

**MINUTES OF THE HARDEMAN COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE BODY MARCH TERM
REGULAR SESSION APRIL 16, 2024**

Be it remembered that a Regular Meeting of the Legislative Body for the County of Hardeman, State of Tennessee was conducted in the Hardeman County Courthouse in the City of Bolivar, on the 16th day of April, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Vice Mayor Johnny Lanier was present and presiding, and a quorum of Commissioners, namely, Hon. David Bell, Hon. Cory Bufford, Hon. Russell Deberry, Hon. Mark Gilliam, Hon. Brad Grantham, Hon. Bobby Hensley, Hon. Joe Jenkins, Hon. Jeff Kennamore, Hon. Chandra Y. Lake, Hon. Johnny Lanier, Hon. Bethany Miller, Hon. Mamie Polk, Hon. Johnny Weems, Hon. Jackie Sain, Hon. John Vickers, and Hon. Bobby Wright were present. County Clerk, Tonet Griggs and County Attorney, Dale Conder Jr. was present and Mayor Todd Pulse was not present the meeting was opened in due form of the law and had to wit:

16 PRESENT 0 ABSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hon. Brad Grantham made a motion to take February 20, 2024 minutes off the table. Hon. Johnny Weems seconded the motion. Hon. Bobby Wright made a motion to accept the February 20, 2024 minutes and Hon. Cory Bufford seconded the motion.

CARRIED ACCLAMATION

Hon. Mark Gilliam made a motion to accept the March 16, 2024 minutes with the correction to the next meeting date to reflect April 16th of 2024. Hon. Johnny Weems seconded the motion.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

APPROVAL OF NOTARIES

Hon. Johnny Weems made a motion to approve the notaries for this month and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded to approve the list of notaries.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

PUBLIC FORUM

There was a public forum.

TAX ASSESSOR – JOSH PULSE

Property Assessor Josh Pulse came before the County Commission to get an approval for the Board of Equalization. Hon. Grantham made motion to accept the Board of Equalization and Hon. Sain seconded the motion.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – DIRECTOR DON TAYLOR

Director Taylor brought forth the Resolution for adopting the Hardeman County Mitigation Plan. This plan is run through FEMA. If there is a problem that is continually happening this Resolution allows the county to apply for the funds needed to help fix it. FEMA will pay 50%, state will pay 25%, and the county will pay 25%. If we do an in-house contract we will pay 12.5%. Hon. Sain made the motion to accept the resolution and Hon. Lake seconded the motion.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

HWY DEPT – SUPERINTENDENT CASEY SWIFT

Superintendent Swift did not have a report to bring in. He only brought forth a bid to accept to pave Lake Hardeman, Powell Chapel Rd, and Peavine Rd. (SEE ATTACHED). Hon. Grantham made the motion to accept the bids for the paving project and Hon. Gilliam seconded the motion.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT – CHIEF DAVIS

Chief Davis presented an inventory listing that needs to be removed and disposed of. Hon. Grantham made a motion to approve the disposal of the surplus inventory and Hon. Bufford seconded the motion.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

CIRCUIT COURT – CIRCUIT COURT CLERK EUNICE GUDGER

Clerk Eunice presented a list of inventory that needs to be removed and disposed of. Hon. Mark Gilliam made a motion to remove and destroy the presented surplus inventory. Hon Johnny Weems seconded the motion.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION – SUPERINTENDENT CRISTY SMITH

Superintendent Christy presented a budget amendment for the old MHS gym floor due to a waterline breakage. Hon. Mark Gilliam made a motion to accept the amendment and Hon. Weems seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

16 AYE 0 NAY

BULDING COMMITTEE – COMISSIONER DAVID BELL

Commissioner David Bell spoke on the Election Committee bids. These bids were for the pavement and interior. The bids for the pavement came within budget. The interior bid came above the budget. They had allocated \$350,000 for the project with \$100,000 designated for pavement and \$250,000 for interior. Hon. Grantham asked how much the total bid was. Hon Brad Grantham also asked about the number of parking spaces that will come with the pavement renovations. Hon. Bell stated that the bids that came in had the pavement cost at \$160,000 and the interior at \$480,000. Hon. Bell recommended that they adjust the specs of the design and try to get within budget. There will be about 55-58 parking spaces after renovations. Hon. Bell recommended that they adjust the specs of the design and try to get within budget.

BUDGET AMENDMENT – COMMISSIONER JOHNNY LANIER

Hon. Johnny Lanier said the Budget Committee met April 11, 2024 and the next meeting will be Thursday, April 25, 2024. Budget Amendments 1-5, 8,9,12, 14 & 16 were passed by the Budget Committee. Budget Amendment 11 was voided at the request of Linda Earnest in the Mayor’s Office.

1. Register of Deeds – (SEE ATTACHED)
2. Election Commission – (SEE ATTACHED)
3. Development – (SEE ATTACHED)
4. County Buildings – (SEE ATTACHED)
5. Other Facilities – (SEE ATTACHED)
6. Reappraisal – (SEE ATTACHED)
7. Juvenile Court – (SEE ATTACHED)
8. County Clerk’s Office – (SEE ATTACHED)
9. Local Health Department – (SEE ATTACHED)

10. Development (Zoning) – (SEE ATTACHED)
11. Reappraisal Program – (SEE ATTACHED) (VOIDED)
12. Hardeman County Health Department – (SEE ATTACHED)
13. Hardeman Co. Sheriff’s Office (Drug Fund) – (SEE ATTACHED)
14. Hardeman Co. ‘Sheriff’s Office – (SEE ATTACHED)
15. Hardeman Co. Sheriff’s Office (Workhouse) – (SEE ATTACHED)
16. Hardeman County Sheriff’s Office (Drug Fund) – (SEE ATTACHED)
17. Workhouse – (SEE ATTACHED)
18. Sheriff’s Department-Workhouse – (SEE ATTACHED)

Hon. Jackie Sain made a motion to accept the budget amendments 6, 7, 10, 13, 15-18 and Hon. Johnny Weems seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE
15 AYE 0 NAY

LAWSUIT UPDATE – DALE CONDER

Attorney Conder gave an update on the lawsuits pending. Conder informed the committee that they are waiting to hear if the case will be decertified. If the case is decertified then the seven lead will continue into trail in June and the remainder will have to file separate. Hon. Lake asked attorney Dale would he recommend them wait for the decision for decertification to be made and if needed go another route. Attorney Dale said that he feels it would be best to see if the case will be decertified before settling. Hon. Vickers asked what happened with the 3 days of mediation and why did they only attend one day. Attorney Dale stated that it was not on Hardeman County and he does not know why it did not proceed after that one day.

Hon. Bufford informed the committee that he had talked to the former judge/attorney earlier in the day and found out the Perry lawsuit could have previously been settled for \$102,000. He stated that it passed with a 14 to one vote, but 2 months later the county paid \$900,000 in lawyer fees. Hon. Lanier interjected and said that he believes what he was referring to is the Carnell case and not the Perry case. Hon. Bufford then made a motion to settle the lawsuit for \$3,844,456.52 with terms over 3 yrs not including attorney fees. Hon. Jenkins seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE
6 AYE 9 NAY

Hon. Grantham said that he felt we did not have representation and made a motion to bring Attorney Amber Shaw back as lead Council to help Attorney Rob and his team. Hon. Vickers seconded the motion. Hon. Kennamore asked “How long Amber worked on the case previously.” Hon. Lanier responded with 3 years. Hon. Kennamore said “3 years and she couldn’t get this done so why would we hire her back.” “We’re here now because she didn’t get the job done.” He said that, “It is up to us to prove them wrong, and right now we don’t have the records to prove them wrong.”

Attorney Conder said that if the motion passed he will resign as the County Attorney. Hon. Sain asked Dale “Is there a reason he did not want to work with Amber?” Attorney Dale said that, “He will not discuss the reasoning in the County Commission Meeting but would be glad to discuss it with them in the attorney client meeting.”

Hon. Lanier stated that with the motion on the floor and Attorney Conder saying that he will resign the question is would Amber even take the case. Hon. Grantham rescinded his motion to hire Amber Shaw as lead council for the case after hearing that Attorney Conder would resign and the question of Amber accepting the case. Hon Vickers rescinded his second on the motion.

SEE ATTACHED FOR ATTORNEY CONDER’S REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURN

Hon. Bethany Miller made a motion to adjourn and Hon. Johnny Weems seconded the motion.

The next meeting is to be held May 21, 2024.

COUNTY MAYOR 

COUNTY CLERK 