

**MINUTES OF THE HARDEMAN COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE BODY MAY TERM
REGULAR SESSION MAY 16TH, 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 16th day of May, 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. Johnny Weems, Hon. Jackie Sain, Hon. John Vickers, and Hon. Bobby Wright were present and Hon. Thomas Polk was absent. County Clerk, Tonet Griggs and County Attorney, Dale Conder Jr. was present and the meeting was opened in due form of the law and had to wit:

15 PRESENT 1 ABSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hon. Bobby Wright made a motion and Hon. Johnny Lanier seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 18th, 2023.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

APPROVAL OF NOTARIES

Hon. John Vickers made a motion to approve the notaries for this month and Hon. Mark Gilliam seconded to approve the list of notaries.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

RESOLUTIONS:

Mayor Todd Pulse presented the Resolution of Linda K. Fulghum to her family honoring her life and dedication to the people of Hardeman County. **SEE ATTACHED**

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

REPORTS/COMMITTEES

BOARD OF EDUCATION – SUPERINTENDENT CHRISTY SMITH

Christy informed us that after 25 years the Tennessee school system is under a new funding model called TISA. The recent funding model was BEP where each child was worth a certain amount of dollars. TISA is extremely different. With this model you have the base amount per child but also have three separate tiers of additional funding that goes into this amount. She is concerned because they have already given her three different numbers. Christy stated that they suppose to release the guidelines in July. She also presented the Board of Educations first reading Budget for 2024. **SEE ATTACHED**. Hon. Bethany Miller asked about the teacher shortage. Christy replied that they have the Grow Your Own Program where those with a four year education can enter in this program. They will study for 18 months and come out a certified teacher for a small fee of \$3,000.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – SUPERINTENDENT CASEY SWIFT

Casey Swift brought forth a yearly bid request. He stated that the department board has already approved the bid request. All he needs is to present it to the committee for approval. Hon. Bobby Wright made the motion to approve the bid request and Hon. Russell Deberry seconded the motion. He also asked for the approval on the first read budget amendment but a copy was not presented in the packet so it was not voted on.

TRUSTEE – SANDY HAMMONS

Sandy says that about 92% of taxes have been collected.

LITTER GRANT -- SHERIFF DOOLEN

Sheriff Dollen stated that 5,360 lbs of liter has been picked up for the month. This makes 109,840 lbs for the total of the year thanks to the grant program. He also has a budget amendment for the cameras that need to be replaced at the complex. This will complete phase one and proceed into phase two. **SEE ATTACHED**

AUDIT COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN MARK GILLIAM

Hon. Gillam wanted to positively recommend two people for the new Audit Committee, Donna Boyd and Don Cherry. Hon. Johnny Lanier made the motion to accept and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded the motion.

ELECTION COMMISSION – DIRECTOR AMBER MOORE

Hon Bobby Wright asked “What do we plan on doing about the building for the Election Commission?” Mayor Todd Pulse said that there is no room in the budget to start a project on that scale. He also stated that there is a letter from Mr. Vaughn on the options that he has come up with. Hon. John Vickers asked, “Why can we not pay a mortgage if we can pay rent?” Director Amber said that she will need at minimum of 3800sq ft to have enough room. The machines are not stackable and have 3 separate components and spacing is required between each voter. She agrees with Hon. John Vickers when it comes to having a mortgage and having rental fees.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS – JOHNNY LANIER

Hon. Johnny Lanier read over first reading Budgets for 2024. Hon. Jackie Sain made motion to accept and Hon. Chandra Lake seconded the motion.

ROLL VOTE: 15 AYE 0 NAY

Hardeman County Sheriff’s Office

They had three budget amendments (1, 2, &7). They also had one budget amendment that was omitted (6). **SEE ATTACHED**

County Attorney

One budget amendment (3) **SEE ATTACHED**

Mayor’s Office

One budget amendment (5) **SEE ATTACHED**

Landfill

One budget amendment (4) **SEE ATTACHED**

CTAS – JOE GRIFFIN

Mr. Griffin with CTAS came to clarify tax assessor reappraisal and answer any questions that the community may have. The reappraisals are mandatory by the state and are done three, five, or six years apart.

JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER VOTE – JUDGE BOYETTE DENTON

Judge Boyette Denton put in a request for line items to be moved so that he can hire a magistrate to assist him with his work load. It will be a one year appointed position. Judge Denton is appointing Benjamin M. Ayris to this position. Hon. Brad Grantham made the motion to accept the request of hiring a magistrate and Hon. Mark Gilliam seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: 15 AYE 0 NAY

SBA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER – LILIANA TSCHANETT

Liliana wanted to come forward and inform the county of the disaster relief for the current storm. FEMA offers \$800 and then another \$300. Once that is complete you will then be referred to SBA which offers a government backed loan that needs to be repaid. These loans are long term, low interest loans. In order for you to qualify for this loan you need to have proof of the damage, proof of residency and you are covered for economic impact. The first twelve months of this 30 year loan will have no interest. The deadline is June 06th, 2023.

LAWSUITE UPDATE/PUBLIC FORUM BILL – ATTORNEY DALE CONDER

Attorney Conder informed us that depositions for the Patrick Perry Case are set for next Monday May 22nd 2023 in which Hon. Johnny Weems, Hon. John Vickers, and Hon. Mark Gilliam are to attend. In April’s Commissioner’s Meeting it was proposed by Hon. Brad Grantham to offer a settlement of \$1.2 million. Attorney Conder stated that they rejected that offer and counter offered to settle for \$3.5 million.

Attorney Conder stated that there is a new law that went into affect last month. This law states that the agenda should be published 48 hours before the meeting and it should be displayed on the county website and that would be considered as being made available to the public. The next law will go into affect on July 1st 2023 and it states that there should be a space on the agenda for public comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next meeting is June 20th, 2023.
- Adoptable Animals need volunteers.

ADJOURN

Hon. John Vickers made a motion to adjourn and Hon. Johnny Weems seconded to adjourn.

COUNTY MAYOR 

COUNTY CLERK 