

May 27, 2025

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 attending were: Judge McDowell, Commissioner Phillip Gaines, Commissioner David Simpson and Commissioner John Walker. Commissioner Jackie Don May Jr was absent. Court was opened by Judge McDowell who then offered an opening prayer. Others attending court were: Margaret Dorman-Clerk of the Court; Nichole Mock-County Auditor; Cindy Brown- Tax Collector; Sherri Jones-District Clerk; Annette Walden-HR director; Tim Reeves-Sheriff; Leslie Timmons-County Attorney; Rick Walden-JP #2; Jeff Shortnacy-Constable #2; Larry Gatlin-IT Director; Joe McQuay; Terry Knight; Louis Stas; Dan Sams and Karla Benson.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Trostle met with the Court to inquire about a recent check issued to B&G Electric. Nicole Mock, County Auditor, answered his questions.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FEE REPORTS

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to approve the County Treasurers Claim Report covering the period of May 13, 2025 through May 21, 2025 and totaling \$52,851.86. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF COMPENSATORY TIME BALANCES

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve the compensatory time balances as submitted for the period ending May 24, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

No action needed.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

No action needed.

BUDGET LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to approve the following budget line item transfer:

Tax Collector-\$500.00 from Computer expense to Conf Training Official and Conf Training Staff
Motion carried unanimously.

BURN BAN

No action taken.

JUDGES REPORTS

Judge McDowell reported on a request he had received from Panhandle Community Services for a budget consideration of \$3,300.00; new glass on the Courthouse doors has been installed and reminded that budget requests are to be submitted as soon as possible.

During this time, Nichole Mock, County Auditor reported that tire purchases are over \$50,000.00 and Buy Board has to be used for future purchases; recent changes to credit cards

During this time, Sherri Jones, District Clerk, also reported that the retirement reception for Debbie McLaughlin will be on Wednesday at 1:00 am.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

None was submitted.

PCT #1-ROAD BORE PERMITS GRANTED MERIT ENERGY COMPANY-3

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to grant Merit Energy Company three (3) road bore permits to bore under county roads D and 15 with 3" poly lines for water. Motion carried unanimously.

TAX COLLECTOR-BID ACCEPTED FOR LOTS IN LELA, PURCELL ADDITION

One bid was received for 4 lots in the Purcell Addition in Lela. Robert Holden submitted a bid in the amount of \$1,200.00 for Lots 6-9, Block 1, Lela, Purcell addition.

David Simpson made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to accept the bid from Robert Holden conditional upon approval of the other taxing entities approving their bids also. Motion carried unanimously.

SO-HOBIE HILL CHANGED TO PART TIME JAILER/DISPATCHER, effective May 30, 2025

At the request of Sheriff Reeves, Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to change Hobie Hill from full time to part time jailer/dispatcher, effective May 30, 2025, with a salary of \$17.99 hourly. Motion carried unanimously.

JOE MCQUAY-CRIME STOPPERS BUDGET REQUEST-\$2,500.00

Joe McQuay, Vice Chairman of the Wheeler County Crime Stoppers, met with the court to request that the organization be considered in the next budget year for \$2,500.00. After discussion, no action was taken.

LARRY GATLIN--IT DIRECTOR-UPDATE

Larry Gatlin, IT director, met with the Court to give an update on the status of the various projects in the IT department. Some of those presented were: software project at the Sheriff Department completion; fiber optic project completion by June 6th; speed of internet due to fiber optic conversion; phones will be switched at a later date; his recent IT meeting in San Antonio, TAC & CIRA meetings; ADA compliance on county web sites; cyber security meetings; AI risks to counties; and necessary updates resulting in budget increase. After discussion, no action was taken.

JUDGE MCDOWELL-Self Insurance strategies

Judge McDowell presented thoughts on possibility of Wheeler County being partially self insured. After discussion, no action was taken.

DC-DEBBIE MCLAUGHLIN REMOVED FROM PAYROLL, effective May 30, 2025

At the request of Sherri Jones, District Clerk, John Walker made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to remove Debbie McLaughlin from the payroll, effective May 30, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Philip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by David Simpson to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 AM. Motion carried unanimously.



MARGARET DORMAN, COUNTY CLERK
APPROVED: _____

JUDGE PAT MCDOWELL