

Franklin County Commissioners' Court
Commissioner Court Minutes
Regular Session
August 14, 2017

The Franklin County Commissioners' Court met in Regular Session August 14, 2017 at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Franklin County Courthouse located at 200 North Kaufman Street, Mount Vernon, TX

Members present: Scott Lee, County Judge
Jerry Cooper, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Larkin Jumper, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Charlie Emerson, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Sam Young, Commissioner, Precinct 4
Betty Crane, County Clerk

VISITORS: Cathy Jumper, Jenny Dennis, Joe Jancosek, Colin Clasby, Josh Daily, Robert Zinn, Chris Mars, Ricky Jones, Lisa Lawrence, Sherelyn Roberson, Bryan Giguere, Telisa Newman, Ellen Jagers, Margaret Sears, Tina Phillips, Bill Travis, Jim Alford, Katie Stump, Gene Stump and Lillie Bush-Reves.

Judge Lee called the meeting to order and Commissioner Young offered prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited.

Public Comments: Jenny Dennis reported Franklin County had a littering problem and would like to see signs put up to discourage it. She also said the issue with aggressive dogs needs to be addressed. The County does not have a leash law and citizens are told they have a right to protect their property when you report an aggressive dog. Something needs to be done before a child gets hurt.

Agenda Item 1 – APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 24, 2017 REGULAR SESSION, JULY 24, 2017 BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION, AUGUST 2, 2017 SPECIAL SESSION, AUGUST 2, 2017 BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION AND AUGUST 7, 2017 BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION – COUNTY CLERK–
Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the July 24, 2017 Regular Session, July 24, 2017 Budget Workshop Session, August 2, 2017 Special Session, August 2, 2017 Budget Workshop Session and August 7, 2017 Budget Workshop Session and Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried

Agenda Item 2 - AUDIT CLAIMS AGAINST THE COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE THEIR PAYMENT – TREASURER – Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve all the claims against the county and Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried. **See Exhibit 8/14/2017 – A**

Agenda Item 3 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING FUNDING REQUEST FOR ACTIVE 9-1-1 – ROBERT ZINN – Emergency Management Coordinator Robert Zinn reported 90 devices have been registered for the Active 9-1-1. Each device cost \$11.29. The county will be billed after 120 days in the amount of \$1,012.50. He reported he had enough money in the in Homeland Security fund to pay for it. Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the funding request in the amount of \$1,012.50 to be paid from the Homeland Security fund for Active 9-1-1 and

Commissioner Jumper seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Zinn reported the contract will come through court at a later date to be approved.

Agenda Item 4 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING APPRISS R-14 SERVICE AGREEMENT RENEWAL FOR THE VINE PROGRAM FOR 2017 – 2018 PAID THROUGH OAG SAVNS GRANT PROGRAM – TREASURER - Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve APPRISS R-14 Service Agreement renewal for the VINE Program for 2017 – 2018 which is paid through the OAG SAVNS grant program and Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.
See Exhibit 8/14/2017 - B

Agenda Item 5 - CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING TAC HEALTH AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS POOL 2017-2018 RENEWAL NOTICE AND BENEFIT CONFIRMATION FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY – TREASURER - Commissioner Young made a motion to approve TAC Health and Employee Benefits Pool 2017 – 2018 renewal notice and benefit confirmation for Franklin County and Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried. **See Exhibit 8/14/2017 - C**

Agenda Item 6 - CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING GUARDIAN RENEWAL FOR VOLUNTARY INSURANCES – DENTAL, VISION AND LIFE – TREASURER – Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the Guardian Renewal for voluntary insurances – dental, vision and life and Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried. **See Exhibit 8/14/2017 – D**

Agenda Item 7 – CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING PROPOSED TAX RATE INCREASE, TAKE RECORD VOTE AND SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS – COUNTY JUDGE – There was much discussion about the Proposed FY 2018 budget raising more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$426,582.00 which is an 8% increase from last year's budget. The ad valorem tax rate required to fund this budget exceeds the effective tax rate. Commissioner Jumper reported he wanted to take a hard look at the budget since no budget cuts were made. He told Auditor Tina Phillips to cut his salary \$10,000 and apply the \$10,000 towards road materials. He went on to say he supported the employee pay raises but thought the overall labor costs for Franklin County were excessive compared to other counties in our area. Commissioner Cooper said he was looking towards the future of the county and if the increase isn't done now, the county will be in trouble. Commissioner Young reported this information had been discussed in previous workshops and everyone had pretty much agreed to this. Commissioner Emerson made a motion to approve the proposed tax rate increase, record the vote and scheduled the public hearings and Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried with Judge Lee, Commissioners Cooper, Emerson and Young all voting in favor. Commissioner Jumper voted no. **See Exhibit 8/14/2017 – E** to view the proposals of the 2017 tax rates for the Franklin County FY 2018 calendar budget year, the recorded votes and the schedule of two public hearings (August 24, 2017 & August 28, 2017) and scheduled the meeting to adopt the 2017 tax rate and set the FY 2018 budget (September 11, 2017).

DISCUSSION ITEMS: Judge Lee reported there had been some area flooding and water in the basement of the courthouse. He also reported the Industrial Foundation has been trying to get in contact with the person doing the study to narrow down sites for a hotel.

Agenda Item 8 - RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: THE COMMISSIONER'S COURT WILL RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SEC. 551.071 FOR CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THREATENED OR PENDING LITIGATION AND TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SEC. 551.072 TO DELIBERATE THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE, OR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY – COUNTY JUDGE – Commissioners' Court recessed into Executive Session at 9:45 AM to consult with the County Attorney to consider and take action on threatened or pending litigation and to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.

Agenda Item 9 – RECONVENE OPEN MEETING – COUNTY JUDGE – Regular Session reconvened back into open session at 10:48 AM. No action taken.

Commissioner Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried.

I, Betty Crane, County Clerk certify that this is an accurate accounting of the proceedings of Commissioner's Court Regular meeting on August 14, 2017

Witnessed and recorded this 14th day of August, 2017.

Betty Crane, County Clerk