

## REGULAR SESSION MEETING JULY 24 2023

Be it remembered on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023 at 10:01 o'clock A.M., there was Begun and Holden a Regular Meeting of the Commissioner's Court in the Courthouse, in the town of Farwell, with the following members present,

To-wit:

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Isabel Izzy Carrasco | Judge                |
| Kirk Frye            | Commissioner Pct. #1 |
| Kenny White          | Commissioner Pct. #3 |
| Charles Wilkins      | Commissioner Pct. #2 |
| Sharon May           | County Treasurer     |
| Susie Spring         | County Clerk         |

Absent: Casey Russell Commissioner Pct. #4

Also Present:

John Merriss, Doshier, Pickens & Francis, LLC  
David Ford, Apex  
Faith Tyler, Apex  
Carter Woodard, Apex  
Rob Pomper, State Line Tribune  
Eric Geske, Sheriff  
Awyna Sanchez, Tax Assessor-Collector  
Amy Dudley

When the following was had and done, To-wit:

### Call to Order

1. Prayer

Commissioner Frye led the Court in prayer to begin the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag

The Court pledged their allegiance to the flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas.

3. Open Forum for Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

4. Discuss Update on Mapping Sites-David Ford

David Ford of Apex Clean Energy gave an overview of the history of Apex and the various projects they have been or are involved in across the United States.

They have solar, wind, battery and green energy projects including the biggest wind project in the U.S. He informed the court that Apex includes a conservation project within each project. It is yet to be decided as to what that will be for the project in Parmer County.

He updated the Court on the status of the Lariat Wind project in Parmer County. 50-60% of the land is under lease and 60-75% of the transmission right of way has been obtained. During August and September an avian impact study will be completed.

This project is projected to provide income for the County for the next 30 years. Apex is considering applying for a tax abatement in the future.

5. Consider and Discuss the 2022 Outside Audit Report-John Merriss, CPA

Mr. Merris thanked the Commissioners for allowing Doshier, Pickens & Francis, LLC to conduct the audit for the second year. He discussed the basic financial statements as well as the Statement of Changes in the Fiduciary Net Position for FY 2022.

He stated that the pension for Parmer County employees is funded at 94.7% which is a reflection of good operating management by the Commissioners. Overall, he stated that Parmer County is in a strong financial state. Report is available in County Clerk's office.

Commissioner Frye made a motion to approve the Annual Financial Report for FY 2022 as presented. Judge Carrasco seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

Upon motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on July 10, 2023, by Commissioner Frye seconded by Commissioner Wilkins, the motion passed by majority vote.

7. Consider Approval and Payment of Accounts Payable-Sharon May

Sharon May reported the Accounts Payable List for July 17 and 24, 2023. Motion by Commissioner Frye, seconded by Commissioner White to approve Payment of the Accounts Payable as presented. Motion carried by majority vote. See attached.

8. Consider Treasurer's Payroll Report-Sharon May  
(A) Consider Quarterly Report

Commissioner White made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Payroll Report for July 14, 2023. Commissioner Wilkins seconded and the motion passed by majority vote. See attached.

Sharon May, Treasurer, presented the Quarterly Report dated April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 inclusive. Upon motion by Commissioner Frye to approve the quarterly report, seconded by Commissioner White, the motion carried with a majority vote.

9. Discuss Law Enforcement Grants

Judge Carrasco and Sheriff Geske discussed SB 22 passed by the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. The intent of this legislation was to provide financial assistance to qualified Sheriff's offices, constable's offices and prosecutor's offices in rural communities.

Under the grant, if approved, Parmer County is eligible for \$250,000. Grant money can be used to provide a minimum annual salary for Sheriffs, Deputies, and Jailers and to hire additional staff. After the salary requirements are met, the monies may be used to purchase vehicles, firearms, and safety equipment for the Sheriff's office.

Likewise, the County and district Attorneys may apply for a grant to supplement their salaries. Parmer County would qualify for \$100,000 for each prosecutor's office.

The Comptroller of the State of Texas is tasked with developing the application process and granting of the monies. Applications may not be submitted until January of 2024.

The Judge committed to keeping the Commissioner's updated on this issue.

10. Consider and Discuss Monthly Contract with Rana Crow for the Parmer County Website

Judge Carrasco informed the Commissioners that Rana has asked for an increase in her reimbursement for maintaining the Parmer County website. The County Clerk informed the Court that there are increasing rules and regulations that counties must follow concerning their websites. The Secretary of State has many dealing with elections. We are utilizing Rana's services much more than previously.

The Judge reported that in discussions with other counties, many have TAC as their website manager. They discussed the issues with remote control versus local control. He stated the increase in the reimbursement would probably be less than paying TAC for the services.

He did state that no contract could be found. He offered to do further research into that issue. On motion by Commissioner White to table this issue until a contract can be found or drawn up, seconded by Judge Carrasco, the motion passed with a majority vote.

11. Consider and Discuss Tile Line Under County Road

Daniel Wiseman made an application to place a tile line north of CR O and CR 17. See attached.

Commissioner Wilkins made a motion to approve the tile line placement. Commissioner Frye seconded and the motion passed by majority vote.

12. Consider and Discuss use of the Courthouse Lawn for BorderTown Days July 29, 2023

Rob Pomper requested permission to use the Courthouse lawn to set up the arts and craft exhibits as has been done in past years.

Upon motion from Judge Carrasco to approve usage of the Courthouse lawn for the stated purpose, seconded by Commissioner White, the motion was approved by majority vote.

13. Consider Any and all Matters Concerning the Parmer County Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Geske stated that the Parmer County jail is housing 36 inmates. 22 are Parmer County inmates. 4 are from Dawson County and 10 are from Lubbock County.

He informed the Court informed the Commissioners of the red balls on the power lines outside the Sheriff's office and Courthouse. The vacant lot to the east of the Sheriff's office is being set up as a designated landing zone for helicopters. He also noted that a training for the deputies and other interested officials will be held in that area to train for proper procedure when helping in a landing zone.

He stated that he had a quote for sealing and stripping the Sheriff's parking areas. Discussion was held that we should include the entire Courthouse area.

On July 29<sup>th</sup> while deputies will be handling security and traffic for BorderTown Days, he will be attending a table top major disaster drill in Friona with other first responders from the County.

He stated that he is working on an interlocal agreement with the City of Friona to provide coverage of the city for the first two weeks of every month. This would consist of Monday-Friday 5 PM-1 or 2 AM and 24 hours for Saturday and Sunday of those weeks. The Friona PD would be second call in case of a major incident.

The security assessment has been received and he commented that he would be sending that via email to all elected officials, as well as compiling a list of suggested changes to present to the Court at the next meeting.

He said the Friona Community Center will become the Red Cross emergency center as soon as showers are installed in the bathrooms during the upcoming renovation.

He also informed the Court that the Sheriff's department and DPS had toured the area behind the new JP #1 office (old EMS bay area) as a possible location for their office site in Friona. This would mean renting the space from the City of Friona, but would end the agreement for the office space by the old JP #1 office and thus that rental payment. He will keep the Court updated on this issue.

He informed the Court that the public entrance to the Sheriff's office will be locked each day at 5pm. Access will be by intercom with the dispatch office.

With no further business to come before the Court, Commissioner White moved to adjourn. Commissioner Frye seconded and adjournment was called at 12:02 o'clock P.M.

  
County Clerk



  
County Judge