

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 25th day of November 2024, A.D., the Commissioners Court met in a Regular Session with the following members present to wit:

Cindy Irwin	County Judge
Gary Alexander	Commissioner Precinct #1
Dwight Kirksey	Commissioner Precinct #2
Ben Bentley	Commissioner Precinct #3
Chris Prock	Commissioner Precinct #4
Kelly Ratliff	County Clerk & Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

CALL TO ORDER FOR REGULAR MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Judge Irwin called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Judge Irwin led the pledge and prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENT; 5 MINUTES PER PERSON (WITH SIGNED PARTICIPATION FORM)

None at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE COUNTY AUDITOR'S TABULATED REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS COURT PURSUANT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE 114.024

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE PAYROLL

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE OFFICE EQUIPMENT AS REQUESTED BY DEPARTMENTS

ACCEPT CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION FROM ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE REPORTS FROM ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICIALS REQUIRED BY STATE LGC 114.044

Judge Irwin presented an additional report from the Hutchinson County Jail.

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Documents have been made part of the minutes.

REGULAR AGENDA

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE A REQUEST FROM JUDY FLANDERS, FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM TREASURER

Judy Flanders, Friends of the Museum Treasurer presented a McCormick House Project Report as of November 25, 2024. They will be requesting to close out the McCormick House Project at the next Friends of the Museum Board Meeting. They will vote to close out this account and return the donations to the donors. No Action. Report has been made part of the minutes.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF HANNA CONNER, AG
EXTENSION AGENT**

Judge Irwin presented Hanna Conner's resignation letter. Ben Bentley made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Letter has been made part of the minutes.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE MOTOR
FUELS TAX EXEMPTION FOR COUNTIES**

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Resolution has been made part of the minutes.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE OPTING IN TO THE KROGER OPIOID
SETTLEMENT**

Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Document has been made part of the minutes.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE \$1,000.00 BOND FOR APRIL JONES, JUVENILE
PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Bond has been made part of the minutes.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE AMOUNTS UP TO \$1,000.00 BE EXEMPT FROM
LAME DUCK POLICY IN LINE ITEMS 100-560-4051 – EMPLOYEE MEDICAL (DRUG
TESTING, PSYCH TESTING, PHYSICAL), 100-560-3540 – TIRES, 100-561-3331 – JAIL
SUPPLIES, 100-561-5700 – JAIL EQUIPMENT, EFFECTIVE BEGINNING 11/25/24
UNTIL 1/1/25**

Judge Irwin presented this request with input from Sheriff Kemp and Lesha Krieg, Auditor. The line items presented have spent in excess of 25% of the budget and will require Commissioners Court approval based on the Lame Duck Policy. After discussion it was decided to present the Lame Duck purchases at the same time bills are approved in the next 2 Commissioners Court meetings to end the year. All agreed. No Action.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FOR SARAH PRICE

Sheriff Kemp presented Travel Reimbursement for Sarah Price for travel to the 2024 TAPEIT Conference. Lesha Krieg, Auditor had questioned travel dates and conference dates based on interpretation of the Travel Policy. Mrs. Price traveled on 10/27/2024 (13hrs), 10/28/2024 was registration from 4:30pm-7pm with conference starting on 10/29/2024 as directed by her supervisor. Auditor was going off of the Travel Policy stating reimbursement will be paid for a maximum of one day lodging before the start of the conference. After discussion registration days are in question and will be revisited by the Policy Committee for this Travel Policy. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve Sarah Price getting paid the additional day with misinterpretation of the policy, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Documentation has been made part of the minutes.

8.CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY ARP GRANT PROJECTS

Julie Winters, HCUW/Aspire A Mindful Place: Julie Winters wanted to discuss the 5-year agreement signed in 2022 for \$145,000.00 for mental health care providers to our county programs. Judge Irwin pointed out there should have been a report provided by September 1, 2024, as the amount expended is \$125,859.47 so there is money still in the budget for salaries. Mrs. Winters explained the remaining funds will be paying for 2 peer support specialist part time salaries. The peer support specialists will also be going through a Wellness Recovery Action Plan Session Dec 2nd and 3rd so they can offer services to our firemen and first responders if they are struggling with anything. This should cover the remaining funds available. The county needs to update the agreement from September 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

Julie Winters, Aspire A Mindful Place: \$25,000.00 – Julie Winters presented her ARP Project Application to continue to pay salaries for three Peer Support Specialists. Her application is very detailed and made part of the minutes. This item was tabled on 10/14/2024. Mrs. Winters mentioned the Commissioners had directed her to the EDC and when she did, they directed her back to the Commissioners Court and she is still in communications with the EDC on this. Tabling this item.

Julie Winters, Aspire A Mindful Place: \$75,000.00 – Julie Winters presented her ARP Project Application to help with developing a Behavioral Health Center. Her application is very detailed and made part of the minutes. This funding would start Phase 1 of the project - renovation of the church building. Aspire A Mindful Place is a 501 (c)(3) and has received other donations. This item was tabled on 10/14/2024. The Commissioners had concern that it would eventually be a profitable business. She explained that it will always be a Non-Profit and any funds coming in would be given back to the people in the community needing assistance. There is a business plan, and the EDC feels a Mental Health facility would be successful in our area. Judge Irwin feels it would not be any different than us expending money to Non-Profits for parking lot upgrades etc. Commissioner Prock pointed out it is a Hybrid Business with profit for a non-profit with billing insurance. Commissioner Kirksey feels like putting the funds towards salaries would be better spent than the improvement of the building. Commissioner Bentley pointed out there is \$94,720.50 left in ARP Funds that has not been encumbered. After discussion the Commissioners want to look at the ARP requests as a whole and see what is left to spend that takes priority. Tabling this item.

Laura Chisholm, Sheriff's Office: Multiple Quotes – Jerry Langwell has been working with the Sheriff's Department about this project and presented quotes for Enhancing Security and Efficiency at the Sheriff's Office. Objective is the installation of a secure access door to restrict the public access to the main office areas of the Sheriff's Department. Details of the plan has been made part of the minutes. Discussion was had on each quote for different work and pricing. Jerry Langwell suggested Mesneak Construction, LLC for \$16,390.00 as it fits the objective of restricting access and adds the bullet proof door with speaker thru & tray. This is not requiring an engineer adding 30% to the cost for bullet proofing the wall as well. Tabling this item.

Any and all remaining ARP Requests need to be presented at the December 9, 2024, Commissioners Court meeting. Leshia Krieg, Auditor spoke with Craig Jones, County Attorney and the funds could be committed with an Interagency Agreement. If the project comes in over what is committed in the Interagency Agreement, you will pay the difference out of your budget. If the project is under, we lose the difference that was committed. Judge Irwin will have blank Interagency Agreements if anyone needs one to present December 9, 2024.

Commissioner Alexander needs to complete a Change Order for the previously approved Annex ARP Project for some additional painting and flooring that was missed in the original quote.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

Jerry Langwell, EMC/County Fire Marshall, reported that the drought index is 27. No action taken at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE REQUESTS FOR USE OF CLUBROOMS AT BORGER LIBRARY OR FRITCH

Chris Prock had no requests for the Borger Library Clubroom.
Dwight Kirksey had no requests for the Fritch Library Clubroom.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE LINE ITEM CHANGES, TRANSFERS, AND/OR BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Order has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ADVERTISING, OPENING, ACCEPTING OR AWARDING BIDS

None at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATIONS TO HUTCHINSON COUNTY

None at this time.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY JUDGES' AND COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCTS DAILY OPERATIONS

Chris Prock, Commissioner Pct. 4 reported the camera project at the Museum is complete.

Ben Bentley, Commissioner Pct. 3 reported the Courthouse and Stinnett Annex paving is complete, any new paving will get sealed in the Spring.

Dwight Kirksey, Commissioner Pct. 2 reported that he is working with Carson County and Duane Chisholm, Road & Bridge Superintendent on final mowing projects for the season.

Judge Irwin reported December 2nd is the annual Lighting of the Courthouse. December 10th is the County Appreciation Dinner.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE SALE OF STRUCK OFF TAX PROPERTIES AND TAX DEEDS

None at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE MOTION TO ADJOURN

Gary Alexander made the motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Adjourned 11:05 a.m.




CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:


KELLY RATLIFF – COUNTY CLERK