

TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Regular Meeting

September 28, 2020 --- 11:00 am

THE STATE OF TEXAS                      ON THIS THE 28th day of September, 2020 the Commissioners' Court in and for Tyler County, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting at the Commissioners' Courtroom in Woodville, Texas, the following members of the Court present, to wit:

JACQUES BLANCHETTE	COUNTY JUDGE, PRESIDING
MARTIN NASH	COMMISSIONER, PCT 1
STEVAN STURROCK	COMMISSIONER, PCT 2
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
LEANN MONK	COUNTY TREASURER
LYNNETTE CRUSE	TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR
TINA CLEBERG	VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

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 Leann Monk. Commissioner Marshall led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The room was arranged for social distancing to prevent exposure of the Covid19 pandemic.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Nash and seconded by Commissioner Sturrock to receive the minutes of September 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All voted yes and none no.

Budget amendments were not presented

A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** and seconded by **Commissioner Hudson** to approve the **accounts payable/paying the county bills**. Mrs. Skinner called attention to an invoice from ServePro that she paid out of the County Auditor's budget for disinfecting contact with COVID19. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

**Judge Blanchette** motioned to accept the resignation of Kay Timme from the board of directors of the **Tri-County Community Action, Inc.** **Commissioner Marshall** seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** to acknowledge receipt of the amendment to the **Courthouse Remediation and Rehabilitation Agreement** extending the deadline to December 31, 2021. **Commissioner Sturrock** seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Hudson** to open bids for **courthouse remediation and rehabilitation**. **Commissioner Nash** seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no. Two bids were received: McInnis Construction, Silsbee - \$1,650,000 and N&T Construction, Beaumont- \$1,100,000. Both bids had alternate portions of the proposals. The architect will review the bids and make a recommendation

A motion was made by **Commissioner Nash** and seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock** to table award bids for courthouse remediation and rehabilitation, pending information from the architect. All voted yes and none no.

**Commissioner Hudson** motioned to set salaries for 2021 fiscal year. **Commissioner Marshall** seconded the motion. Judge Blanchette commented since this was Jill's last day, he noticed there was no allocation as a back up support for the county judge's office, after the last workshop. He said that it appears the part-time salary allocation was moved from the commissioners' court appropriations and may have been moved to contingency. Judge Blanchette calculated a base pay for 224 hours to be \$10,000. Jackie Skinner added that social security, etc. is in a separate the line item. Commissioner Sturrock stated that the judge is going to need some money for when his secretary is off for vacation and sick days. Commissioner Nash stated that correcting this was a budget issue not a salary issue. **Commissioner Marshall** motioned to amend the motion to set salaries for 2021 to include part-time salary for the county judge's office. Commissioner Sturrock interjected \$6000. **Commissioner Nash** seconded the amendment. All voted yes and none no. A vote was then taken for the motion to set salaries for 2021 fiscal year with the amendment acknowledged. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Hudson** and seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock** to adopt the 2021 Budget. Judge Blanchette stated he had "struggled with this". He felt it was an ideal year to reduce the budget by capturing some savings in excess of \$300,000 as identified in the budget workshops. Commissioner Marshall commented, "keep in mind the two bids just received [for the courthouse], "we're going to need to put any savings toward the windows" which is part of the rehabilitation /remediation" expenses. Commissioner Sturrock reminded to include the part-time salary for the judge's office. **Commissioner Hudson** motioned to amend to increase the county judge's department salary line item to cover salary, social security, and Medicare- equaling \$7000.00. **Commissioner Sturrock** seconded the motion for amendment. All voted yes and none no. Next a vote was taken for the motion for adoption of the 2021 Budget with the amendment. Commissioner Nash voted no. Commissioner Sturrock voted yes. Commissioner Marshall voted yes. Commissioner Hudson voted yes. Judge Blanchette voted no. Motion carried.

**Commissioner Hudson** motioned to adopt the 2021 tax rate for General Fund at \$0.6782. **Commissioner Sturrock** seconded the motion. Commissioner Nash voted yes. Commissioner Sturrock voted yes. Commissioner Marshall voted yes; Commissioner Hudson voted yes and Judge Blanchette voted yes. Motion carried

**Commissioner Hudson** motioned to adopt the 2021 tax rate for County Special at \$0.2547. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Marshall**. Commissioner Nash voted yes. Commissioner Sturrock voted yes. Commissioner Marshall voted yes. Commissioner Hudson voted yes. Judge Blanchette expressed concern that this rate would generate an additional \$35,000 more money than last year; therefore, he voted in opposition. Motion carried

**Commissioner Hudson** motioned to adopt the 2021 Tyler County Hospital tax rate at \$0.2294. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock**. Commissioner Nash voted yes. Commissioner Sturrock voted yes. Commissioner Marshall voted yes. Commissioner Hudson voted yes and Judge Blanchette voted yes. Motion carried

A motion was made by **Commissioner Hudson** and seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock** to extend the NAPCO contract for one year for emergency standby services and debris clean-up. All voted yes and none no.

**Commissioner Nash** motioned to hire a part-time driver for Veterans' Service van for at least two days a week. Adding that, "we need to do what we can for our veterans". The veterans service officer, Tina, stated that two days is required by the VA. She requested two days a week, eight hours day at \$12 per hour. Jackie Skinner stated she could reactivate part-time allowances in Commissioners Court Appropriations or transfer money from contingency to the salary line item in Veterans Services. **Commissioner Marshall** seconded the motion. A motion was made by **Commissioner Nash** to amend the motion to add \$10,000 in the salary line-item. **Commissioner Sturrock** seconded the motion for amendment. All voted yes and none no. Next a vote was taken for the motion to hire a part-time driver for the Veterans' Service van for two days a week with the amendment of approving \$10,000 in salary line-item for this purpose on an as-needed basis. All voted yes and none no

A motion was made by **Commissioner Nash** to set the maximum number of election clerks for the general election, as recommended by the county clerk, allowing one additional clerk for sanitizing purposes possibly paid by the proposed grant. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Marshall**. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** to move the **polling place at Fred, Voting Precinct #15** from the Fred Elementary to Mt. Olivet Baptist Church which adjoins the school property. **Commissioner Hudson** seconded the motion. The county clerk explained that Fred Elementary was now using the "old Pre-K" building to meet COVID19 regulations as an "isolation room". All voted yes and none on.

**Commissioner Marshall** motioned to apply for **grant for elections** from Center for Tech and Civic Life, that pays for additional election workers, supplies and equipment at no cost to the county; and, authorize the County Judge as signatory for the Application and subsequent documents. **Commissioner Sturrock** seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

**Commissioner Sturrock** motion to purchase **election equipment**, to be paid by the **CARES ACT/HAVA Subgrant**. **Commissioner Marshall** seconded the motion. The County Clerk explained she would like to purchase ExpressVote machines. All voted yes and none no.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** and seconded by **Commissioner Marshall** to receive the **County Clerk monthly report** for August 2020. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** and seconded by **Commissioner Nash** to approve the Deputation of Kelly Jobe, as a Deputy County Clerk. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** to approve the **Official Bond of Casey Whitworth, as Constable for Precinct #2**. **Commissioner Nash** seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT- Commissioner Hudson presented an update of the tax office remodeling. Construction is now down to trim work, ceiling and flooring. The projected finish date is the end of October 2020.

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: 11:52am

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 28, 2020.

Witness my hand and seal of office on this 12th day of October, 2020.

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