**JANUARY 22, 2024**

**WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING**

On this the 22nd day of January A.D., 2024 at 9:00 A.M. came on to be had a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Wise County, Texas held in the Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 2 Courtroom (200 Rook Ramsey Drive, Decatur, TX) of said County in the town of Decatur with the following members present and presiding:

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| J.D. Clark | County Judge |
| John "Biff" Hayes | Commissioner, Precinct No. 1 |
| Kevin Burns | Commissioner, Precinct No. 2 |
| Danny Lambert | Commissioner, Precinct No. 3 |
| Colby Shawn | Commissioner, Precinct No. 4 |

Blanca Tuma, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners' Court when and where the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

All attachments referred to in the minutes of the Wise County Commissioners' Court are designated original or copy and are provided at the time of action by the Court unless otherwise indicated by provider.

County Judge Clark votes aye on all agenda items unless otherwise indicated.

1. Clark called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All court members were present

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Community Forum: None

5. County Correspondence: None

6. Coordination and cooperation for efficiency between precincts:

    - Clark announced that employee W2's were sent out by the Treasurer's office Friday 01/19/2024, and thanks Katherine Hudson for her offices timely process.

7. Plats: Motion made by Shawn seconded by Burns and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the following plats, with changes as presented:
    - West Wise Addition, Final Plat. Lots 1- 8, Block1. Chad Davis-Public Works. Precinct 4. (CS) CR 3735 (No Variances) (see attachment)
    - Re-plat of Las Brisas that was previously on the plat list for todays meeting, was removed due to the sale of the properties.

8. Motion made by Lambert seconded by Burns and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve reappointments of The Board of Emergency Services District #1 Commissioners Ken Murray, Chris Steele, and Tommy Spencer, each serving a two-year term ending January 2026. (see attachment)

9. Motion made by Shawn seconded by Burns and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve appointment of Sabra Srader, Elections Administrator, as the Early Voting Clerk for the March 05, 2024 Joint Primary Election. (no attachment)

10. Motion made by Shawn seconded by Lambert and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the use of the Decatur Conference Center, 2010 US 380, Decatur, TX (Chisolm Suites) to serve as the main early voting polling place for the March 05, 2024 Joint Primary Elections. (no attachment)
    - Srader commented that any voter with a limited ballot can only vote at the main location during early voting. Since there is a change of venue from the regular early voting polling location of the Decatur Fair Ground, there will be adequate signage placed at the Decatur Fair Grounds and information released to the public with the new location information.

11. Motion made by Burns seconded by Shawn and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the proposed early voting dates, times, and locations as presented for the March 05, 2024 Joint Primary Election as recommended and approved by the Wise County Elections Board. (see attachment)
    - Srader explained that the Bridgeport Community Building, which is the regular Bridgeport polling location, is unavailable however adequate signage will be placed there to redirect voters to the Bridgeport Public Library.
    - Srader noted that Saturday and Sunday times have been made available during the first week of early voting, and the final week of early voting has been scheduled for 12-hour days in order to accommodate more voters, as this election is anticipated to have a large turnout.
    - Clark explained that the Wise County Election Board is comprised of The County Judge, The Sheriff, The County Clerk, The Elections Administrator and the Republican and Democrat Party Chairs.

12. Motion made by Burns seconded by Shawn and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve election day polling locations and the consolidation or combining of certain voting precincts as allowed under the Election Code for the March 05, 2024 Joint Primary Election, as approved and recommended by the Wise County Elections Board. (see attachment)
    - Srader explained that Wise County is Precinct Based on Election Day which means that voters must vote in their precincts on Election Day. We have 28 voting Precincts. Some precincts must be combined due to unavailability of voting locations in more rural precincts. Srader also noted that this is our first election since re-districting, which has resulted in having three precincts with a polling location of Decatur City Hall. All information will be available on the website.

- Blanca Tuma presents the Vital Statistics Five-Star Exemplary Award achieved by Becky Parisi and the County Clerk's Office for 2023. Of the 254 Counties they are one of only a handful of counties to achieve this award. (see attachment)

c) Budget Amendments: FY24-05 various line items
d) Capital Expenditure Plan: None
e) Claims & Payroll: (see attachment)
f) Utility Permits/Right of Way: Applications from Nexlink for County Road 4599, 4698, and 4699 have been submitted, however they are missing the back-signature page. Chad Davis is seeking approval contingent completion of packet with signature page, as everything else is in order. (see attachment)
g) Interlocal Agreements/Contracts: (Original Contracts and Interlocal Agreements are filed in the Asset Control Office by Diana Allen.)
   - DPS Live Scan User Agreement (see attachment)
   - Renewals and Amendments (for informational purposes only- approval not required): none
   - Fully Executed (for informational purposes only- approval not required)
     - LexisNexis Law Library (see attachment)

17. Joint Venture Project Agreements: None

18. Hazard Mitigation Plan and related grant projects: Jennifer Klemky introduces new EMS team member, Alayna Payne.
    - Payne presents an update on grant submission- FEMA requested additional revisions which have been implemented. The revised draft is back with Texas Division of Emergency Management for review.

19. Right-of-Way Improvements: None

20. Burn Ban Update: No Changes

21. County Committee Reports: None

22. Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns and unanimously adopted by the Court to allow the court to enter into Executive Session at 9:29 am for private consultation allowed under Texas Government Code Sec. 551.071 for discussion and legal updates of pending litigation.

23. Motion made by Lambert, seconded by Shawn and unanimously adopted by the Court to reconvene out of Executive Session at 9:34 am with no new action.

24. Clark announced the next meeting as Monday, February 05, 2024

25. Clark adjourned the meeting at 9:35 AM, there being no further business to be had by the Court.

13. Motion made by Burns seconded by Hays and unanimously adopted by the Court to authorize Sabra Srader, Elections Administrator, to enter into a Joint Contract for Elections Services with the Wise County Democratic and Republican Party Chairs for conduct of the March 05, 2024 Joint Primary Election.
    - Clark reminds the court that the Primary Elections are political party elections. The Parties choose to contract with the County Elections Offices in most counties due to the Elections Offices' understanding of proper conduct for elections and the availability of equipment. The Wise County Republican Party and the Wise County Democratic Party have again proposed to conduct a Joint Primary Election with the Wise County Elections office.

14. Donations: Motion made by Burns, seconded by Hays and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve all items listed under agenda item 14, as presented with the Court's thanks.
    - Target donated a check for $500 to EMS.
    - Top Notch Homes donated a stock pile of large rocks which was accepted in court on 08/14/2023. Release of Liability for Donation of Road Material signed today for $12,000.00 in stock pile to be used on various roads.
    - The Sheriff's office was donated weapons from private individuals, Daniel Schaible and Paul Potts.

15. Bids: Motion made by Burns, seconded by Hays and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve all items under agenda item 15, as presented.
    - Diana Allen presented that there is additional equipment that needs to be purchased from a co-op for the radio project. (verbal)

16. Consent Agenda Item: Motion made by Burns, seconded by Shawn and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve all items listed under agenda item 16, as presented in writing and verbally.

    a) Minutes: January 08, 2024 (no attachment)
    b) Department Head Reports: Items submitted in Dropbox but not provided for court record (no attachments)
        - Senate Bill 22- Rural Law Enforcement Funding grant, applied for previously, should be awarded in February 2024. Grant is to be used as Supplemental Merit Pay given quarterly as opposed to getting rolled into regular payroll. This allows for easy adjustments if the grant goes away in the future. The Grant excludes Telecommunicators for receiving SB-22 funding. Therefore, the Sherriff's office is proposing to use other impound money they have to also provide merit raises to their 16 Telecommunicators. The Sheriff's office is already working with Senator Parker to correct the error of leaving Telecommunicators excluded from SB-22. Merit Pay will be granted to Deputies and jailers in a position of Lieutenant and below, to be paid quarterly to employees having served no less than six-months. Since implementing these merit-based pay incentives the County has not lost any deputies to new ventures.

Minutes approved this 5th day of February, 2024, as printed.

J.D. Clark, County Judge, Wise County

John "Biff" Hayes, Commr. Pct. No. 1

Kevin Burns, Commr. Pct. No. 2

Danny Lambert, Commr. Pct. No. 3

Colby Shawn, Commr. Pct. No. 4

ATTEST:

Blanca Tuma, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners' Court, Wise County, Texas.

COMMISSIONERS COURT ★ COUNTY OF WISE, TX ★

The Wise County Commissioners' Court adopted revised Rules ***of Procedures, Conduct & Decorum at Meetings of Wise County Commissioners' Court*** on March 25, 2019.