JANUARY 28, 2026

WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

On this 28th of January A.D., 2026 at 2:00 P.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:

J.D. Clark		County Judge
John "Biff" Hayes		Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Kevin Burns	--- *absent* ---	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 2:00 p.m. All court members were present.
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Community Forum: None
5. County Correspondence:
    - Clark extends thanks to the County staff, city partners, and the Office of Emergency Management (Cody Powell's team) for coordination during this week's ice storm.
    - Shawn shares roads & weather update: County roads still icy; TXDOT reports Tier 1 - State Highways 287 and 380 are clear; Tiers 2 and 3 - routes being worked; Tier 4 - farm-market roads next.
    - Powell provides the National Weather Service spot forecast: temperatures to refreeze by 8 PM, stay below freezing overnight, rise above freezing after 8 AM Friday, January 30th.

6. Discussion for the purpose of coordination and cooperation for efficiency between precincts: None

7. Plats:

Final Plat

1. Jerez Ranch
   Precinct 1 (BH)
   Kimley Horn
   (Intersection of PR 4002 and Old Denton Hwy) (*attachment*)

   (The existing metal well house appears to overlap the side building line. It is our understanding that a variance is being requested for this item.)

****** Approval contingent on Hayes' review of variance ******

2. Sunset Ridge
   Lot 1, Block 1
   Precinct 2 (KB)
   Chad Davis- Kiley Vian (*attachment*)
   Drainage study variance

Preliminary Plat

1. Hawkins Oak Estates
   Lots 1-16, Block 1
   Precinct 2 (KB)
   Chad Davis- Kiley Vian (*attachment*)
   20' Road frontage variance for 5 lots with one lot being 19.79'

****** pulled from consideration per Davis ******

Final Acceptance

1. Arbor Oaks
   Lots 1 – 52
   Precinct 3 (DL)
   Kimley Horn (*attachment*)

****** (infrastructure maintained for two year) ******

- **Motion made by Hayes, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the Jerez Ranch final plat contingent on Haye's final approval, the Sunset Ridge final plat, and the Arbor Oaks final.**

8. Discuss and consider on appointing board members to the West Fork PUA. Take necessary action (*attachments*).

- Clark reminds everyone that Commissioners Shawn and Burns along with Wacy Beck of Environmental Services and Doug Shaw, were tapped as Nominating Committee for selecting members.

- Shawn states that of the eight (8) applicants who had strong qualifications, the Committee recommends **Michael Pilato** and **James McDonald** as the County's two representatives.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to appoint Michael Palato and James McDonald as our two Wise County representatives on the West Fork Publity Utility Agency.**

9. Consider appointment of Early Voting Ballot Board members for the 2026-2028 term, pursuant to the Texas Election Code, and as recommended by the Wise County Democratic and Republican Party Chairs (*attachment*).

- Clark reads the names of the early voting ballot board. For the **Republican appointees:** Betty Parker (Presiding Judge), Terry Eldridge, Carolyn Moody, and Zulene Simmons. For the **Democratic appointees:** Anne McFadden (Alternate Judge), Mary Jo Hightower, Ellen Jones, and Cheryl Musso.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the following members as the Wise County Early Voting Ballot Board for the 2026-2028 term as recommended by the Wise County Democratic and Republican Party Chairs: Betty Parker (Presiding Judge), Terry Eldridge, Carolyn Moody, and Zulene Simmons from the Republican Party. From the Democrat Party: Anne McFadden (Alternate Judge), Mary Jo Hightower, Ellen Jones, and Cheryl Musso term.**

10. Donations: None

11. Bids:

- Captain Rex Hoskins requests (*verbal*) the transfer of a 2015 Tahoe from the Sheriff's Office to Constable Precinct 1.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Hayes, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the transfer of a 2015 Tahoe from the Sheriff's Office to Constable Precinct 1 as presented.**

12. Consent Agenda Items:

    a. Minutes: None

    b. Department Head Reports (items submitted in Dropbox but not provided for Court Record):

        - Clark explains that the State's Comptroller Office requires an eminent domain report if the County used eminent domain in the past year; Commissioners' Court Attorney submitted the report for this year despite the fact that the County ***does not*** utilize eminent domain.

        - Treasurer Katherine Hudson presents Treasurer's Report for November FY25 *(attachments)*.

    c. Budget Amendments:

        - ***On behalf of County Auditor Ann McCuiston***, Clark requests authorization to close out month-end lines as needed.

    d. Capital Expenditure: None

    e. Claims & Payroll:

        - ***Clark pulled two for separate consideration***

    f. Utility Permits/Right of Way:

        - Hayes states his putting a new bridge and he requests authorization to accept the the land Patty Gauge donated for installation (*attachment*).

    g. Interlocal Agreements/Contracts (original contracts and interlocal agreements are filed in the Asset Control Office by Diana Allen):

        - Clark revisits the Ink & Stitch invoices ($140 and $30)

- **Motion made by Hayes, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the two Ink & Stitch invoices in the amount of $140 and $30. Shawn *abstains*. Clark votes aye.**

    - **Fully Executed** (LIST - *for informational purposes only, approval not required, see attachment*)

        - Motorcycle Lease (*attachment*)

- **Renewals and Amendments** (LIST - *for informational purposes only, approval not required, see attachment*)
    - Ad Valorem-City of Alvord, Wise County Water Control and Improvement District 1, Clear Creek Watershed Authority Renewals (*no attachment*)
    - CivicPlus CivicEngage Amendment (*no attachment*)
    - Texas DPS Owned Livescan Renewal (*no attachment*)
    - Vista Solutions Group Renewal (*attachment*)
    - Texas Indigent Healthcare Association Renewal (*attachment*)
    - Stericycle Renewal (*no attachment*)

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve all other items under Item # 12, including the right of way donation, as presented.**

13. Joint Venture Project Agreements: None

14. Hazard Mitigation Plan and related grant projects: None

15. Right-of-Way Improvements:

- Hayes states that access is needed to get onto Patty Gage's property to complete right-of-way clearing and installation of the bridge.

- **Motion made by Hayes, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to authorize the Commissioner and precinct to be able to enter Patty Gauge's property for the public transportation safety purposes as presented.**

16. Burn Ban Update: None

17. County Committee Reports: None

18. **Executive Session** with Legal Counsel, for private consultation allowed under **Texas Government Code Sec. 551.071**: discussion and legal updates of pending litigation, and deliberate a personnel matter under **Texas Government Code Section 551.074.**

- **Clark enters into Executive Session at 2:19 PM.**

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to enter into Executive Session for the private consultation with legal counsel as noted.**

19. **Reconvenes from Executive Session at 3:02 PM**

20. **Clark announced next regular meeting date** as being **Monday, February 9, 2026.**

21. Clark adjourned the meeting at **3:02 PM**, there being no further business to be had by the Court.

Minutes approved this 9th day of March, 2026, 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.