

COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

September 21, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 21st day of September, 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 9:07 a.m.

Commissioner Sides gave the invocation.

Commissioner Underwood made the motion to approve the Minutes of the September 14, 2020 Commissioners' Court Meeting as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

No Public Comment was received.

The Public Hearing on the proposed County Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 was opened. Public hearing was left open for any comments.

Mike Berry and Amanda DeAx presented the Proclamation declaring October 4-October 10, 2020 as National 4-H Week. The proclamation honors the 4-H Youth Development Programs of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service for 113 years providing experience-based education to youngsters throughout the Lone Star State. There are more than 550,000 youth participants in the 4-H Programs with more than 22,000 volunteers who give of their time, talents, energy and resources. The program provides a learning experience for the whole child. Mike and Amanda expressed their appreciation to the Court for its support of the programs. Cody and Tyson DeAx and Azalee Scott thanked the Court for their support of the 4-H Programs.

Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to designate the week of October 4-10, 2020 as National 4-H Week and commend the efforts of the program All approved. Motion carried.

The application from the Comanche County 4-H Group for use of the Courthouse Square on October 10, 2020 for a Time Capsule/Community event was considered.

Commissioners Johnson and Underwood made the motion and second to approve the application providing the rescheduling of the date due to a conflict with another event. The event is rescheduled for October 6, 2020 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. All approved. Motion carried.

The application from the ARK Shelter to set up a display named "Empty Shoes" in the Courthouse Hall the week of October 5-9, 2020 was considered. The event brings awareness of domestic violence.

Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to approve the Empty Shoes event. All approved. Motion passed.

The Revitalize Comanche made application previously to have a Farmers Market on the Courthouse Square. It will now be a Farmer's Market/Pioneer Christmas Event on December 5, 2020. There will be bands, caroling, dancers and hot chocolate and popcorn balls. This is a stop and shop event.

Commissioners Underwood and Johnson made the motion and second to approve the Farmer's Market/Pioneer Christmas Event for December 5, 2020. All approved. Motion carried.

Ruby Lesley, County Clerk presented information on the Supreme Court ruling that the November 3, 2020 General Election would have to be reprogrammed state wide in order to add three Green Party candidates to the ballot. Almost all of the 254 counties had completed their programming and had printed ballots. However, the election will have to be reprogrammed and ballots reprinted. This has caused a delay in the counties being able to mail ballots to those who have applied for a ballot by mail. Lesley wanted the Court to be aware that Comanche County will be responsible for the cost of reprogramming and reprinting ballots as is every county in Texas. The budget may have to be amended to cover the cost.

No action was taken on the letter regarding verification for TX Health and Human Services that Comanche County complies with the definition of a rural county for purposes of the rural county waiver.

Commissioners Sides and Underwood made the motion and second to delay action on approval of letter from the TX Health and Human Services for the rural county waiver until the meeting on September 28, 2020. All approved. Motion carried.

The Public hearing on the proposed Budget for Comanche County for FY 2021 was closed. No comments were received.

Commissioner Sides made the motion to adopt the Comanche County Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 with the year beginning October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021. Commissioner Underwood made the second to the motion. This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$452,019.00 or 7.1 percent, and of that amount \$77,553 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

The motion to adopt the 2021 Budget passed by the vote; Judge Stephanie Davis-For

Commissioner Gary Underwood-For

Commissioner Russell Gillette-For

Commissioner Sherman Sides-For

Commissioner Jimmy Dale Johnson-For

The public hearing on the 2020 County tax rate for the 2021 Budget was opened at 10:00 a.m.

The proposed tax rate is 0.629960 per \$100 value. No comments were received.

The preceding year's tax rate was \$0.629960 per \$100 value. The No-New-Revenue tax rate is the tax rate for 2020 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Comanche County from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

Commissioner Underwood moved by the following statement to adopt the Resolution setting the tax rate, "I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.629960, which is effectively a 6.32 percent increase in the tax rate"

This tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate. This tax rate will effectively be raised by 6.32 percent and will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$0.00. Commissioner Gillette seconds the motion.

The Resolution was adopted by the following vote; Judge Stephanie Davis-For
Commissioner Gary Underwood-For
Commissioner Russell Gillette-For
Commissioner Sherman Sides-For
Commissioner Jimmy Dale Johnson-For

Commissioner Gary Underwood made the motion to ratify the tax rate of 0.629960 per \$100 for fiscal year 2021 and approve the Resolution adopting the 2020 tax rate for fiscal year ending September 30, 2021. Commissioner Gillette seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

The Texas County and District Retirement System Plan Agreement was approved on June 22, 2020 at a rate of 11.62% and certification of this action was signed today. No action was taken to prefund any benefit increase for 2021.

Commissioner Johnson and Sides made the motion and second to engage the firm of Rutledge, Crain & Company, P.C. to conduct the Independent audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020. The proposed fee for the Independent Audit is \$24,700 and the proposed fee for the Single Audit is \$7,500. All approved. Motion carried.

Judge Davis is encouraging everyone to complete their 2020 Census. Comanche County is below the state average for completion of the responses from residents of Comanche County. It is important to count everyone. This information determines what benefits Comanche County and Comanche County residents may be eligible for. Some rural areas may not have received the census form. Census information will be available at the local food banks and information will be mailed with your water bill. The census can be completed on line or by phone. The telephone number to complete the census by phone is 844-330-2020. The website to complete the form online is "my2020census.gov". The Census will end one month early, September 30, 2020. Texas officials are concerned counties will lose federal funding and loss of legislative representation due to the low response to the census. Comanche County is below the Texas average for response to the census. Rural areas have had a low response.

The firm of Allison, Bass and McGee will be working on Comanche County Redistricting Plan for 2021. The first installment of \$5,000 is due October 31, 2020.

There is no update from the Komatsu Architecture Firm for the Master Plan for the Comanche County Courthouse and Old Cora.

Judge Davis and Mike Berry are working with the Texas A & M University Community Planning Group to create applications for the taskforce.

There is no update for Comanche County Annex properties.

There is no update for the Corona Virus Relief Fund.

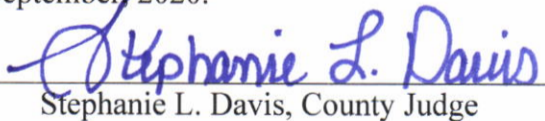
There is no changes have been made to the Administrative COVID-19 leave policy. Each elected official may grant employee leave due to COVID-19 without Commissioner Court Approval.

Covid-19 updates are available on Judge Davis's Face book page.

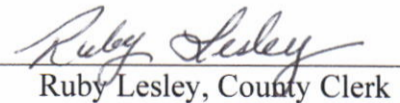
No action was taken to enact the Burn Ban.

There being no further business to come before the Court, Court was adjourned this the 21st day of September, 2020 with a motion by Commissioner Johnson and a second by Commissioner Sides. All approved. Motion carried.

The foregoing minutes approved by the Comanche County Commissioners' Court on the 28th day of September, 2020.


Stephanie L. Davis, County Judge

Attest:


Ruby Lesley, County Clerk