

**MINUTES OF THE HARDEMAN COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE BODY JUNE TERM
REGULAR SESSION JULY 15, 2025**

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 15th day of July, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Hon. Todd Pulse, County Mayor, was present and presiding, and a quorum of Commissioners, namely, 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. Johnny Weems, Hon. Jackie Sain, and Hon. John Vickers were present. Hon. David Bell, Hon. Michion Gatlin, Hon. Bethany Miller, and Hon. Bobby Wright were absent. County Clerk Tonet Griggs and County Attorney Dale Conder Jr. were present. The meeting was opened in due form of the law and had to wit:

12 PRESENT 4 ABSENT

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

The 10-year-old girls' and 12-year-old boys' ball teams were recognized for placing second in the Dizzy Dean World Series.

PUBLIC FORUM:

David Class from the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience provided an update on assistance available to homeowners and renters affected by disasters. He emphasized that the SBA offers loans, not grants like FEMA. He encouraged constituents to apply even if they don't think they'll need a loan, as they can access it later if qualified. He mentioned that the SBA is also offering a mitigation program, providing an extra 20% on loans for future damage prevention measures.

He noted that they haven't seen as many people from the Grand Junction area as expected and urged help in spreading the word.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Hon. Jackie Sain and seconded by Hon. John Vickers to approve the previous meeting's minutes.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

APPROVAL OF NOTARIES:

A motion was made by Hon. Johnny Weems and seconded by Hon. Johnny Lanier to approve the list of notaries.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Angenal Huddleston, the County Health Department Director, discussed several services:

- DCS Program: Serves women and children 18 and over who are underinsured or uninsured, providing assistance for conditions like breast cancer.
- Chant Program: A social worker program that assists parents of children with disabilities, helping with items like hearing aids or leg braces.
- Telehealth Services: Available for patients with transportation issues.

- Overdose Prevention: Provides Narcan training and Narcan kits to the community.

Sarah Skinner, the Dementia Navigator, discussed the new dementia program:

- Educates the public and works with physicians for early detection.
- Works one-on-one with families, offering safety surveys, resource connections (like respite care), and care planning.
- Has trained law enforcement on recognizing signs of Alzheimer's/dementia.
- A "Care Grant" of \$10,000 was approved to create "go packs" for emergencies for dementia patients, including essentials and a QR code bracelet for identification.
- "Care kits" (freezer bags with medical information) will also be provided.
- A Q&A session about the dementia program will be held on August 12th at 6 p.m. at the complex.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE INITIATIVE:

The Sheriff's office is working on a program to put an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in every patrol vehicle, potentially using opioid settlement funding. They are also looking to place AEDs in any county building that doesn't currently have one.

LIBRARY UPDATE/DISCUSSION:

A lengthy discussion occurred regarding the operational and payroll structure of the Oliver Hardeman County Library, which is a joint venture between the city and county.

The city proposed that the county take over payroll responsibilities. Various options were discussed:

- Leaving the current structure (city handles payroll).
- County takes over payroll.
- Creating an independent entity for the library (like 9-1-1).
- Making it an all-city library with county contributions.
- Making it an all-county library.

The main point of contention was how library employees are compensated relative to other city or county employees, with the City Mayor expressing a desire for library staff to be treated the same as other city employees if they remain on city payroll.

There was disagreement and a need for clarification on which entity (the City Mayor or Library Board) has the authority to hire/fire the library director and set salaries according to TCA codes and existing agreements.

A motion was made and seconded to table the library issue until documents and numbers from the city regarding their proposal could be reviewed, and for the city and county attorneys to confer.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

A budget amendment for the Local Health Department was presented:

- Debiting Health and Welfare Grants \$10,000 (credit)
- Crediting Supplies \$10,000
- Reason: The Health Department received a 100% reimbursable grant for Dementia Navigator supplies.

Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to approve, and Hon. Jeff Kennamore seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE
12 AYE 0 NAY

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A request was made to ensure all county vehicles are properly lettered for identification.
- The county will be putting out a bid for fuel for the airport.
- A groundbreaking for the new hospital is upcoming.
- Progress is being made on fixing plumbing issues with the courthouse fountain.

LAWSUIT UPDATE – ATTORNEY DALE CONDER

Attorney Dale Conder provided an update on pending legal matters, including a response due regarding a subpoena and a mediation set for August 25th in another case. See attached.

ADJOURN

The next commission meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2025.

COUNTY MAYOR  _____

COUNTY CLERK  _____