

TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
SPECIAL MEETING  
December 20, 2023 ---- 10:00 a.m.

THE STATE OF TEXAS                      ON THIS THE 20th day of December, 2023 the  
Commissioners' Court in and for Tyler County, Texas convened in a Special Meeting at the  
Commissioners Courtroom in Woodville, Texas, the following members of the Court present

MILTON POWERS	COUNTY JUDGE, presiding
JOE BLACKSHER	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #1
DOUG HUGHES	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
BRYAN WEATHERFORD	SHERIFF
TRISHER FORD	Temp. Emerg. Mngt. Coordinator
TERRY ALLEN	JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER

After calling the meeting to order at 10:12 am, Judge Powers 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." Leann Monk delivered the invocation and Commissioner Hudson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** none

**TABLED ITEMS:** A motion was made by **Commissioner Blacksher** and seconded by **Commissioner Hughes** to remove the ratification of deputation of Chantel James from tabled for action. All commissioners voted yes with exception of Commissioner Marshall abstaining. The county clerk introduced Chantel James as a deputy clerk in her department. Ms. James is the new 911 addressing coordinator for Tyler County, taking that position in September 2023. She will also serve as a deputy clerk for the County Clerk. A motion was made by **Commissioner Blacksher** and seconded by **Commissioner Hughes** to ratify the **deputation of Chantel James** in the County Clerk's office. All commissioners vote yes with exception of Commissioner Marshall abstaining. SEE ATTACHED DEPUTATION

A motion was made by **Commissioner Blacksher** and seconded by **Commissioner Hudson** to remove the introduction of the new deputy clerk, Chrystal Farris, in the District Clerk's office from tabled for action. All commissioners voted yes. The district clerk introduced Chrystal Farris as a deputy clerk in her department. A motion was made by **Commissioner Blacksher** and seconded by **Commissioner Hudson** to ratify the **deputation of Chrystal Farris** in the District Clerk's office. All commissioners vote yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED DEPUTATION

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

A motion was made by **Commissioner Hughes** and seconded by **Commissioner Marshall** to receive the minutes of November 20, 2023. All commissioners vote yes and none no.

**Monthly reports:** none

**RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:** none

**CONSIDER/APPROVE/INFORMATIONAL:**

A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** and seconded by **Commissioner Hudson** to adopt the new county **Procedures for Electrical Permit Service Permits**. All commissioners voted yes none no. Judge Powers explained the permit fee and the re-connect fees. He explained the fee for re-connect fee would be waived unless it has been turned off for 90 days. Temporary

permits and permits for renting a house would also be waived. Utility companies are requiring the permits. All commissioners voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Blacksher** to approve housing inmates at Beauregard Parish Sheriff's department in Louisiana at the cost of \$60 per inmate. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Hughes**. Sheriff Weatherford stated this would be for housing an overflow of inmates in the county jail. All commissioners voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

The court discussed changing county policy with respect to paying certified peace officers, jailers and dispatch officers working for the sheriff's department for **holiday and vacation time** as opposed to permitting these employees to take time off work because of hardship relating to staffing shortages. Sheriff Weatherford requested holiday time be considered along with pay-out of vacation time. Leann stated there was not a policy covering holiday pay in lieu of time off; she suggested making it "by order of the commissioners court". She explained several aspects: carry over of time had been allowed for the sheriff's department in the past; pay up to \$1000 with remainder going into sick time. In January the sheriff deputies get a "dump" of holiday hours into their pool. Sheriff Weatherford pointed out that vacation and holiday time was earned but would lose that time if carried over as sick time. Jackie requested the court specifically state the stipulations. She also asks the court to consider ceasing giving all holidays at the beginning and consider paying the overtime/double time at the time earned to alleviate complications when the employee's employment ends. Based on recommendation of the sheriff,

**Commissioner Marshall** motioned to change county policy to authorize paying certified peace officers, jailers and dispatch officers working for the sheriff's department all **holiday time** to be "zeroed out" along with paying out what the employee would lose for **vacation time** (paying down to the conditions of the maximum carry-over allowed), as opposed to permitting these employees to take time off work because of hardship relating to staffing shortages.

**Commissioner Hudson** seconded the motion. **Commissioner Hudson** made a motion to amend the main motion by striking out the words "changing county policy" and inserting "by order of commissioners court". **Commissioner Blacksher** seconded the motion. All commissioners voted yes and none no. The main motion now reads by order of the commissioners court, to authorize paying certified peace officers, jailers and dispatch officers working for the sheriff's department all **holiday time** to be "zeroed out" along with paying out what the employee would lose for **vacation time** (paying down to the conditions of the maximum carry-over allowed for vacation time), as opposed to permitting these employees to take time off work because of hardship relating to staffing shortages.

**Commissioner Blacksher** motioned to grant conditional approval of **Timberland Branch Subdivision**. The conditions before the plat can be filed are: 1) the engineer certification shall be on the plat, the engineer's letter should be more specific as to what is being attested to. The terms "to be best of my knowledge" and "substantially completed" are general and effectively put the burden on the commissioner that the improvements are constructed in accordance with the plans and the County's Regulations. Combined with the commissioner's construction observation, the engineer's certification should provide a high level of confidence that the road and drainage do conform to the Subdivision Regulations. **Commissioner Hudson** seconded the motion. All commissioners voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

#### **COMMENTS BY COURT MEMBERS PERTAINING TO MATTERS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT:**

**Judge Powers**- thanked Trisher Ford for stepping up and coming out of retirement to assist in filling the vacancy of emergency management coordinator. He thanked the commissioners for "getting things done for the betterment of Tyler County", even though not always in agreement. Judge Powers thanked the City of Woodville for assistance with the outside work for the sewer system at the courthouse.

**Commissioner Blacksher and Commissioner Hudson** added their appreciation to members working together.

**Renee Crews, District Clerk**- gave a status update on the preservation project; reminded the court of a need of a fire suppression room for her records.

**Leann Monk**- status update of repairs for her office

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** not held

A motion was made by Commissioner Hudson and seconded Commissioner Blacksher that the meeting be adjourned. All commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:51 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 20, 2023.

Witness my hand and seal of office on this the 3rd day of January, 2024.

Attest:

Donece Gregory, County Clerk

