

**MINUTES OF THE HARDEMAN COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE BODY JUNE TERM
REGULAR SESSION OCTOBER 21, 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 21st day of October, 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, and County Attorney, Dale Conder Jr., were present, and the meeting was opened in due form of the law and had to wit:

16 PRESENT 0 ABSENT

PUBLIC FORUM: N/A

NOTATIES: N/A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Hon. Bobby Wright and seconded by Hon. Michion Gatlin to approve the previous meeting's minutes.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

REPORTS FROM COUNTY OFFICIALS

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Mr. Swift presented a request for the closure of Sain Lane to make it a private entrance, which was approved by the highway board. The road will become private, with the sign taken down by the county. The property owner requested the closure due to issues with trespassing, illegal dumping (including couches, trash, and debris), and people using the dead-end road to turn around near her house.

A motion was made by Hon. Jackie Sain and seconded by Hon. Johnny Lanier to approve the road closure.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

- The district is celebrating its Level 5 "Great School" status.
- The district has made achievement improvements in every subject, every grade, and every school.
- The college program with Jackson State has grown, with 71 juniors and seniors currently enrolled to earn college credits.

BOE BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

- Presented amendments for ACT testing/individualized education accounts and the Innovative Schools Model Grant (used for CTE programs, library tech hubs, and STEM equipment).
- The Public School Security Grant funds will be used for:
 - Placing concrete barriers in front of some school entrances to protect buildings.

Implementing card access entry for staff at seven schools and standardizing security across all nine schools.

- An amendment was presented to recognize the state-issued \$2,000 teacher bonus (a flow-through item that required account re-categorization).

A motion was made by Hon. Brad Granth and seconded by Hon. Mark Gilliam to approve the road closure.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

LANDFILL/SOLID WASTE UPDATE:

Diversion Goal: The county achieved a 37% waste diversion rate, exceeding the state-mandated goal of 25%.

Waste Reduction Grant: Approved for a \$249,000 grant to be used for:

- A smaller wheel loader for the recycling building.
- Three compactors and four open-top boxes to standardize equipment across convenience centers (specifically Pocahontas and Grand Valley) and provide designated drop-off for bulky items like mattresses/furniture.

Facility Concerns: Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the Hornsby convenience center (lack of barrier/elevation).

ZONING DIRECTOR RON PIRTLE:

109 permits have been pulled for the year, totaling \$29,824.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:

- Litter: 29,240 pounds of garbage were picked up in the recent period.
- Discussed placing "No Dumping" signs (recently acquired through a grant) in areas prone to illegal dumping.
- Reported 113 arrests, 61 criminal incident reports, and 70 traffic offenses.

MOBILE HEALTH UNIT PRESENTATION

Lisa Beasley and Andrea Sebastian from the UT College of Nursing presented their new mobile health unit initiative.

- The nurse-led, grant-funded unit will provide essential primary care and psychiatric mental health services to citizens in both Hardeman and Haywood counties.
- They hope to operate the unit sustainably long-term, serving both insured and uninsured patients. The unit is expected to be delivered by the summer, with staff beginning community outreach soon.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Commissioner Lanier presented the amendments approved by the Budget Committee (excluding 5 and 8, which did not require full commission approval).

The following budget amendments were approved:

AIRPORT: To recognize grant receipt and move funds to the airport improvement line

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Recognize refund based on comptroller's investigative report, and move money into the county clerk's office for disbursement.

ACCOUNTING SERVICES: To fund the accounting bookkeeper position, noting Linda Ernest remains with the county.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT: To correct employer Medicare funds missed during the initial transfer to local government.

JUVENILE SERVICES: For juvenile ankle monitoring services, which are reimbursed by parents/guardians in lieu of detention

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT: Final payment to Integrated Systems for communication equipment, paid as a pass-through from 911.

VETERAN SERVICES: For travel (annual training for the new director) and increased utility costs at the new facility.

A motion was made by Hon. Johnny Lanier, seconded by Hon. Johnny Weems, and passed to approve Budget Amendments 1-4, 6, 7, and 9.

ROLL CALL VOTE

16 AYE 0 NAY

1. (See Attached)
2. (See Attached)
3. (See Attached)
4. (See Attached)
5. (See Attached)
6. (See Attached)
7. (See Attached)

MAYOR'S REPORT AND OTHER BUSINESS

- **THREE-STAR GRANT:** Confirmed the approval of Phase 1 funding for AEDs and an ambulance monitor.
- **PROCLAMATION - Bolivar Bicentennial:** Read a proclamation honoring the City of Bolivar on its 200th anniversary, recognizing its resilience, history, and people.
- **PROCLAMATION - Domestic Violence Awareness:** Read a proclamation recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month, noting that 30-33% of all crimes against persons in Hardeman County involve some form of domestic or sexual violence.
- Mayor Lane was presented a check for \$5,603.98 from the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Mu Zeta Zeta Chapter, for the citizens of Grand Junction/Hardeman County for tornado relief

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Representative Shaw spoke on the ongoing lawsuit, confirming that there are no state resources or funds available to assist the county with this specific issue. He also relayed the Governor's request for the county to peacefully settle the matter.

LAWSUIT UPDATE – ATTORNEY DALE CONDER

The County Attorney provided an update on several cases: (See attached)

The judge in the Sessions (Perry vs HCG) case entered a judgment for Mr. Sessions in the amount of \$4,547,165.30 in attorney fees, plus costs. After a subsequent award, the total owed is \$4,808,818.36.

A motion was made by Hon. Cory Bufford, seconded by Johnny Weems, and passed to approve the payment of the \$4,808,818.36 judgment.

ROLL CALL VOTE

14 AYE 2 NAY

Hon. David Bell and Hon. Jeff Kennamore made a motion and seconded to authorize negotiations for the Luttrell case.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

ADJOURN

Hon. Brad Grantham made a motion, and Hon. Michion Gatlin seconded to adjourn.

The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2025.

COUNTY MAYOR _____



COUNTY CLERK _____