

**MINUTES OF THE HARDEMAN COUNTY  
LEGISLATIVE BODY SEPTEMBER TERM  
REGULAR SESSION  
April 18<sup>th</sup> 2023**

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 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Hon. Todd Pulse, County Mayor, 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 M. Lanier, Hon. Bethany Miller, Hon. Jackie Sain, Hon. John Vickers, and Hon. Bobby Wright were present and Hon. Thomas Polk and Hon. Johnny Weems were absent. County Clerk, Tonet Griggs and County Attorney, Dale Conder Jr. were present and the meeting was opened in due form of the law and had to wit:

14 PRESENT 2 ABSENT

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Hon. Jackie Sain made a motion and Hon. Bobby Wright seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

**APPROVAL OF NOTARIES**

Hon. Mark Gilliam made a motion and Hon. Johnny Lanier seconded to approve the list of notaries.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

**REPORTS: County Officials/Departments/ Committees**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION – SUPERINTENDENT CHRISTY SMITH**

Superintendent Christy Smith gave an update on the improvements of the school systems. The school system has been focusing on two key things, early literacy and industry certifications. This year they sent a lot of CTE teachers to TCAT to become agile instructors. Last year they had about 40-50 students enrolled in TCAT and this year they have over 400 students. Two courses have been added, Advanced Manufacturing will be added to Bolivar Central High and Culinary Art will be added to Middleton High School. Christy states they are looking at certifying teachers that are already in place so that there will be no additional position cost. They also want to give the children that may not want to go to college an opportunity to develop some skills, so the school system will be working on certain industry certifications like OSHA10 and ServSafe. If that student passes once they graduate they will be presented with their certification. The school is partnering with JSCC where eligible juniors can enroll in the dual college program and receive their Associates degree along with their diploma when graduating giving them a head-start into their careers. The parents will have a very small percentage to pay per semester. Christy stated that they have even looked at seeing if businesses would be sponsors, but this will all depend on the interest in the project.

Christy informs us of the funding opportunities such as Innovative High School Grant that was received two years ago. It focused on digital agronomy, construction, and culinary art. There are also the ESR funds 1, 2 and 3 which are similar to the ARP funds but a lot more restricted. This funding allows them to take care of things such as driver's education cars, nurse's pay, and instructional coach's pay and in turn helped build the fund balance. Our schools are 50 plus years old. They used some of these funds to renovate some bathrooms, new sidewalks, new paint, and some awnings on some of the campuses. They then

explored options to further improve the schools. Looking at a new school the price is a minimum of \$50 million for one school. That is roughly \$300 per square feet. That decision was out of the question. They then started looking at renovations. She presented a resolution to transfer funds from general purpose school fund to education capital projects fund for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The commissioners all agreed that it is very much needed. Hon. Brad Grantham made the motion to accept this resolution and Hon. Chandra Lake seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**14 Aye 0 Nay**

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – SUPERINTENDENT CASEY SWIFT**

Superintendent Casey Swift had two things for the commissioners to look over. The first is a budget amendment. They had a truck on order that is due to be released in July/August. They need \$97,000 for the purchase from the fund balance and placed into his budget. Hon. Mark Gilliam made the motion to accept the budget amendment and the Hon. Russell Deberry seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**14 Aye 0 Nay**

His next line of business was a resolution to correct last year’s budget. They started with the amount after the deduction put into budge to be approved for fund balance. The auditor told him that they need the beginning budget before anything comes out. Hon. Mark Gilliam made the motion to accept this resolution to correct the beginning budget 22-23 and Hon. Bethany Miller seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**14 Aye 0 Nay**

The transportation modernization act has been passed through Governor Lee’s office. Hardeman County is getting \$3.2 million of state funding. They have not officially decided if they will release it all in one year or over the course of five years. Butch Healy put in 750,000 for each region on state highways. Highway 125 south and Hwy 125 north are already scheduled to be paved this year. Hwy 125 north will be double micro with a scrub seal coat and 125 south will be all new pavement.

**REGISTER OF DEEDS – LILY BARNES**

No report.

**TRUSTEE – SANDY HAMMONS**

No report

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT LITTER REPORT – SHERIFF DOOLEN**

Sheriff Doolen gave an update on the Litter Grant. In March they picked up 16,340 lbs of litter and in April to date they have picked up 7,720 lbs of litter. The total of litter picked up to date is 99,300 lbs. He has three trustees and one truck supervisor on staff. They have not made it to Ebenezer Road nor Hwy 18 north.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT – CORY BUFFORD**

No Report

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS:**

**Hardeman County Sheriff's Office**

- \$1,000 is to be debited from custodial supplies and \$1,000 is to be credited to uniforms. This amendment is justified by the need to purchase uniforms for the workhouse employees. SEE ATTACHED
- \$13,000 is to be debited from drug fund balance and \$13,000 is to be credited to vehicle. This is justified for the purchase of a 2015 Chevy Tahoe. This is a correction on the debit line item. That account number should read 39000-122. SEE ATTACHED

Hon. Bobby Wright made the motion to accept these amendments with the correction of the drug fund account number 39000 to 39000-122 and Hon. Chandra Lake seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**14 Aye 0 Nay**

**ZONING RESOLUTION #23-10 – JIM PIERCE**

Mr. Pierce stated that this resolution is to amend the Zoning Resolution to add telecommunication towers. This basically defines the rules to where and how these telecommunication towers will be placed. This requires a public hearing. Hon. Brad Grantham made a motion to move into public hearing and Hon. Johnny Lanier seconded the motion. There were no comments from the public in the public hearing therefore, Hon. Johnny Lanier made the motion to reconvene into general hearing and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded the motion. Hon. Brad Grantham made the motion to accept the resolution and Hon. Johnny Lanier seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**14 Aye 0 Nay**

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT RENOVATION ARP GRANT – ANGENAL HUDSON & JOSH GIBSON**

Mr. Josh stated that this is a 75/25 grant for \$450,000. The state will provide 75% (\$337,500) and the county will provide 25% (\$112,500). Josh said that there are some plumbing issues where they may need to run a camera down the drain line to spot those issues. There is also the need for extra counter space for the staff, new furniture, and some exterior work. He will be here to over see the progress and have monthly progress meetings with the contractor and will have himself and someone from the architectural firm sign off and approve the invoice. After that it will be given to the Mayor to write the check. The county will then get reimbursed within 30 days for the 75% of the cost once the invoice has been uploaded to the state. This grant must be accepted by March 2024. The completion of the project will be June 2026. They already have a list that needs attention. Angenal stated that she has priced new furniture and it cost \$60,000 just to refurbish. Hon. Bobby Wright asked if the new roof they put on last year will count toward the project and Josh Gibson stated that unfortunately that would not count. Josh thought the roof was holding up well, but Angenal then stated that the roof is already leaking. Josh stated that it should be still under warranty.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**14 Aye 0 Nay**

**PROCLAMATIONS/RESOLUTIONS:**

- **Carl Perkins Child Abuse Proclamation** was presented to Circuit Court Clerk Eunice Gudger.
- **Blue and Green Day Mid-South Proclamation** was presented to Wanda King, who is the recipient of two heart transplants. Ms King stated that without a donor she would not be alive today. She just wants to encourage

everyone to become an organ donor because it has saved many lives and has a bigger impact than we realize.

- **WRAP Proclamation** – No one was there for Mayor Pulse to present it to.
- **National Autism Awareness Month Proclamation** was presented to Mayor Julian McTizic. Mayor McTizic said he appreciates it. His youngest son was officially diagnosed with level 3 autism which is the highest level, but he is grateful that God gave them a special child like Juels.
- The resolution for Linda K. Fulghum will be presented at the May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting per her family's request.

#### **LAWSUITS UPDATE – DALE CONDER**

See Attached for list of lawsuits. Hon. Brad Grantham made a motion to counter-offer a \$1.2 million settlement for wage reimbursements not including lawyer fees on the Patrick Perry and Jonathan Lutrell/Brandon Allen lawsuits and Hon. David Bell seconded the motion. Hon. Brad Grantham would like to have an answer of acceptance or rejection by next meeting May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

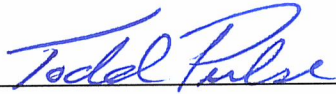
- The next meeting will be May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- There will be a budget meeting April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6pm in the conference room and another one May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at 6pm in the training room.

#### **ADJOURN**

Hon. Russell Deberry made a motion and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded to adjourn.

Public speech was given by Mr. Richard Clift after adjournment.

COUNTY MAYOR



COUNTY CLERK

