

August 26, 2024 9:00 AM

The Wheeler County Commissioners Court met in Regular Session on the above date with the following members in attendance: Judge McDowell; Commissioner Jackie Don May Jr; Commissioner Phillip Gaines; Commissioner David Simpson and Commissioner John Walker. Also attending were: Margaret Dorman-County Clerk; Nichole Mock-County Auditor; Leslie Timmons-County Attorney; Cindy Brown-Tax Collector; Renee Warren-County Treasurer; Johnny Carter-County Sheriff; Kimberly Morgan-Tax Appraiser; Louis Stas-Wheeler Times; Terrie Knight-County Star News; Rick Walden-JP #2; Natalie Thomas-JP #1; Amanda Bond, Barry and Melissa Sanders, Karla Benson, Dan Sams, Lee Hibler, Carrie Gaines, Rhonda Scott, Dayna Carpenter, Leroy & Rhonda Meriwether, Amanda Brown, Dee Dee Reeves, Mariah Selby, Chalone Hefley, Tyler Kincaid, Autumn Ferguson, Bobby Evans.

Judge McDowell opened court at 9:00 am and then offered the opening prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Sams, City of Wheeler Mayor, spoke and expressed his appreciation to the Court.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FEE REPORTS

David Simpson made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to approve the County Treasurer reports for April 2024, May 2024, June 2024, July 2024 and the Claim Report for the period of August 13, 2024 through August 22, 2024 and totaling \$181,468.22. Motion carried unanimously.

COMPENSATORY TIME BALANCE APPROVED

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve the compensatory time balances for the period ending August 9, 2024 and totaling 2,087.86 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS APPROVED

David Simpson made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to approve the following budget amendment:
SO-\$2,250.00 to Travel/transport
Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

No action needed.

BUDGET LINE ITEM TRANSFERS APPROVED

Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to approve the following budget line item transfers:

- CO CLERK -\$ 2,000.00 from Election workers to Election Expense
- TREAS -\$ 1,175.00 Conf & Training Staff to Equip Rent & Repair
- SO -\$ 125.00 from Due & Publications to Equip Rent & Repair
- SO -\$ 5,000.00 from Fuel Exp to Vehicle Expense
- JAIL -\$ 850.00 from Computer Exp to Travel/Transport
- JAIL -\$ 5,000.00 from Equipment Rent to Supplies
- JAIL -\$ 4,000.00 from Utilities to Building Exp
- JAIL -\$ 4,000.00 from fuel to Building Exp
- JAIL -\$ 7,000.00 from OS Prisoner exp to Building Exp
- DIST CLK -\$ 500.00 from Conf Training Staff to Conf Training Official
- EXT -\$ 1,700.00 from Fuel Exp to Vehicle Exp
- 31stDist -\$ 1,000.00 from Conf & Training Staff to Conf Training Official
- IT -\$ 175.00 from Equip Purchase to Dues & Publications
- NON DEPT -\$ 87.00 from Newspaper Notice to Dues & Publication
- NON DEPT -\$ 345.00 from Air Med Care to News Paper Notice
- NON DEPT -\$ 568.00 from Newspaper Notice
- NON DEPT -\$ 186.00 from Contract Ct Reporter
- NON DEPT -\$ 814.00 from Contract Ct Reporter
- NON DEPT -\$ 1,202.00 from Dist Atty Office
- NON DEPT -\$ 378.00 from Capital Case Expense
- NON DEPT -\$ 7,606.00 from Property Insurance
- NON DEPT -\$ 10,000.00 to Indigent Def.Unindicted
- NON DEPT -\$ 754.00 to Interpreter Services
- R&B #1 -\$ 5,000.00 from Warehouse Exp to Supplies & Parts
- R&B #1 -\$ 2,000.00 from Conf Dues & Travel to Supplies & Parts
- R&B #2 -\$ 1,475.00 from Utilities to Contract Labor
- R&B #2 -\$ 1,025.00 from Utilities to Supplies & Parts
- R&B #2 -\$ 12,875.00 from Road Materials to Supplies & Parts
- R&B #2 -\$ 1,100.00 from Insurance Exp to Supplies & Parts
- R&B #4 -\$ 37,142.00 from Fuel to Supplies & Parts
- R&B #4 -\$ 2,000.00 from Contract Labor to Supplies & Parts
- R&B #4 -\$ 3,050.00 from Insurance Expense to Supplies & Parts

Motion carried unanimously.

BURN BAN

No action taken.

JUDGES REPORT

Judge McDowell informed the Court and Public about the upcoming Labor Day celebration in Mobeetie, his recent attendance at the Juvenile Board meeting, budget process to this day and transparency in all the process.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commissioner Gaines reported that the retaining wall on the east property line at the courthouse has been repaired.

BUDGET HEARING

During this period the following citizens chose not to address the Court after signing in to speak: Leroy Meriwether, Rhonda Meriwether, Amanda Brown and Barry Sanders. Those that addressed the Court with their concerns were: Karla Benson and Dayna Carpenter. Their topics were the budget, tax rate, unit system and revenue.

HEALTH INSURANCE RATES APPROVED, effective December 1, 2024

After discussion, John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to approve the health insurance rates for Wheeler county employees, effective December 1, 2024 using the current plan & the rates associated with the plan. Motion carried unanimously.

SALARY SCHEDULE FOR 2025 FISCAL YEAR APPROVED

Jackie Don May Jr made the motion which was seconded by David Simpson to approve the revised salary schedule (which had salary increases removed and reflected salary increases for SO employees, Jail employees, Court Reporter, District Court reporter) for the 2025 fiscal year. Voting YES-Commissioners May Jr, Gaines, Simpson & Walker. Voting NO-Judge McDowell. Motion carried.

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET CHANGES

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET CHANGES-Continued

"Tan Box" of presentation-Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to approve the amounts shown as "Transfer Out" and "Transfer In". Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET ADOPTED FOR 2024-2025 YEAR

After discussion among the Court and Barry Sanders and Karla Benson, Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to adopt the Revised Budget with the property tax rate of \$0.48717 per \$100.00 valuation. Voting: Judge McDowell-NO; Commissioner Jackie Don May Jr-YES; Commissioner Phillip Gaines-YES; Commissioner David Simpson-YES; and Commissioner John Walker-YES. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF 2024 TAX RATE FOR GENERAL FUND, ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND AND SPECIAL LATERAL ROAD FUND

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to set the 2024 Tax Rate at \$0.48717 per \$100.00 valuation. Motion carried unanimously. The Farm to Market/Flood Control portion is 0.06041 and the Special Lateral Road portion is 0.05980.

PUBLIC FUNDS INVESTMENT REPORT FOR FY 23-24-THIRD QUARTER APPROVED

Renee Warren, County Treasurer, presented her Third Quarter Public Funds Investment report which reflected a \$181,423.25 earning. Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to accept the report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

TAX COLLECTOR-RENEWAL OF SOFTWARE CONTRACT WITH PRITCHARD & ABBOTT INC APPROVED

At the request of Cindy Brown, Tax Collector, Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve the renewal of the contract with Pritchard & Abbott Inc for software used in the Tax Collector office. The annual fee will be \$22,400.00. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDITOR APPOINTMENT APPROVED

As reflected by the Order received from 31st Judicial District Judge Steven R Emmert, John Walker made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to approve his Order and appoint Nichole Mock as the Wheeler County Auditor. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY AUDITOR SALARY SET

As reflected by the Order Setting Salary from 31st Judicial District Judge Steven R Emmert, Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to set the salary for Nichole Mock-County Auditor as \$84,799.10. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS


Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve the bills for payment and pay accordingly. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action needed.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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


MARGARET DORMAN, COUNTY CLERK
APPROVED: 9/16/24

JUDGE PAT MCDOWELL