

COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

March 23, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED That the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 23rd day of March, 2020 with the following members present: Judge Stephanie L. Davis, Presiding; Gary "Corky" Underwood, Commissioner Precinct #1; Russell Gillette, Commissioner Precinct #2; Sherman Sides, Commissioner Precinct #3; and Jimmy Dale Johnson, Commissioner Precinct #4.

Judge Stephanie L. Davis opened the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

Commissioner Gillette gave the invocation.

Commissioner Johnson made the motion to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2020 Commissioners' Court Meeting as presented. Commissioner Gillette seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioner Underwood made the motion to approve the Minutes of the March 13, 2020 Emergency Commissioners' Court Meeting as presented. Commissioner Sides seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

There was no Public Comments.

Paula Stephens request for early closure of the Courthouse on Friday, April 17, 2020, for Sister on the Fly Event will be considered at a later meeting.

John Weaver requested to postpone his discussion of the sponsorship of the Leon Bosque Resource, Conservation & Development.

Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to approve the Comanche County Single Audit of federal awards for fiscal year ending September 30, 2019 as presented on March 9, 2020 by Lewis Crain, with the firm of Rutledge, Crain & Company, P.C.. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioner Johnson made the motion and second to acknowledge completion of required continuing education hours for 2019 for Ruby Lesley, County Clerk. Judge Davis made the second to the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Underwood and Johnson made the motion and second to approve the Order Authorizing San Jacinto Day Fireworks Sales for the period beginning April 16, 2020 and ending at midnight April 21, 2020. This order expires on the date the Texas Forrest Service determines drought conditions exist in the county or Midnight, April 21, 2020. All approved. Motion carried.

Discussion of FEMA Clerk job description will be conducted at a later date.

Judge Davis gave an update on Covid-19. Testing is ongoing at the Comanche County Medical Center. The Hospital has new guidelines and the County Annex, the former Ranger Building may not be used for isolation of Covid-19 patients. The building is going to be used for training related to the Covid-19 for health care workers. Everyone is encouraged to pray for our healthcare workers and emergency responders.

Residents are encouraged to practice social distancing, no gathering of more than 10 people and wash hands often. Judge Davis commended the schools for setting up their distance learning programs for students so quickly. Patrons of local restaurants are encouraged to continue patronizing those restaurants offering take out and curb service.

Jon Awbrey, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of DeLeon, suggested economic development funds in DeLeon and Comanche be used to help those businesses that are being adversely affected by this virus.

As of the date of this meeting, March 23, 2020, the Comanche County Courthouse is open and entrance is permitted only thru the door on the north side of the building, also known as the Grand Street entrance. All offices accept customers by appointment only. It is encouraged that all business be conducted on line, by phone or by mail.

Overtime pay versus comp time for all hours worked over the 40 hours per week was discussed. The employee handbook states hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week will be compensated at a rate of 1.5 times the employee's regular hourly wage. Some officials have been giving comp time and request to make it an option rather than over time pay. Any comp time would be taken only with the elected official's approval and proper documentation of time worked over 40 hours. The option to allow each elected official to set the policy concerning the option to choose 1.5 pay or comp time was discussed. Should the policy be consistent for every department or allow the elected official to make that decision. It was recommended Texas Association of Counties be contact for an opinion and also research the Fair Labor Standards laws. Judge Davis recommended a decision be made before budget planning since this would determine the amount of funds to be considered for employee's salary. The Sheriff's office and jail are under different guidelines concerning overtime.

Work is ongoing with the Master Plan for the Courthouse and Old Cora. Representatives from the Komatsu firm were to be at this meeting, however due to the Covid-19 their appearance will be rescheduled.

There was no discussion of the County Annex at 215 N. Houston Street or 211 South Austin Street..

Tricia Grimshaw, Emergency Management Coordinator advised work is ongoing on FEMA projects. The Quarterly Reports are due by the end of the month.

The State Department of State Health Services is in daily contact with Emergency Management and local officials to advise them of the status and recommendations concerning the Coronavirus. As of March 23, 2020 are no confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in residents of Comanche County. However, the situation can change hourly.

No action was taken to enact a burn ban.

Sheriff Pounds reported business as usual at the Jail and Sheriff's Office. The report of a burglary with stolen goods that had been investigated and goods returned within 24 hours. Sheriff Pounds is in the process of implementing guidelines with TAC and the Texas State Jail Commission.

Commissioners Johnson and Gillette made the motion and second to approve the Officer's Reports. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to approve one Amendments to the Budget. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Johnson and Underwood made the motion and second to approve one Emergency Amendment to the Budget. All approved. Motion carried.

