

**MINUTES OF THE HARDEMAN COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE BODY JULY TERM
JULY 21, 2026**

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 21st day of July 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Hon. Todd Pulse, County Mayor, was absent. Chairman Johnny M. Lanier 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. Bethany Miller, Hon. Jackie Sain, Hon. John Vickers, Hon. Johnny Weems, and Hon. Bobby Wright, County Attorney Dale Conder and County Clerk Tonet Griggs were present. The meeting was opened in due form of the law and had to wit:

15 PRESENT 0 ABSENT (Hon. Johnny Lanier – Chairperson)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hon. Jackie Sain made a motion to accept the County Commission Minutes as presented for June 16, 2026. Hon. Johnny Weems seconded the motion.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

APPROVAL OF NOTARIES

Hon. Mark Gilliam made a motion to accept the notaries presented for June 16, 2026. Hon. Johnny Weems seconded the motion.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

PUBLIC FORUM

- Donna McClarin (Grand Valley Lakes): Provided an update on the completion of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant for water meters. Expressed gratitude to the county for acting as the sub-recipient and assisting throughout the process.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENTS

A. BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Dr. Smith reported on upcoming dates and initiatives:
 - Teachers return Monday, July 27, 2026; students return on August 3, 2026.
 - Announced a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the JSCC Accepted program with Jackson State Community College, automatically admitting all graduating high school seniors across both county high schools.
 - Highlighted workforce/technical programs available through JSCC (e.g., Radiology Technology, EMT certification).

B. ZONING & PLANNING

- Director Ron Pirtle presented an update regarding a property violation (unregistered vehicles and operating an unpermitted auto repair business in a non-commercial zone):

- Recommended a 30-day extension to allow the property owner (Mr. Matthews) additional time to acquire property to resolve the zoning issue before initiating formal legal action.
- The Commission concurred with granting the 30-day extension.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

The Commission reviewed four budget amendments presented collectively:

1. Sheriff's Office (App Expense): Debit Sheriff's Committed Fund (\$6,840); Credit Other Charges (\$3,420 to Sheriff's Dept line, \$3,420 to Workhouse line) to cover the annual software cost for the Hardeman County Sheriff's Office mobile app for FY 26–27.
2. Sheriff's Office (SRO Grant Return): Debit Due to Other Governments (\$50,725.56); Credit Refunds (\$50,725.56) to return unspent School Resource Officer grant funds to the State of Tennessee due to a temporary position vacancy.
3. Sheriff's Office (Sex Offender Fund): Debit Sex Offender Fund (\$3,700); Credit Sex Offender Expenditures (\$2,500) and Salary Supplement (\$1,200) for FY 26–27 operating expenses.
4. Workhouse / CJC (HVAC Replacement Grant): Debit Other State Grants (\$425,825); Credit Repair and Maintenance - Buildings (\$425,825) reflecting a 100% grant (no county matching funds required) from TDEC to replace 15 HVAC units at the Criminal Justice Center.

Hon. Bethany Miller made a motion to accept the budget amendments. Hon. Jackie Sain seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE 15 AYE 0 NAY

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CoreCivic Board Structure & Oversight

- Commissioner Brad initiated a discussion regarding the legal framework and historical structure of the CoreCivic board in Hardeman County, questioning past member compensation, board dissolution vs. Commission oversight, and interest generated on pass-through funds.
- It was noted that CoreCivic representatives will be present at the next regular Commission meeting to address questions directly. No formal action was taken.

COUNTY MAYOR'S REPORT

- Commended all department heads and elected officials for fiscal discipline in keeping FY 25–26 budgets under budget.
- Expressed appreciation to the City of Middleton, Town of Whiteville, and the Hardeman County Board of Education for contributions toward 911 expenses. CoreCivic is scheduled to submit its annual contribution by August 1 (\$100,000).
- Confirmed receipt and deposit of FEMA/TEMA disaster reimbursement funds into the General Fund.
- Announced that Hardeman County successfully retained its A+ bond rating following review by S&P Global Ratings.
- Reported award of a Three-Star Grant to fund Phase 1 of a tornado shelter study and planning project.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dale Conder provided a status update on active litigation:

- Patrick Perry v. Hardeman County & Sheriff: Forwarded to the county's insurance carrier; defense counsel assigned.
- Jonathan Joy Litigation: Defended by counsel; currently progressing toward trial.

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 18, 2026.

COUNTY MAYOR Todd Pulse

COUNTY CLERK Janet Hugg