

**Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court
August 26, 2024**

Be it remembered that the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Hemphill County, Texas met in a regular meeting on this the 26th day of August, 2024.

Those present and presiding were:

Lisa Johnson	-	Hemphill County Judge
Dawn Webb	-	Commissioner Precinct #1
Tim Alexander	-	Commissioner Precinct #2
Dale Schafer	-	Commissioner Precinct #3
Nicholas Thomas	-	Commissioner Precinct #4
Sylvia Guerrero	-	Clerk and Ex Officio Member of Commissioners' Court

Others present were: Sheriff, Brent Clapp, Treasurer, Kay Smallwood, County Attorney, Kyle Miller, Justice of the Peace, Jay Moseley, Tax Assessor /collector, Chris Jackson, City Mayor, Terrill Bartlett, City Manager Joe Jarosek, Salem Abraham, John McIntire, Laurie Brown, Kaye Watts, Wendy Cook and Ben Riverman.

Call to Order.

Judge Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She noted that all members of the Court were present.

Approve Minutes from August 12th meetings.

Dawn moved to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2024 commissioners court meeting. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Burn Ban.

Judge Johnson said there was a burn ban in affect through the next meeting on September 9, 2024. No action was taken.

Public Comments.

No public comments were made.

Set salaries for Elected Officials for 2024-2025.

Nicholas moved to set the salaries for Elected Officials for 2024-2025 budget cycle as presented. Tim seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Public Hearing on Proposed Hemphill County Operating Budget for the Fiscal year 2024-2025.

Judge Johnson opened the public hearing on Hemphill County Operating Budget for the Fiscal year 2024-2025 at 9:04 a.m. Judge Johnson noted that she filed the proposed budget on August 6, 2024 and that she was going to make a change to the budget. She received an email from Judge Steve Emmert with the 31st District Court on Friday afternoon letting her know that they were raising the court reporter's salary. She said Hemphill County's portion is \$1490.00, increasing that line item to a total of \$228,90.00. She will offset with the public facilities capital outlay line item. Judge Johnson said this will be an adjustment from one expense to another and will not change the overall budget that was proposed. No public comments were made. Judge Johnson closed the public hearing at 9:06 a.m.

Adopt 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Operating Budget.

Nicholas moved to adopt the Proposed 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget which will raise less revenue from property taxes than last year by an amount of \$911845 which is a 13.14% decrease from last year's income. The property tax revenue to be raised from the new property added to the tax roll this year is \$9,080.34. Dawn seconded the motion which carried unopposed with all commissioners and judge voting "For".

Adopt the 2024 Tax Rate that does not exceed the Non-New Revenue Rate or the Voter Approval Rate.

Tim moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of .3800 on M&O and .15 on Road and Bridge for a total tax rate of .5300, which is a 13.14% decreased in the tax revenue from 2023. Nicholas seconded the motion which carried unopposed with all commissioners and judge voting "For".

Hear presentation from Salem Abraham regarding wildfire damages.

Salem Abraham spoke to the court about the wildfire damages and proposed litigation lead by him. He requested the court to join in the litigation.

Approve 2024-2025 Commissioner Court Meeting Dates and 2025 County Holidays.

Tim moved to approve the Commissioners Court Meeting dates. Dawn seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Tim moved to approve to approve the 2025 County Holidays. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Authorize County Judge to apply for SB22 Law Enforcement Grant by Resolution.

Dawn moved to authorize the county Judge, Lisa Johnson to apply for SB22 Law Enforcement Grant. Tim seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Consider going out to bids on a pickup for Pct. 4.

Tim moved to go out for bids on a pickup for Precinct 4 and set bid opening date for September 9, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Nicholas seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Announcements

Judge Johnson said the Juvenile Probation Office will be moving out to the Exhibition Building. She said there will be some expenses in changes to the camera system, phone system and carpet cleaning. The department will purchase furniture.

Future Agenda Items

None were presented

Approve Bills, Budget Amendments

Nicholas moved to approve the computer generated bills. Dawn seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Nicholas moved to approve the hand stamped bills. Tim seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Adjourn

Tim moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 a.m. Dawn seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

The meeting took place at the city of Canadian, Texas on August 26, 2024,.

ATTEST *Lisa Johnson* COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST *Dawn Swanson* COUNTY CLERK