

TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Regular Meeting

September 14, 2020 --- 11:00 am

THE STATE OF TEXAS                      ON THIS THE 14th day of September, 2020 the Commissioners' Court in and for Tyler County, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting at the District Courtroom in Woodville, Texas, the following members of the Court present, to wit:

JACQUES BLANCHETTE	COUNTY JUDGE, PRESIDING
MARTIN NASH	COMMISSIONER, PCT 1, teleconference
STEVAN STURROCK	COMMISSIONER, PCT 2, teleconference
MIKE MARSHALL	COMMISSIONER, PCT 3
BUCK HUDSON	COMMISSIONER, PCT 4
DONECE GREGORY	COUNTY CLERK, Ex-Officio

The following were absent: none thereby constituting a quorum. In addition to the above were:

JACKIE SKINNER	COUNTY AUDITOR
LYNNETTE CRUSE	TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR
KEN JOBE	JP #2, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
BRYAN WEATHERFORD	SHERIFF
TRISHER FORD	JUSTICE OF PEACE, PCT 1

After calling the meeting to order, Judge Blanchette stated "it is the practice of the court to exercise an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag." "Anyone who may not be comfortable with this practice may wish to mute their phone (for those attending by teleconference) or step out into the hall and rejoin once the portion of the agenda begins with public comments." The invocation was delivered by Jackie Skinner. Commissioner Marshall led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Persons had not signed up to make comments. Therefore, there were no public comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Marshall and seconded by Commissioner Hudson to receive the minutes of August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All voted yes and none no.

**Commissioner Sturrock** made a motion to receive the monthly reports from the **Adult & Juvenile Probation Departments, District Clerk, County Treasurer, County Auditor, County Extension and Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1.** **Commissioner Marshall** seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

**Budget amendments /line item transfers** were not presented

**Commissioner Nash** made the motion to accept the resignation of Art Walton as **Commissioner of ESD #8**, effective August 31, 2020. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Marshall**. All yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

**Judge Blanchette** made the motion to renew the Service Agreement with **APRISS** to provide Victim Notification Service under the **VINE** service agreement. **Commissioner Marshall** seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** to transfer **Courthouse Remediation & Rehabilitation** duties and responsibilities to Commissioner Stevan Sturrock, a member of the Commissioners' Court and that signature authority for all documents pertaining to the Courthouse Remediation and Rehabilitation project be given to Commissioner Sturrock as well as the Special Project Coordinator position and the money from the Driver's License Clerk position to cover the potential overages in the budgeted account for the Special Project Coordinator to the end of the year. **Commissioner Hudson** seconded the motion. Commissioner Sturrock added that whoever is managing the positions that is transferring out from under the Judge's [oversight]; that the commissioner that is in charge has the authority to hire who they feel will do the job and also have the hiring and termination powers in each of these departments. Commissioner Nash opined that the commissioners' current clerks should be considered. Sturrock responded, "not knowing at this time what is required", wants the money to be there in the event that a person will need to be hired to fill the Special Project Coordinator position being vacated. All voted yes and none no.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** to transfer the managerial duties and responsibilities of the Veterans' Service department, Agri-Life Extension Service and Department of Public Safety to Commissioner Charles "Buck" Hudson, a member of the Commissioners' Court. **Commissioner Marshall** seconded the motion. Commissioner Nash stated that he wasn't thrilled that he was not considered in giving Precinct 4 some of the responsibilities; "these needs to be split it up the right and fair way." The motion was amended by Commissioner Sturrock to remove the Veterans' Service department from the motion and put on the next agenda. Commissioner Marshall seconded the amendment. All voted yes and none no. The motion to transfer the managerial duties and responsibilities of the **Agri-Life Extension Service and Department of Public Safety** to Commissioner Charles "Buck" Hudson was voted on and carried.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** and seconded by **Commissioner Marshall** to consider the position of the **Department of Public Safety Clerk** as full-time or part-time for the 2021 budget. Commissioner Sturrock stated he had checked with the DPS sergeant, emergency management and Agri-Life and found that the clerk for DPS was originally full-time with a stipend for emergency management; that the DPS clerk needs to be full-time due to supporting eight (8) troopers and a Sergeant; also does reports and administrative duties for Hardin County officers also. The Sergeant was present to request the position to be full-time. Commissioner Nash suggested to request Hardin County help to pay for this position. The motion was restated by **Commissioner Sturrock** and seconded by **Commissioner Marshall** that the Department of Public Safety Clerk be a full-time position. All voted yes and none no.

**Commissioner Sturrock** motioned to transfer the managerial duties for the **Maintenance/Grounds/Custodial department** to Commissioner Mike Marshall, a member of the Commissioners' Court. **Commissioner Hudson** seconded the motion. All voted yes none no.

**Commissioner Sturrock** motioned to authorize payment out of the **Emergency Disaster Fund COVID-19 Mutual Aid** line item (048-000-42219) to Jefferson County for Tyler County's part of the COVID-19 expenses during the coalition at the onset of the pandemic. The cost is \$28,000 to 29,000. The ratio is calculated according to population. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Marshall**. All voted yes and none no.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** and seconded by **Commissioner Marshall** to purchase **Zoom license for the Juvenile Probation department** and to the paid out of Emergency Disaster Fund COVID-19 local expense line item (048-000-42184), The expense is caused by COVID-19; and, the license is on a yearly basis. All voted yes and none no.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** to adopt an addition to the **Employee Policy Manual** stating that any person hired for part-time employment in a department cannot and shall not earn more than the full-time employees within that department. If there is not a full-time position within the department with similar duties and responsibilities, the rate will be set by commissioners' court (the hourly rate). No employee can make less than minimum wage. **Commissioner Marshall** seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** and seconded by **Commissioner Marshall** adopting the policy that the county will follow the **CDC guidelines in any health crisis or pandemic**; recognizing the CDC guidelines are changing frequently there would be no disciplinary action taken toward an employee. Commissioner Nash stated the court needs to use common sense letting the court decide the policy. Judge Blanchette added that at times the health crisis may be limited to the county; that CDC is not always speaking as to the local guidelines. The motion was amended by **Commissioner Sturrock** and seconded by **Commissioner Hudson** to change the "will follow" to "may follow" and include there would be no punitive consequences toward an official or employee for non-compliance. All voted yes and none no. The vote on the motion as amended was unanimous.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** and seconded by **Commissioner Marshall** to allow the above maximum carryover balances for employees vacation time until June 1, 2021, due to COVID-19 pandemic. All voted yes and none no.

**Commissioner Sturrock** motioned to approve approximately \$35,000 in purchases for COVID-19 mitigation to be paid from CRF funds:

- COVID-19 signage (social distancing)
- Permanent plexiglass for the following offices: County Clerk, Sheriff, Juvenile Probation and District Clerk
- PPE dispensers
- Clean Pen Systems for each office
- Plexiglass dividers for waiting areas in the tax office and the County Clerk office
- Teleworking laptops for the following offices: JP, County Clerk, Tax and Adult Probation

The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Hudson**. All voted yes and none no.

Item N- Set salaries, expenses and other allowances of all elected county and precinct offices, per Local Government Code 152.013. No action was taken but will be acted on at the Regular Meeting adopting the budget.

**Commissioner Marshall** motion to approve a **NetProtec video magistration** contract for **Precinct #1 and Precinct #2 Justices of the Peace**, as requested by Trisher Ford. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock**. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

Courthouse remediation report: none

Executive Session was not held.

Motion made by Commissioner Nash that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Sturrock seconded.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

I, Donece Gregory, County Clerk and ex officio member of the Tyler County Commissioners' Court, do hereby certify the fact that the above is a true and correct record of the Tyler County Commissioners' Court session held on September 14, 2020.

Witness my hand and seal of office on this 28th day of September, 2020.

Attest:   
Donece Gregory, County Clerk, Tyler County, Texas