

COLORADO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: October 5, 2023 – 9:00 A.M.
BUILDING: Colorado County Courthouse, County Courtroom
STREET LOCATION: 400 Spring Street
CITY OF LOCATION: Columbus, Texas 78934

The Colorado County Commissioners Court Meetings will be broadcast live on Zoom <https://txcourts.zoom.us/j/93198500943> for those individuals who wish to watch or listen remotely.

Pursuant to the authority granted under Government Code, Chapter 551, the Commissioners Court may convene in a closed meeting to discuss, deliberate and take action on any of the agenda items listed below. Immediately before any closed session, the specific section or sections of Government Code, Chapter 551, which provides statutory authority, will be announced.

On this the 5th day October 2023, the Commissioners Court of Colorado County, Texas met in Special Session at 9:00 A.M., in their regular meeting place at the Colorado County Courthouse, County Courtroom, 400 Spring Street, in the City of Columbus, Texas.

The Following Members were present to wit:

**Honorable Ty Prause
Honorable Doug Wessels
Honorable Ryan Brandt
Honorable Keith Neuendorff
Honorable Darrell Gertson
By: Michelle Kollmann**

**County Judge
Commissioner Precinct #1
Commissioner Precinct #2
Commissioner Precinct #3
Commissioner Precinct #4
Deputy Clerk**

The Honorable Kimberly Menke, County Clerk was unable to attend.

The County Judge Ty Prause called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M., followed by Pledges to the United States Flag and Texas Flag.

**MINUTES OF THE COLORADO COUNTY
COMMISSIONER'S COURT SPECIAL MEETING
October 5, 2023**

DELIBERATE AND CONSIDER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

__1. Agenda as posted.

**Motion by Commissioner Wessels to approve the agenda as posted; seconded by
Commissioner Neuendorff; 5 ayes 0 nays; motion carried; it was so ordered.
(See Attachment)**

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FILED FOR RECORD
COLORADO COUNTY, TX

COLORADO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT **2023 SEP 29 PM 3:50**
NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

KIMBERLY HENKE **MK**
COUNTY CLERK

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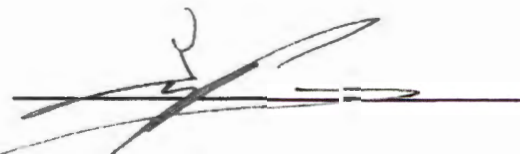
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DELIBERATE AND CONSIDER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- 1. Agenda as posted.
- 2. Public comments.
- 3. **Workshop:** Regarding Colorado County Fairgrounds daily management, event management and coordination, business operations, maintenance, use policies and specimen form of lease agreements for events, and all related issues.
- 4. Consider and take all appropriate action regarding Colorado County Fairgrounds daily management, including chain of authority and additional employees, event management and coordination responsibility, including consideration of third-party event management and coordination, business operations, maintenance, use policies and approval of specimen form for event lease agreements, and all related issues.
- 5. Adjourn.

CERTIFICATION

NAME: Ty Prause
TITLE: Colorado County Judge
SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL:
DATE: September 29, 2023
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (979) 732-2604
FAX NUMBER: (979) 732-9389



The Colorado County Courthouse is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available.

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__2. Public comments.

None at this time.

__3. Workshop: Regarding Colorado County Fairgrounds daily management, event management and coordination, business operations, maintenance, use policies and specimen form of lease agreements for events, and all related issues.

Rachael Schneder, President of the Colorado County Fair Association, stated that the fair was successful, but next year she would like to see everything on one weekend if possible. Judge Prause thanked Commissioner Brandt for his work in researching how other counties handle the management of their fairgrounds. Commissioner Brandt explained that he spoke with approximately twenty entities and of those, about half were city owned and half were county owned. All the facilities had managers over them, and none were from a third-party management company. He discovered that the facilities with a covered rodeo arena were utilized more often, but that is an expensive project to take on. Most county owned facilities had a county employee (or more) managing the facility as well as handling maintenance. Judge Prause stated he intended this meeting to be more of a working session and didn't expect to have all the issues solved today. He feels the number one issue is to decide on how to operate the fairgrounds on a daily basis.

Commissioner Brandt reminded the court that most of these facilities are not profitable, but more of a service to the community. He said he felt like adding the fairgrounds to an existing department wasn't the right decision. He would like to see this be a paid position and no longer just volunteers. Judge Prause agreed and said possibly a part-time or contract employee could be used.

Questions were present concerning RV rental spots and donations. It was determined that donations would be given to the county and earmarked for what the donator wanted.

Commissioner Brandt suggested the organization that is renting the grounds should handle the renting of the RV spots as well.

It was stated that the electricity has not been put in the county's name, but the conversion is being worked on. Michelle Lowrance said she would like to see all meters on the same bill and renewable on the same date.

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Justin Lindemann asked how EMS and security needs would be handled during events. It was stated that since the grounds are within city limits, the city police generally handle security, but they do have the sheriff's office help if needed. It was also stated that security would be paid by the renting entity and not the county.

Carol Braden with the Fair Association asked about the tables and chairs that are owned by the fair. Judge Prause asked for an inventory list with values. He also suggested Commissioner Brandt chair a committee to start making changes and come up with ideas on managing the facility.

Rachael Schneider stated the Ragin' Cajun Fundraiser is held the fourth weekend in April and wanted to make sure the fairgrounds would be available. It was also tentatively asked about holding the following dates for the 2024 fair: September 5, 6, 7 and 8 and September 12, 13, 14, and 15. There will be a vote by the Fair Board to finalize the dates.

- __4. Consider and take all appropriate action regarding Colorado County Fairgrounds daily management, including chain of authority and additional employees, event management and coordination responsibility, including consideration of third-party event management and coordination, business operations, maintenance, use policies and approval of specimen form for event lease agreements, and all related issues.**

Motion by Commissioner Wessels to remove the Colorado County Fair Association logo from the rental forms and add Colorado County, to authorize Commissioner Brandt to organize a committee of five members and present their names at the second regular meeting in October, and for each precinct to move \$5,000.00 from their respective accounts to the Fairground account; seconded by Judge Prause; 5 ayes 0 nays; motion carried; it was so ordered.

- __5. Adjourn.**

Motion by Judge Prause to adjourn at 11:00 A.M.; seconded by Commissioner Brandt; 5 ayes 0 nays; motion carried; it was so ordered.

An audio recording of this meeting of October 5, 2023 is available in the County Clerk's Office.

**MINUTES OF THE COLORADO COUNTY
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**Minutes were taken and prepared by Kimberly Menke, County Clerk on the 5th
day of October 2023 with Judge Ty Prause presiding.**

**I, KIMBERLY MENKE, COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO OF THE
COMMISSIONERS COURT IN AND FOR COLORADO COUNTY, TEXAS do hereby
certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the
Commissioner Court in session on the 5th day of October 2023.**

Given under my hand and official seal of office this date October 5, 2023.

