

## **REGULAR SESSION MEETING NOVEMBER 27, 2023**

Be it remembered on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023 at 10:00 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
Charles Wilkins	Commissioner Pct. #2
Kenny White	Commissioner Pct. #3
Casey Russell	Commissioner Pct. #4
Sharon May	County Treasurer
Susie Spring	County Clerk

Also Present:

Awyna Sanchez, Tax Assessor-Collector  
Eric Geske, Sheriff  
Amy Dudley

Present for the Open Public Meeting 10 AM-10:15 AM:

Esther Steelman, Phyllis Steelman, David White, Pam White  
Rhonda Wilkins, McKenzie Hettinga, Camille Ostercamp,  
Carole Patrick and Rosa Mendez

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

### **Call to Order**

#### 1. Public Hearing @ 10:00 AM-10:15 AM

The above listed citizens of Parmer County spoke to the Commissioners in regard to their support for the County Wide Polling Program utilized in the November 2023 Amendment Election. No members of the public spoke against the concept.

The general consensus was that it was more efficient, convenient and that the voting machines worked well. Five citizens from Precinct 303 stated that it allowed them to vote closer to home.

The results of the Survey held during the Election were presented with an overwhelming majority approving of County Wide Polling Places. At 10:15 AM, with the Public having no additional comments, the Judge closed the Open Meeting and moved into the Regular Meeting.

2. Prayer

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

3. 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.

4. Open Forum for Public Comments

No comments from the public were made.

5. Consider and Discuss Continuation of Use of the County Wide Polling Places

After hearing the public's comments, Judge Carrasco made a motion to pass a resolution in favor of continuing the County Wide Polling Program for Parmer County Elections in the future. Commissioner Frye seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See attached resolution.

6. Consider and Discuss Joint Primary Resolution

Susie Spring, County Clerk, informed the Commissioners that she has received requests from both the Republican and Democratic Parties to hold a Joint Primary in March 2024. We have done this for the past two Primaries that she has been in office and possibly much longer.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Frye to approve a Resolution for a Joint Primary in March 2024, seconded by Commissioner Wilkins, the motion passed unanimously. See attached Resolution.

7. Discussion Regarding Old Citations

Judge Wilkins, Pct #1 informed the Court that she has recently been cleaning up old tickets, some as old as 20 years. She informed the Court that by statute, anything over 2 years old without a sworn complaint or without a plea should be dismissed. She has discussed this with the County Attorney and he concurs.

She wanted to inform the Commissioners that these old records represented a significant amount of money that has not been collected and cannot be collected at this point. She also discussed actions she is taking to try and prevent this happening in the future. The Court thanked the Judge for informing them of this issue.

8. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

Upon motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on November 13, 2023 and the Special Meeting on November 16, 2023, by Commissioner Wilkins, seconded by Commissioner Frye, the motion passed by majority vote.

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

Sharon May reported the Accounts Payable List for November 14<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2023. Motion by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Russell to approve Payment of the Accounts Payable as presented. Motion carried by majority vote. See attached.

10. Consider Treasurer's Payroll Report-Sharon May

Commissioner Frye made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Payroll Report for November 15, 2023 Commissioner White seconded and the motion passed by majority vote. See attached.

11. Consider and Discuss New Bank Account for SB 22 Funds

As discussed in previous meetings, Sharon May, Treasurer checked with First Bank and Trust, the County's bank to inquire about what was necessary to open a new account for these funds. This funding is grant money and tracking of deposits and with-drawls is important.

She was informed a vote by the Court was needed. Commissioner White made a motion to allow the Treasurer to open a new account for these funds. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote.

12. Consider and Discuss Bonds for Tax Assessor-Collector, Tax Assessor-Collector Deputy Clerk, County Clerk Deputy and District Clerk Deputy

Judge Carrasco presented continuation Certificates for the bonds of the above-named positions for Awyna Sanchez, Teresa A. Cary, Mayra Chacon and Matthew Ancira.

Commissioner Frye made a motion to approve these bonds, Commissioner Wilkins seconded and the motion passed with majority vote. Bonds are filed in the County Clerk's office.

13. Discuss Open Records Request

The County Clerk received a request for open public records addressed to the Commissioners, County Judge and County Attorney. Commissioner Frye received advice from legal counsel directing the County Clerk to respond that the individual requesting the information would have to contact the Elected Individuals separately as the County Clerk retains none of these records.

14. Consider and Discuss Rescheduling Commissioners Court on December 25, 2023

The Judge proposed a motion to reschedule the December 25<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting to Thursday, December 21, 2023 and to hold the Annual Awards Luncheon after that meeting.

Commissioner Wilkins seconded and the motion passed with majority vote.

15. Consider Any and all Matters Concerning the Parmer County Law Enforcement Center Including but not Limited to:

- A. Consider and Discuss Interlocal Agreement with Lamb County Jail to House Inmates
- B. Consider and Discuss Interlocal Agreement with Bailey County Jail to House Inmates
- C. Consider and Discuss Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Friona
- D. Consider and Discuss Senate Bill 22

Sheriff Geske stated that the Parmer County jail is housing 36 inmates. 18 of which are from Lubbock County. The remaining 18 are Parmer County inmates.

He presented the two Interlocal agreements for Lamb and Bailey counties. This is the same contract we have used for all the Interlocal agreements this year. Upon motion from Judge Carrasco to approve both agreements, seconded by Commissioner White, the motion passed with majority approval.

The Sheriff had previously discussed the mutual aid agreement with Friona. The Sheriff Department would cover Friona the first two weeks each month if staffing was available. Friona would pay the County \$55/hour for the coverage.

If no one was available, the Sheriff Deputy on duty for the county would cover any calls for that period. A discussion was held as to how Deputies would be reimbursed for this coverage. The general consensus was they

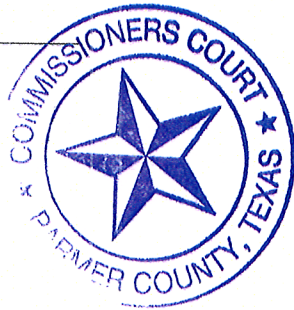
would be paid through the payroll system. Upon a motion by Commissioner Frye, seconded by Commissioner Wilkins, to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Friona, the motion passed with a majority vote.

A discussion was held on Senate bill 22, the grant money available to rural Sheriff Departments for \$250,000 per year for two years. Sheriff Geske detailed how he planned to increase the salaries of Jailers and Deputies.

He requested the Commissioners allow him to apply for the grant for those funds. Upon a motion to allow the Sheriff to apply for SB 22 funds in January 2024 by Judge Carrasco, seconded by Commissioner White, the motion passed on a majority vote.

With no further business to come before the Court, Commissioner White moved to adjourn. Commissioner Russell seconded and adjournment was called at 11:30 o'clock A.M.

*Susie Spring*  
County Clerk



*[Handwritten Signature]*  
County Judge