

TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
REGULAR MEETING
December 12, 2022 ---- 10:00 a.m.

THE STATE OF TEXAS ON THIS THE 12th day of December, 2022 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 L. BLANCHETTE	COUNTY JUDGE, presiding
JOE BLACKSHER	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
KEN JOBE	JP, PCT#1/Emerg. Mngt. Coordinator
MILTON POWERS	JP, PCT. #3/COUNTY JUDGE-ELECT
SONDRA WILLIAMS	TYLER COUNTY HOSPITAL ADMINISTER

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 the practice may wish to mute their phone/computer (for those attending by teleconference) or step out into the hall and rejoin once the portion of the agenda begins with public comments." Commissioner Blacksher delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ellen McKennon, representing environmental groups, requested the court to support not cutting the trees in the expansion of Highway 69 as the "Gateway to the Big Thicket Project". She stated, "The trees are our community" in the Big Thicket Community. Removing the trees could create problems with flooding, they would not be there to slow the water down.

TABLED ITEMS:

Commissioner Hudson motioned to remove from "tabled" to "action" for the reimbursement to **Tyler County Softball Association**. **Commissioner Blacksher** seconded the motion. **Commissioner Marshall** motioned approve the reimbursement to the Tyler County Softball Association. **Commissioner Sturrock** seconded the motion and added that any improvements made becomes property of the County. Commissioner Marshall stated there is \$6000 in the budget for each ballpark. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

CONSENT AGENDA:

The County Clerk reported minutes were not completed due to software issues.

Commissioner Blacksher motioned to receive the **monthly reports** from the Juvenile Probation Department and Adult Probation Department, County Auditor, County Treasurer, County Extension and Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1. **Commissioner Hudson** seconded the motion. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

Judge Blanchette motioned to adopt the **Resolution** of Tyler County and TXDOT to identify and complete improvements on US Hwy 69 as "**Gateway to the Big Thicket Parkway**" between FM 1003 in Kountze, Hardin County, to FM 1943 near Warren in Tyler County, to stay with the original plan. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Marshall**. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** and seconded by **Commissioner Marshall** to adopt the **Resolution** in support of the efforts of Tyler County to execute the **restoration of the Tyler County Courthouse**. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

Judge Blanchette motioned to adopt the **Resolution** supporting the amendment to the act creating **Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District**, increasing fees. Kountze, Hardin County, to FM 1943 near Warren in Tyler County, to stay with the original plan. Eighteen years the rate has been .007 cents and have increased to the maximum rate of one cent per one thousand gallons. The proposed increase is seven cents. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock**. Judge Blanchette, Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, and Hudson voted yes. Commissioner Marshall voted no. SEE ATTACHED

Budget Amendment/Line-Item Transfers were not presented.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** and seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock** to approve the **Accounts Payable/County Bills** as presented by the County Auditor. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

Commissioner Blacksher motioned to appoint/re-appoint of the **2023 Tyler County Historical Commission Membership**. **Commissioner Sturrock** seconded the motion. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** and seconded by **Commissioner Hudson** to appoint/re-appoint ESD Commissioners to the **Emergency Services District Boards**. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

Commissioner Marshall motioned to accept and award the bid for **phase II construction and rehabilitation of the courthouse** to Construction Managers of Southeast Texas in the amount of \$959,443.00 under the recommendation of LaBiche Architectural Group, The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Blacksher**. This is for windows, plaster damage and clocktower. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none voted no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** to allow Commissioner Joe Blacksher the authority to sign change orders in the **courthouse restoration project**, not to exceed a total of \$40,557.00 of the one-million-dollar grant awarded by the Texas Historical Commission. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Hudson**. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none voted no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Judge Blanchette** to ratify acceptance of the 2022-23 **Statewide Automated Victim Notification Service (SAVNS) grant** with APPRISS, Inc. to provide **VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday)** services to Tyler County. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Marshall**. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Hudson and Marshall voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

Commissioner Blacksher motioned to set the **2023 Regular Term Days and Dates** for Commissioner Court. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock**. Commissioner Blacksher stated he preferred Tuesdays to give more time to review and study items on the agendas. Other commissioners had conflicts with other days of the week. It was the consensus of the court to keep the dates on Mondays. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Hudson and Marshall voted yes and none no.

Commissioner Marshall motioned to purchase a new desk for the Assistant District Attorney, from TDCJ. **Commissioner Blacksher** seconded the motion. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Hudson and Marshall voted yes and none no.

A motion was made by **Judge Blanchette** to re-appoint Glen Conner to the **Tyler County Hospital Board of Managers** for the term beginning January 1, 2023. **Commissioner Hughes** seconded the motion. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Hudson and Marshall voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** and seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock** to re-appoint Walter McAlpin to the **Tyler County Hospital Board of Managers** for the term beginning January 1, 2023. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Hudson and Marshall voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Blacksher** to re-appoint Billie Read to the **Tyler County Hospital Board of Managers** for the term beginning January 1, 2023. **Commissioner Marshall** seconded the motion. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Hudson and Marshall voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

Commissioner Sturrock motioned to renew the annual software maintenance with **Netdata GHS** for county offices. **Commissioner Blacksher** seconded the motion. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

Commissioner Sturrock motioned to approve a phone line at the Nutrition Center for the **Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS) office**. **Commissioner Blacksher** seconded the motion. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Hudson** and seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock** to authorize mileage reimbursement to **Doug Hughes, Commissioner-Elect** for Precinct #2, for the **New Commissioners Preparing to Take Office Workshop** in Tyler, Texas, to be paid out of Contingency. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Hudson and Marshall voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** and seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock** to approve the **financial procedures for federal grant money**, as explained by the **County Auditor**. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** and seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock** to approve checks for **buyout offers, closing costs and incentive payments** for two approved buyout applicants participating in the County's **2017 buyout contract #20-066-016C112** through the General Land Office (GLO). Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no.

Commissioner Marshall motioned to consider the a **Tax Abatement Policy for the Houston Plywood Plant**. **Commissioner Hudson** seconded the motion. After discussion, a motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** and seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock** to table. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

Commissioner Marshall motioned to table consideration of the **reinvestment zone property**, also known as **Tax Increment Finance "TIF" Zone**, located Precinct #3 Tyler County. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock**. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Blacksher** and seconded by **Commissioner Hudson** to approve the **deputation** of Michelle Marshall, employee in the **County Clerk's office**. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, and Hudson voted yes. Commissioner Marshall abstained. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Blacksher** to accept the donation back to Tyler County of the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) van, being a Toyota Sienna LE, VIN# 5TDKZ3DC7HS795254. **Commissioner Sturrock** seconded the motion. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no.

Commissioner Blacksher motioned to grant a discretionary exemption to **East Texas Live Oak Ventures, LLC** regarding the development of 206.54 acres lying in the John B. Moser Survey, A-450, and St. John Clair Survey, A-619 and the International and Great Northern Railroad Co Survey, A-719. **Commissioner Sturrock** seconded the motion. The developers had started about the same time as the regulations "came in". Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Blacksher** that he be authorized to be the Director of the **Senior Citizens Activity and Congregate Meals Program** and to execute the contract with **Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG)**, when approved by commissioners court. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Marshall**. East Texas Support Services will provide the transport van. Forty-two meals will have an estimated cost to Tyler County of \$62,735. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Blacksher** to pay the "start-up" cost of the **Senior Citizens Congregate Meal and Activities Program** from the General Fund Contingency for Miscellaneous. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock**. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no.

Commissioner Blacksher motioned to accept the resignation of Dean Rivers as the **minority representative of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) Economic and Development District**. **Commissioner Marshall** seconded the motion. Judge Blanchette conveyed appreciation, on behalf of the court, to Ms. Rivers for her service. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no.

Commissioner Blacksher motioned to appoint Paul Jones as the **minority representative of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) Economic and Development District**. **Commissioner Sturrock** seconded the motion. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no.

COMMENTS BY COURT MEMBERS PERTAINING TO MATTERS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT: Commissioner Sturrock expressed appreciation to Judge Blanchette for his years of service to Tyler County. Commissioner Marshall presented the judge with a plaque.

Commissioner Blacksher motioned to recess from the regular meeting at 11:05 a.m. Commissioner Sturrock seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no.

COURT BACK IN SESSION FROM RECESS:

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** and seconded by **Commissioner Marshall** to enter into Executive Session at 11:16 a.m. All voted yes and none no.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** and seconded by **Commissioner Marshall** to come out of Executive Session at 11:44 a.m. All voted yes and none no.

BACK IN REGULAR SESSION:

Commissioner Sturrock motioned to engage the services of a certified appraiser, located outside the county, for the potential purchase of property beneficial to the county; and, to authorize Commissioner Blacksher hire the certified appraiser. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Marshall**. Commissioners Blacksher, Sturrock, Marshall and Hudson voted yes and none no.


A motion was made by Commissioner Sturrock and seconded by Blacksher for the meeting adjourn. All voted yes.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:51 a.m.

I, Donece Gregory, County Clerk and ex officio member of the Tyler County Commissioners Court, do hereby certify to the fact that the above is a true and correct record of the Tyler County Commissioners Court session held on December 12, 2022.

Witness my hand and seal of office on this the 9th day of January, 2022.

Attest:


Donece Gregory, County Clerk

