

**MINUTES OF THE HARDEMAN COUNTY  
LEGISLATIVE BODY NOVEMBER TERM  
REGULAR SESSION NOVEMBER 21, 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 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. 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, and Hon. Bobby Wright were present and Hon. Brad Grantham, Hon. Thomas Polk, and Hon. John Vickers 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:

13 PRESENT 3 ABSENT

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Hon. Jackie Sain made a motion and Hon. Johnny Lainer seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 17, 2023.

**CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION**

**APPROVAL OF NOTARIES**

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

**CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

1. Gary Barrowclough spoke during public forum expressing that we need to come to a decision on the election building so that we can move forward with the process.
2. Mike Mitchell came forward during public forum to inform the committee that they have come up with an option of renovating the EMS building for the election commission building.
3. Richard Clark came forward as a licensed engineer to give advice on the steps that will be needed after selecting a site option. For reference you can look at Engineering TN code 12-4-107. First the county will need to solicit for qualifications and experience. Secondly, negotiate scope for the project, and the third step will be to negotiate pricing.

**PROCLAMATIONS – MAYOR TODD PULSE**

Hardeman County Proclamation for Distinguished Service presented to Mrs. Deana Sain for her outstanding services in the community. **SEE ATTACHED**

Hardeman County Proclamation 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday presented to Mr. Frank Hazelwood for being an outstanding and highly respected friend of the citizens and communities of Hardeman County. **SEE ATTACHED**

**REPORTS**

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – SUPERINTENDENT CASEY SWIFT**

Casey Swift had nothing to report. He presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report to be approved. Hon. Jackie Sain made the motion to approve the quarterly report and Hon. Johnny Lanier seconded the motion.

**CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION**

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT – BILLY DAVIS**

Billy Davis presented the surplus report to remove some vehicles from inventory as well as some convection ovens to be scrapped. Hon. Mark Gilliam made the motion to approve the surplus list to be scrapped.

**CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION**

**LITTER GRANT REPORT – BILLY DAVIS**

SEE ATTACHED

**BOARD OF EDUCATION – SUPERINTENDENT CHRISTY SMITH**

Superintendent Christy Smith spoke to the County Commission giving an update on giving the schools some much needed facelift as well as having several amendments (**SEE ATTACHED**). Hon. Johnny Lanier made the motion to accept the amendments and Hon. Chandra Lake seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE 13 AYE 0 NAY**

Dr. Smith also informed us that the building in which the alternative school is currently located will be used as the S.T.E.M Learning Center. The alternative school will be moved to Hope Street hopefully by January 2024 and they can hold an open house.

**COMMITTEES**

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE – COMMISSONER JOHNNY WEEMS**

No Report

**EMS COMMITTEE – COMMISSONER BETHANY MILLER**

No Report

**SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE – COMMISSIONER JEFF KENNAMORE**

No Report

**LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES – COMMISSIONER CORY BUFFORD**

No Report

**BUILDING COMMITTEES – COMMISSIONER DAVID BELL**

Hon. David Bell expanded on the previous discussion in the public forum by Mike Mitchell about the option of renovating the empty North side of the EMS building which is 4900 square feet. The interior of the North side is 4200 square feet. This new renovation of this building will include 55 parking spaces, new entrance and driveway extension. This renovation has not been brought before the industrial committee because the option had not been accepted. This building has a steel structure and a sprinkler system which is already installed. These are critical for safety protocols and guidelines. The renovation is estimated to roughly cost \$350,000. The renovation will be a much faster route as well as providing the space required. A new building will take around 300 days from the moment bids are put out and accepted until the finish date. A decision must be made because contractor’s availabilities are filling up. The renovation option comes with a positive recommendation from the building committee. As far as the option of a new building Mayor Todd Pulse sent out a request for qualifications to three different design firms for the new building. Two of the firms responded and one with a resume. Hon. Cory Bufford made the motion to proceed with the renovation option and Hon. Jeff Kennamore seconded the motion..

## **ROLL CALL VOTE 13 AYE 0 NAY**

The next step is to contact a design firm for the renovation project. The Building Committee had previously contacted the original design firm to inquire about the pricing and they agreed that it will be cheaper to go with renovating than building from ground up.

## **BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

1. Hardeman County Sheriff's Department (VOIDED) (SEE ATTACHED)
2. Hardeman County Sheriff's Department (SEE ATTACHED)
3. Landfill (SEE ATTACHED)
4. Library (SEE ATTACHED)
5. Landfill (SEE ATTACHED)
6. Hardeman County Sheriff's Office –Sex Offender Fund (SEE ATTACHED)
7. Hardeman County Sheriff's Office (SEE ATTACHED)
8. Hardeman County Sheriff's Office -- Workhouse (SEE ATTACHED)

Hon. Jackie Sain made the motion to accept the budget amendments and Hon. Cory Bufford seconded the motion.

## **ROLL CALL VOTE 13 AYE 0 NAY**

Building Committee also addressed the budget amendment #1 from October 2023 budget amendments that got put on hold. They will put this amendment on hold until next years budget is being prepared because they want to make the part-time pay \$12 for all part-time employees.

## **CHRISTMAS BONUS**

The Christmas bonus was a discussion at the previous Budget Committee meeting. There were three options presented. The first was to give \$200 for full-time and \$100 for part-time. The second was to give \$150 for full-time and \$75 for part-time. The third option was to give \$100 for full-time and \$50 for part-time. The Budget Committee deliberated and brought forth a positive recommendation to give \$50 across the board for part-time and full-time. The requirement for all options is that you have to have a year of employment with the county. Hon. Bobby Wright made the motion to accept the Christmas Bonus and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded the motion.

## **ROLL CALL VOTE 12 AYE 0 NAY 1 ABSTAIN**

### **LAWSUIT UPDATE**

Attorney Dale Conder Jr gave an update on the pending lawsuits. The court has approved the settlement for the Cornell vs. Hardeman County. The only thing left for this case is the resolution of attorney fees.

Perry vs. Hardeman County: There is mediation in place on December 12-15 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mayor Pulse will have to someone attend mediation with him. Attorney Dale Conder Jr requested that an attorney-client meeting to address additional issues. Hon. Bobby Hensley nominated Hon. Jackie Sain. Hon. Jackie Sain instantly refused. After Hon. Jackie Sain's refusal, Hon. Chandra Lake nominated Hon. Bobby Wright to attend the mediation and Hon. Cory Bufford seconded the motion. Hon. Bobby Wright accepted the nomination to attend mediation.

Hon. John Lanier made a motion to decline mediation. Attorney Conder advised against the decision to decline. Hon. Bobby Wright seconded the motion. Conder said that this could result in automatically going to trial. The exception to this would be if they settled outside of court. Hon. David Bell asked how much did the last mediation cost? Mayor Todd Pulse said that it cost \$20,000. If mediation is successful the County will be responsible for paying

**ROLL CALL VOTE 2 AYE 10 NAY 1 ABSTAIN**

The County Commissioners also voted on having a substitute for Hon. Bobby Wright in case of an emergency situation. Hon. Johnny Weems made a motion to elect Hon. Brad Grantham to be the substitute and Hon. Chandra Lake seconded the motion.

**CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION**

There is to be an attorney client privilege meeting held before the December Commission meeting. Hon. Mark Gilliam made the motion to have a meeting December 19, 2023. Hon. Chandra Lake seconded this motion.

**ROLLCALL VOTE: 13 AYE 0 NAY**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Christmas party will be December 7, 2023.

**ADJOURN**

Hon. Mark Gilliam made the motion to adjourn, and Hon. Russell Deberry seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE 10 AYE 2 NAY**

COUNTY MAYOR 

COUNTY CLERK 