

Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
Regular Session
February 12, 2024– 9:00 a.m.

This regular session of the Mills County Commissioners Court opened in due form of law at 9:00 am in the Mills County Commissioners' Courtroom located at 1011 4th Street, Goldthwaite, Texas 76844.

Present in the Courtroom were Judge Johnson, Commissioners Mike Wright, Dale Partin and Jason Williams, County Attorney Gerald Hale, County Treasurer Summer Campbell, Justice of the Peace – Kim Avants and County Clerk –Sonya Scott; present via Zoom: Tina Covalt – Justice of the Peace office, and Court Coordinator Jackie Brooks. Audience sign-in sheet is attached to the minutes. Commissioner Robert Head – not present

The meeting is available to the public to view on the Mills County YouTube channel.

Agenda: -

1. Judge Johnson called the meeting to order noted the presence of a quorum; Judge Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Williams provided the opening prayer.
2. Review of minutes - Minutes of January 22, 2024– Commissioner Williams noted a typographical error to be corrected and moved to approve minutes with corrections with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Partin abstained as he was not present at the meeting.
3. Audience with Individuals – none
4. Review and Act on Accounts Payable – Commissioner Williams moved to accept Accounts Payable with a second from Judge Johnson. Motion carried 4-0.

Consent Agenda was reviewed by the Court as follows:

- a. Monthly County Treasurer Report
- b. MCAD Monthly Collection Report
- c. County/ District Clerk Report Clerk
- d. Tax Assessor
- e. County Extension Reports
- f. Facilities Report
- g. Sheriff's Office
- h. Justice of the Peace
- i. County Judge's Report
- j. Hamilton EMS
- k. Veterans Services Officer

Motion made by Judge Johnson to accept the consent agenda with a second by Commissioner Williams. Motion Carried 4-0.

5. Consider and Act on confirmation of appointment for Assistant Veteran Services officer – Craig Wright addressed Court. There are two levels of VSO - Certified and Accredited, Mr. Darnell has been working and completed his accreditation. Judge Johnson moved to approve Tim Darnell as the Assistant VSO with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 4-0.
6. Consider and Act to add Tim Darnell, Assistant Veteran Services Officer, as cosigner on the Veteran Services office checking account - Commissioner Williams moved to add Tim Darnell as a cosigner to the VSO checking account. Commissioner Partin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Discussion on April 8, 2024, Solar Eclipse – Hollee Ragsdale addressed the Court. Ms. Ragsdale will be meeting at Community Center on March 15 to answer questions and provide information. The City Park will be closed along with the cemetery, airport golf course and Old Priddy Road in front of the law enforcement center and EMS station for the eclipse.
8. Consider and Act on accepting fuel and material bids – No bids received. Commissioner Williams moved to table this item due to no response. Judge Johnson provided the second. Motion carried 3-1- Commissioner Wright opposed the motion. Treasurer Campbell noted that the County is required to request bids as we spend over \$50,000 combined annually. Commissioner Williams moved to rescind his motion to table the bids with a second from Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Williams moved to close the bids due to lack of response. Commissioner Partin provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.
9. Discuss Cellbrite Grant – Chief Deputy Garza addressed the Court regarding the software application. This application allows law enforcement to access cell phones for data. Grants were approved in Commissioner Court prior to this meeting; however the cost associated with the purchase has increased from the time we applied for the grant. Grant covered all but approximately 2,000 of the purchase. Garza provided that the balance would come from other budgeted lines. Discussion only.
10. Consider and Act on order for Primary Election on March 5, 2024 – County Clerk Scott noted that this order was approved in Court in a prior meeting. The order needed to be corrected to reflect a change in the dates. Judge Johnson moved to amend the order that was passed in a prior Commissioner Court to update the dates of early voting with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 4-0.
11. Consider and Act on TAC CIRA Services Agreement – This is the webpage agreement with Texas Association of Counties (TAC). Judge Johnson moved to continue with the TAC agreement that we have been using in the past. Commissioner Williams provided the second. Motion carried 4-0
12. Consider and Act on i3 Master Agreement for Justice of the Peace’s office – Justice of the Peace Kim Avants addressed the Court. This is the contract for NetData software that the JP’s office uses to track and process tickets. The agreement will be good for 4 years. Commissioner Williams moved to ratify the contract for the Justice Peace office as presented with a second from Judge Johnson. Motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Wright voting against the motion. The contract was ratified post expiration. The budgeted amount of \$6525.00 was approved as part of the budget and has already been paid; therefore, an understood agreement with the contract. The contract was not presented to Commissioners Court when it was nearing expiration.
13. Consider and Act on electrical wiring proposal for 1888 Historical Jail – Guy Burns addressed the Court. Mills County Historical Association has the money and voted to move forward with the bid

received for the wiring. Upgrade will include conduit and new wiring for the building. This will make the property usable in the future. Bid does not include light fixtures. If approved, work will start immediately. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the bid and wiring proposal Judge Johnson provided the second. Motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Partin voting against the measure due to no plan for the use of the Jail has been presented

14. Consider and Act on going into Closed Session to discuss Human Resources medical issue. Judge Johnson moved to go into executive session and to include the County Attorney Gerald Hale, County Treasurer Summer Campbell and County Extension Agent Tom Guthrie at 9:58 am with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 4-0. Judge Johnson called the meeting back to regular session at 10:19 am.

15. Consider and Act on Budget Amendment – Judge Johnson moved to authorize an emergency budget amendment with a budget transfer of \$15,818.20 to assist the Treasurer and County Agent with a temporary employee. Commissioner Wright provided the second. Motion carried 4-0

16. Consider and Act on Fellows paper shredder model no CRC33225 as scrap – This was from the Judge’s office and does not work. Judge Johnson moved to declare as scrap with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 4-0.

17. Commissioners’ Reports and request

Commissioner Wright, Pct. 1 – blading county roads. Crusher is at Moore’s for service/repair. Replaced tin horn.

Commissioner Head, Pct. 2 – absent

Commissioner Partin, Pct. 3 – blading roads and hauling dirt. Trying to stay busy with the rain.

Commissioner Williams, Pct. 4 – blading roads with moisture. Lots of roads to work. Hauling some material. Maintenance on haul trailer and KW. Safety meeting and working on roads. Next week working at the Law Enforcement Center.

18. Judge Johnson – Courthouse will be closed on Feb 19 for Presidents Day. Pilot program payments have been received. Numerous meetings last week and in the coming weeks. Killeen, Temple and Copperas Cove would like to separate from Hill Country Transit. Cameras: started redoing the system last week and came into some issues last week. Goldsmith is the project manager for the project. Stopped work as 3 cameras were not included on the bid. Goldsmith is working on this issue. Still work needed on outside cameras and basement cameras. Workshop following this meeting.

19. Commissioner Wright moved to adjourn; Judge Johnson seconded. Motion Carried 4-0


Sonya Scott, County Clerk
Mills County Clerk

February 12, 2024

