

**MINUTES OF THE HARDEMAN COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE BODY JUNE TERM
REGULAR SESSION JUNE 17, 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 17th day of June, 2025 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. Michion Gatlin, 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. Johnny Weems, Hon. Jackie Sain, Hon. John Vickers, and Hon. Bobby Wright were present. County Clerk Tonet Griggs was present, and County Attorney Dale Conder Jr. was absent. The meeting was opened in due form of the law and had to wit:

16 PRESENT 0 ABSENT

VETERANS WALL PROJECT

Mr. Bo Lane requested permission to erect a black granite wall in honor of veterans. Concerns were raised about potential conflicts with existing water and electrical lines.

o Vote: Hon. Brad Grantham made a motion to approve the wall and its placement, and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

16 AYE 0 NAY

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the last meeting were presented for approval.

o Vote: Hon. Bobby Wright made a motion to approve, and Hon. Johnny Weems seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NOTARY APPROVALS

Notaries were presented for approval.

o Vote: Hon. Mark Gilliam made a motion to approve, and Hon. Russell Deberry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT & BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Dr. Christy Smith presented several budget amendments for "cleanup" for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. She also shared good news about the school system being chosen for the Ayres Foundation Trust Scholarship program.

o Vote on General Purpose Budget Amendments: Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to approve the general-purpose budget amendments for June, and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

16 AYE 0 NAY

o Vote on Summer School Budget: Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to approve the summer school budget (state-funded grant), and Hon. Johnny Weems seconded. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

16 AYE 0 NAY

o Vote on Cafeteria & Capital Improvement Project Funds: Hon. Johnny Weems made a motion to approve the cafeteria and capital improvement project funds budget for 2025-2026, and Hon. Johnny Lanier seconded. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

16 AYE 0 NAY

SHERIFF'S REPORT

The Sheriff requested to surplus two vehicles with high mileage. He also provided an update on litter pickup, noting 7,360 lbs. of garbage picked up in June and 129,800 lbs. year-to-date.

o Vote on Surplus Vehicles: Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to approve the surplus of the vehicles, and Hon. Mark Gilliam seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PRIVATE ACTS RATIFICATION

Two private acts, number 11 (school board budget timeline) and number 25 (county budgeting from 85% to 92%), were presented for ratification.

o Vote: Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to accept both private acts, and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

16 AYE 0 NAY

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT'S REQUEST FOR MILLING PURCHASE

Road Superintendent, Casey Swift, requested approval to purchase asphalt milling from a TDOT project if he goes over his threshold.

o Vote: Hon. Mark Gilliam made a motion to approve the purchase of the milling, and Hon. Bethany Miller seconded. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

16 AYE 0 NAY

HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AWARD

Director Angenal Huddleston, of the Hardeman County Health Department, received an award for outstanding director for Tennessee.

PUBLIC HEARING

Second Budget Reading (2025-2026): A public hearing was held for the second budget reading. Concerns were raised about unrealized legal expenses and whether money had been set aside for contingencies.

o Vote to Convene into Public Session: Hon. Mark Gilliam made a motion to convene into public session, and Hon. Joseph Jenkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

o Vote to Reconvene into Regular Session: Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to reconvene back into regular session, and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 1

Establishing Tax Rate: A resolution to maintain the certified tax rate at 1.81, with no tax increase for the coming year, was presented.

o Vote: Hon. Brad Grantham made a motion to approve, Hon. Jeff Kennamore seconded. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

16 AYE 0 NAY

RESOLUTION 2

Establishing Tax Levy Distribution: This resolution detailed how the 1.81 tax rate would be distributed.

o Vote: Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to approve, and Hon. Bobby Wright seconded. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

16 AYE 0 NAY

CONFIRMATION OF SECOND BUDGET READING & AMENDMENTS

Several changes to the budget were brought forth by the budget committee with positive recommendations. Legal fees were increased from \$150,000 to \$250,000.

o Vote: Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to approve the final budget with these amended changes, and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

16 AYE 0 NAY

RESOLUTION 4

Landfill Rates: A resolution to increase landfill rates by \$1.50, as voted on last year, was presented.

o Vote: Hon. Bobby Wright made a motion to approve, Hon. Jeff Kennamore seconded. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

16 AYE 0 NAY

PUBLIC HEARING - REZONING PARCEL ON CLIFF ROAD

A public hearing was held to discuss rezoning a property on Cliff Road from R (residential) to C2 (commercial). Neighbors expressed strong opposition due to concerns about increased traffic, noise, lights, theft, and potential disturbances.

o Vote to Convene into Public Session: Hon. Bobby Wright made a motion to convene into public hearing, Hon. Jackie Sain seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

o Vote to Reconvene into Regular Session: Hon. Johnny Weems made a motion to reconvene back into regular session, and Hon. Michion Gatlin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

o Vote on Rezoning: A motion to rezone the property back to commercial was made. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

12 AYE 4 NAY

PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE DISTANCE CHANGE FOR SCHOOLS/CHURCHES/RESIDENTIAL (BEER SALES)

A public hearing was held to consider changing the distance ordinance for alcohol sales near schools, churches, and residential areas. Opponents argued against the change from 2,000 feet to 500 feet for schools and churches, as well as the change from 500 feet to 100 feet in residential areas.

o Vote to Convene into Public Session: Hon. Mark Gilliam made a motion to move into public hearing, and Hon. Michion Gatlin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

o Vote to Reconvene into Regular Session: Hon. Bobby Wright made a motion to reconvene back into regular session, and Hon. Chandra Lake seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

o Vote on Ordinance Change: A motion to approve the proposed changes was made. The motion failed with a roll call vote.

6 AYE 10 NAY

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER APPOINTMENT

With the retirement of Mr. Larry Ross, the part-time Veteran Service Officer position needed to be filled.

o Vote: Two nominations were made: Gary Barber and Erica Woods. The vote count resulted in Gary Barber being selected with 10 votes to Erica Woods' 6 votes.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS (ADDITIONAL – SEE ATTACHED)

Commissioner Lanier presented additional budget amendments for various departments.

o Vote: Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to approve the budget amendments, and Hon. Bethany Miller seconded. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

16 AYE 0 NAY

AIRMEDCARE CONTRACT

A renewal for AirMedCare Network was presented. Annual membership for Hardeman County remained at the same rate of \$67,583.00.

o Vote: Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to accept the renewal, and Hon. Chandra Lake seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OSHA RESOLUTION

A resolution to formally adopt an updated occupational safety and health program plan was presented.

o Vote: Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to approve, and Hon. Mark Gilliam seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

Hon. Johnny Weems made a motion, and Hon. Bobby Wright seconded to adjourn.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2025.

COUNTY MAYOR 

COUNTY CLERK 