BAN

No action taken.

JUDGES REPORT

Judge McDowell reported on activities since the last court meeting. Some of those being: Attendance at the two Hospital Board meetings, possibility of a grant for Feral Hog eradication, adding concrete to the AgShow barn floor.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Nothing to report

PCT #3-SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION APPROVED

David Simpson made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to declare the following as surplus property, effective July 22, 2024.

1993 International truck, VIN #2HSFBBGR1PC062733
755C John Deere Track Loader, FA#21-17

Motion carried unanimously.

PCT #3-VIRTUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION ATTENDANCE GRANTED FOR TAC LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

At the request of David Simpson, Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve David Simpson to attend a continuing education conference virtually from August 28, 2024 through August 30, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

SO-RECERTIFICATION OF CLE DELIVERY SYSTEM INSTRUCTOR COURSE AND L.E.OC LG (CASE) 35ct for 3 DEPUTIES APPROVED

At the request of Sheriff Carter, Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to approve payment in the amount of \$3,533.25 for 3 deputies to recertify for CLE Delivery SSystem Instructor and L.E. OC LG (Case) 35ct and payable from Asset Forfeiture Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER-TEXAS COUNTY AND DISTRICT RETIREMENT SYSTEM CONTRIBUTION RATE DETERMINED

Judge McDowell made a motion to set the contribution rate at 150%. Motion died for lack of a second. Then, John Walker made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to set the contribution rate for the new plan year at 200%. Voting FOR-Commissioners May Jr, Gaines, Simpson and Walker. Voting AGAINST-Judge McDowell. Motion carried.

HIRING FREEZE CONSIDERATION

After discussion, no action was taken.

EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE POLICY APPROVED

After discussion, Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to adopt an Early Retirement Incentive Policy for Wheeler County with the provision that employees aged 60 to 64 years on September 30, 2024 that retire on September 30, 2024 shall be carried on the Wheeler County Health Insurance plan until their 65th birthday with no cost to the retired employee, and full-time vested employees over the age of 65 years old that retire on September 30, 2024 shall be paid an early retirement incentive of \$15,000.00, all effective September 30, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF AND CONSTABLE SERVICE FEES FOR 2025 APPROVED

Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to set the Sheriff and Constable fees for service as the same rates as in 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

TAX COLLECTOR-APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATION OF 2024 TAX APPRAISAL ROLL-\$1,428,195,846.00

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to approve the Certification of the 2024 Appraisal Roll as submitted by Kimberly Morgan, Chief Appraiser. The certified taxable values total \$1,428,195,846.00. Motion carried unanimously.

TAX COLLECTOR-2024 TAX RATE CALCULATION WORKSHEET ACCEPTED

After discussion, John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to approve the 2024 Tax Rate calculation worksheet showing the no-new revenue rate and the voter-approval tax rate. The no-new revenue rate will be \$0.61698 and the voter approval tax rate will be \$0.63857. Motion carried unanimously.

TAX COLLECTOR-DISCONTINUE PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE SERVICES, effective August 1, 2024

At the request of Cindy Brown, Tax Collector, Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to discontinue the collection of the Texas Parks & Wildlife service fee for boat tags, effective August 1, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Numerous citizens of Wheeler County attended the workshop, some of those present included: Dayna Carpenter, Cecil Gaither, Pam Hibler, Joe VanZandt, Clifford Oldham, Karla Benson, Barry Sanders, Pete Vinyard, Crystal McEntire and Judy Woollard letter, Josh Reid. Taxes, and increases, EMS budget needs, County Unit System, and budget increases and cuts were discussed by those that requested to address the court with their concerns.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

David Simpson made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve the bills for payment and pay accordingly. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None needed.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING-10:30 AM

Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

JUDGE PAT MCDOWELL

MARGARET DORMAN, COUNTY CLERK

APPROVED: _____