

ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
OFFICIAL MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

THE ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MET ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, AT 2:00 P.M., IN THE HISTORIC ELLIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM (2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR) 101 W. MAIN STREET, WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS AT WHICH TIME THE FOLLOWING WAS DISCUSSED AND CONSIDERED, TO-WIT:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

COUNTY JUDGE TODD LITTLE

COUNTY CLERK KRystal VALDEZ

PRECINCT 1 COMMISSIONER RANDY STINSON

PRECINCT 2 COMMISSIONER LANE GRAYSON

PRECINCT 3 COMMISSIONER PAUL PERRY

PRECINCT 4 COMMISSIONER KYLE BUTLER

**OPENING COURT:**

COUNTY JUDGE CALLS MEETING TO ORDER, DECLARES QUORUM AND DECLARES NOTICES LEGALLY POSTED PURSUANT TO OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

MOTION TO OPEN COURT BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GRAYSON, MOTION CARRIED

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. – *PRECINCT 2 COMMISSIONER LANE GRAYSON*

**RECOGNITIONS**

R1 PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 17, 2023, AS CONSTITUTION DAY IN ELLIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

**CONSENT AGENDA: MINUTE ORDER 422.23**

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

A1 APPROVING REGULAR BILLS, PAYROLL AND OFFICER'S REPORTS. – *COUNTY TREASURER CHERYL CHAMBERS*

A2 ACCEPTING OF THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 4 MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023, PURSUANT TO TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE §114.044. - *THE HONORABLE LOUIS PONDER, JP PCT. 4*

MOTION TO APPROVE BY COMMISSIONER BUTLER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, MOTION CARRIED

**REGULAR AGENDA – DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND ACTION:**

**PURCHASING**

**TABLED** (2.1) DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND ACTION ON CHANGE ORDER #P1684-85 001 FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES (SCCR RATING LABELS) TO THE SCHINDLER MODERNIZATION PROPOSAL TO MODERNIZE ELEVATORS 1, 2, AND 3 AT THE ELLIS COUNTY JAIL IN AN AMOUNT OF \$24,600 OMNIA COOPERATIVE CONTRACT #RZ00501 WITH SCHINDLER.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**MINUTE ORDER 423.23** (3.1) APPROVING PAY RATE CHANGES (EFFECTIVE 09.01.23) FOR SPECIFIC POSITIONS WITHIN JUVENILE SERVICES, AS REQUIRED BY HOUSE BILL 1 OF THE 88<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE. — *JUVENILE JUSTICE CHIEF CHELSEA SMITH*

MOTION TO APPROVE BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GRAYSON, MOTIONED CARRIED

**MINUTE ORDER 424.23** (3.2) APPROVING TO RENEW THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (TAC) WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM FOR THE 2024 PLAN YEAR AND SUBMIT POLL DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY FOR THE POOL TO PROPERLY UNDERWRITE THE RENEWAL. — *HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR THERESA TAYLOR*

MOTION TO APPROVE BY COMMISSIONER GRAYSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STINSON, MOTION CARRIED

**MINUTE ORDER 425.23** (4.1) FINDING THAT THE DELIBERATION IN AN OPEN MEETING WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH A THIRD PERSON.

MOTION FOR A FINDING BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GRAYSON, MOTION CARRIED

## **RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION 2:33 P.M.**

MOTION TO RECESS BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BUTLER, MOTION CARRIED

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ELLIS COUNTY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT ANY TIME DURING THE COURSE OF THIS MEETING TO DISCUSS ANY OF THE MATTERS LISTED IN THIS AGENDA, IN THE ORDER DEEMED APPROPRIATE, AS AUTHORIZED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551, OR TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF ITS ATTORNEY AND/OR OTHER ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING ELLIS COUNTY ON ANY MATTER IN WHICH THE DUTY OF THE ATTORNEY TO THE COMMISSIONERS COURT UNDER THE TEXAS DISCIPLINARY RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS CLEARLY CONFLICTS WITH TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 551 OR AS OTHERWISE MAY BE PERMITTED UNDER 551.

4.1 PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE §551.072, CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL TO DELIBERATE THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE, OR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY IF THE DELIBERATION IN AN OPEN MEETING WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH A THIRD PERSON CONCERNING 661 ASPEN PARKWAY, MIDLOTHIAN.

## **RECONVENED TO REGULAR SESSION 2:50 P.M.**

MOTION TO RECONVENE BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GRAYSON, MOTION CARRIED

*(TO AGENDA 3.3)*

**MINUTE ORDER 426.23** (3.3) APPROVING THE LEASE CONTRACT, ALLOWING THE ATTORNEY TO FINALIZE TERMS, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY JUDGE TO SIGN THE FINAL CONTRACT FOR NEW OFFICE SPACE AT 661 ASPEN PARKWAY, MIDLOTHIAN, FOR COUNTY OFFICES. – *ATTORNEY KEVIN KOSORIS*

MOTION TO APPROVE BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GRAYSON, MOTION CARRIED

**PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1 (2:52 P.M.)**

MOTION TO OPEN P1 BY COMMISSIONER GRAYSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, MOTION CARRIED

(P1) PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ELLIS COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET IN ACCORDANCE WITH TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE §111.007. – *COUNTY JUDGE TODD LITTLE*

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** RANDY BELLOMY, OVILLA; ANN MONTGOMERY, ELLIS COUNTY & DISTRICT ATTORNEY; BRAD NORMAN, ELLIS COUNTY SHERIFF; CYNTHIA WALKER, FIRST ASSISTANT, ELLIS COUNTY & DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

MOTION TO CLOSE P1 BY COMMISSIONER GRAYSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, MOTION CARRIED

**MINUTE ORDER 427.23** APPROVING TO REDUCE THE PROPOSED TAX RATE TO .272532, RESULTING IN A \$1.5 MILLION REDUCTION IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET. THIS AMOUNT WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF R&B AND WILL BE REPLACED WITH ARPA FUNDS. – *COUNTY JUDGE TODD LITTLE*

MOTION TO APPROVE BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GRAYSON, MOTION CARRIED

**PUBLIC HEARING NO. 2 (4:25 P.M.)**

MOTION TO OPEN P2 BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BUTLER, MOTION CARRIED

(P2) PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ELLIS COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2024 TAX RATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH TEXAS TAX CODE CHAPTER 26. – *COUNTY JUDGE TODD LITTLE*

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** ALEX ZURFAS, ELLIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MOTION TO CLOSE P2 BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BUTLER, MOTION CARRIED

*(BREAK 4:28 P.M. – 4:45 P.M.)*

**MINUTE ORDER 428.23 (3.4) ADOPTING THE ELLIS COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET.**

"THIS BUDGET WILL RAISE MORE TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES THAN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BY \$9,550,833.00, THIS AMOUNT WILL BE AN INCREASE OF 13.57%, AND OF THAT AMOUNT \$4,963,031.00 IS TAX REVENUE TO BE RAISED FROM NEW PROPERTY ADDED TO THE ROLL THIS YEAR."  
– COUNTY JUDGE TODD LITTLE

**MOTION TO APPROVE BY COMMISSIONER BUTLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, MOTION CARRIED**

COMMISSIONER BUTLER – AYE  
COMMISSIONER PERRY – AYE  
JUDGE LITTLE – AYE  
COMMISSIONER GRAYSON – AYE  
COMMISSIONER STINSON – AYE

**MINUTE ORDER 429.23 (3.5) APPROVING TO ADOPT THE ELLIS COUNTY PROPERTY TAX RATE OF 0.272532, CONSISTING OF A MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS RATE OF 0.242477, INTEREST AND SINKING RATE OF 0.010385, AND FARM TO MARKET RATE OF 0.019670 FOR TAX YEAR 2023 (FISCAL YEAR 2024). – COUNTY JUDGE TODD LITTLE**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: "I MOVE THAT THE PROPERTY TAX RATE BE INCREASED BY THE ADOPTION OF A TAX RATE OF 0.272532 WHICH IS EFFECTIVELY A 8.24% (PERCENTAGE BY WHICH THE PROPOSED TAX RATE EXCEEDS THE NNR TAX RATE) INCREASE IN THE TAX RATE."**

COMMISSIONER STINSON – AYE  
COMMISSIONER GRAYSON – AYE  
JUDGE LITTLE – AYE  
COMMISSIONER PERRY – AYE  
COMMISSIONER BUTLER – AYE

**ADJOURNMENT 5:25 P.M.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN BY COMMISSIONER STINSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PERRY, MOTION CARRIED**

THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2023,  
ARE HEREBY APPROVED.

PRESIDING OFFICER:

  
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TODD LITTLE, COUNTY JUDGE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RANDY STINSON, COMMISSIONER, PCT 1

  
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PAUL PERRY, COMMISSIONER, PCT 3

  
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LANE GRAYSON, COMMISSIONER, PCT 2

  
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KYLE BUTLER, COMMISSIONER, PCT 4

WITNESS MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL OF OFFICE THIS 19TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023.

  
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KRYSTAL VALDEZ, COUNTY CLERK

