

**APRIL 12, 2021**

**WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING**

On this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.D., 2021 at 9:00 A.M. came on to be had a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Wise County, Texas held in the County Court at Law Court Room (3<sup>rd</sup>) Floor in County Courthouse 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	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Danny Lambert	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Gaylord Kennedy	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

Sherry Lemon, 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 AM. All court members were present.
- 2) Invocation
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance (US and Texas Flag)
- 4) Community Forum: None
- 5) County Correspondence: None
- 6) Precinct Cooperation/Coordination:

Clark and Hayes discussed the need for an alternative plan for debris collection at the Poor Farm area. Public Works Director Joey Highfill stated that debris is being hauled to a landfill now. The court discussed various options.

The court discussed current projects.

- 7) Clark discussed and read the April 1, 2021 Proclamation "Protecting the Lives of Our Children". (No attachment)

Clark invited the following agencies to speak to the court:

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- Wise Choices Pregnancy Resource Center representative Connie Wyatt told the court that Wise Choices has been a part of the Wise County community for twenty (20) years. Wyatt spoke about the opportunities afforded to the public by her organization.
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Jack and Wise County Executive Director Elizabeth Randle told the court that in 2019 there were over 50,000 children in foster care. Randle stated there are 83 children appointed to advocates. Randle stated there are currently 58 advocates in Wise County with 20 children still needing advocates (currently being assisted by CASA supervisors).
- Wise Kid Care representative Melissa Wilson. Clark stated that the lollipop display on the courthouse lawn was placed by Wise Kid Care with each representing a child currently in CPS care. Clark continued that Wise Kid Care is a non-profit organization that supports Wise County children in foster care. Wilson thanked the court for all of its support in their program.
- Children's Advocacy Center for North Texas CEO Kristen Howell introduced herself and rebranded organization. Howell explained the purpose of her organization.
- Wise County Christian Counseling representative Beverly Ross appeared before the court and thanked the court for assistance and explained the purpose of her organization. Ross told the court that she has fifteen therapists and eight counselors that only work with children. Ross said there are currently 150 children on the wait list for her business' services.
- Wise Coalition of Healthy Children (Cook Children's Hospital initiative) representative Justice of the Peace Pct. #1 Jan Morrow commended the amount of interaction between the various organizations working together to support the wellbeing of children. Clark read a letter from Cook Children's Center for Children's Health. (No attachment)
- Wise Hope (no representative) Clark spoke about the domestic violence task force. Clark stated that all other organizations work with Wise Hope.

Clark discussed the daunting task to take on child abuse. Clark discussed the goal of county government in supporting these agencies.

Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy and unanimously adopted by the Court to adopt a resolution "Protecting the Lives of Our Children" in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. (No attachment)

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8) Motion made by Burns seconded by Lambert and unanimously adopted by the Court to adopt a resolution designating "Wise County as a Sanctuary for the Unborn" as read and discussed by Clark. (See attachment)

Clark noted the public awareness event to be held at the end of April to wrap up Child Abuse Prevention Month.

9) Plats:

Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the following plats, as presented:

- Cedar Heights, Final/Replat, Lots 1-3, Block 1 located in Precinct No.1, as presented, with a letter of conformance from Wise County Development Services. (See attachment)
- Hawk Ridge, Final/Replat, Lots 13R-1 and 13R-2, Block B, Phase 2, located in Precinct No. 1, as presented, granting variances for road frontage and drainage plan, and including a letter of conformance from Wise County Development Services. (See attachment)
- Country Cares Addition, Final/Replat, Lots 1-2, Block 1, located in Precinct No. 1, as presented, granting variances for road frontage and drainage plan, and including a letter of conformance from Wise County Development Services. (See attachment)
- Kolts Corral, Preliminary Plat, Lots 1-10, Block A located in Precinct No. 1, as presented, including a letter of conformance from Wise County Development Services. (See attachment)
- Kolts Corral, Final Plat, Lots 1-10, Block A located in Precinct No. 1, as presented, including a letter of conformance from Wise County Development Services. (See attachment)
- The Glades Estates, Final/Replat, Lots 1-2, Block A located in Precinct No. 2, as presented, including a letter of conformance from Wise County Development Services. (See attachment)
- Grand Harbor on Lake Bridgeport, Lot 43R, Section One, Phase I Final/Replat located in Precinct No. 2, as presented, granting a drainage plan variance, and including a letter of conformance from Wise County Development Services. (See attachment)

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- Lisa Gardner Family Trust, Final/Replat, Lots 2R1, 2R2 and 2R3, Block 1, located in Precinct No. 2, as presented, granting a variance for a drainage plan, and including a letter of conformance from Wise County Development Services. (See attachment)
- Waggoner Settlement Addition, Lots 1-9, Block 1, Preliminary Plat located in Precinct No. 2, as presented, granting a road frontage variance, and including a letter of conformance from Wise County Development Services. (See attachment)
- Waggoner Settlement Addition, Lots 1-9, Block 1, Final Plat located in Precinct No. 2, as presented, granting a road frontage variance, and including a letter of conformance from Wise County Development Services. (See attachment)
- Boyd Ranchettes West, Lots 1R, 3R-1 and 3R-2, Block 1, Final/Replat located in Precinct No. 3, as presented, granting a variance for a drainage plan, and including a letter of conformance from Wise County Development Services. (See attachment)
- Friendship Ranch, Final Plat/Maintenance Period Acceptance, Phase 2, Lots 7-25 located in Precinct No. 3, as presented, including a letter of general conformance from Kimley-Horn and Associates. (See attachment)

Highfill commended Wise County Development Planning Assistant Kiley Vian for her hard work on plats.

10) Snow Garrett and Williams Certified Public Accountant Kathy Williams appeared before the court to present the annual outside audit for FY2020.

- Pages 2/3: Independent Auditor's Report for fiscal year ending September 30, 2020 and statement showing unmodified opinion. Williams noted additional information required on the Independent Auditor's Report due to the county exceeding the single audit threshold due to an increase in federal funding.
- Page 11: Williams reviewed the Capital Assets and Debt Administration. Williams noted the total Capital Assets net of depreciation of \$61,959,978.00. Williams noted the total debt decrease to \$43,689,954.00 related to net pension liability and regularly scheduled debt payments. Clark noted the debt payments for the WCWC Branch campus. Williams noted the county's Standard & Poor AA credit rating.
- Page 16: Williams noted the Total Governmental Fund assets at \$29,604,486.00 primarily cash and investments (some restricted investments but most being unrestricted); total

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liability \$2,803,555.00; and total fund balances of \$25,748,302.00. Williams detailed the various funds that total the balance.

- Page 17: Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance: Williams noted total revenues of \$53,069,416.00 (taxes, intergovernmental revenue and fees of office); total expenditures \$53,700,288.00 (most being in public safety, public transportation, general government and judicial). Williams stated the capital outlay amount of \$3,221,841.00 (capital projects and lateral road). Williams noted other financing sources as a decrease of \$38,621.00. Williams noted a net change in fund balances being a decrease of \$669,493.00. Williams noted the main reason for that is the capital outlay fund. Williams told the court the General Fund has an increase of \$1,972,118.00. Williams noted the increase in Other Governmental Funds of \$198,640.00. Williams noted the end of year fund balance of \$25,748,302.00 with \$8,168,191.00 being General Fund Balance representing approximately 24% of the total General Fund expenditures. Williams commended the county for this percentage.
- Page 52/53: Williams reviewed the Combining Balance Sheet for right-of-way fencing, thoroughfare and the four commissioner precincts for Lateral Road Fund.
- Page 73: Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs: Williams noted the no's marked indicate no material weaknesses or deficiencies.
- Page 78: Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards: Williams reviewed the schedule.

Williams thanked the court and County Auditor's office assisting in the outside audit process.

Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy and unanimously adopted by the Court to accept the FY2020 outside audit report, as presented. (See attachment)

11) Burns stated there is a portion of Old Decatur Road/Old Alvord Highway located in Precinct No. 2 near Decatur that has become congested. Burns recommended reducing the speed limit for that area from 40mph to 30mph. Burns stated the area is around the intersection of CR 2395 and requested a public hearing be scheduled before the next Commissioners Court meeting. Commissioners Court Attorney Thomas Aaberg told the court that a public hearing is not necessary unless the speed is reduced to below 30 mph. Burns stated the area is from the northern portion of CR 2175 to FM 730 in Precinct No. 2. (No attachment)

Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy to reduce the speed from 40mph to 30mph from the north portion of CR 2175 to FM 730 in Precinct No. 2 due to the increase in housing and traffic in that area. (No attachment)

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12) Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy and unanimously adopted by the Court to award the Tax Sale Bid TX 12116 for Lot 8 and 9, Block 95, Original Town of Bridgeport, an addition to Wise County, Texas (Precinct No. 4) as described in Volume 258, Page 753, Real Records of Wise County, Texas to Alshanty Investments for \$500.00. (No attachment)

13) Donations: None

14) Bids:

Asset Control Officer Diana Allen stated the depository bid requires Commissioners Court approval of the security bonds after the county awards the bid for depository. County Treasurer Katherine Hudson presented a spreadsheet of security bonds for court approval for depository bid. (See attachment)

Motion made by Burns seconded by Hayes and unanimously adopted by the Court to authorize Clark and staff to take all necessary action for finalization of the depository bid, as presented.

15) Consent Agenda Item:

a) Minutes: March 8, 2021 (Regular Meeting); March 10, 2021 (Development Rules and Regulations Committee Meeting); March 22, 2021 (Special Meeting); March 31, 2021 (Special Meeting) (No attachment)

b) Department Head Reports:

- Items submitted in Dropbox but not provided for court record. (No attachments)
- Clark verbal re: WCWC Branch Campus college bond refinance is moving along well. Clark told the court expects great news to present to the court within a few weeks. Clark continued that the county was graded an "A" stable rating that will drastically cut the interest rate.
- Auditor's Report for March 2021 (See attachment)
- Auditor re: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts FY2021 Travel Reimbursement Rates (from \$0.575 to \$0.56) and lodging/meal increases (set by state) (See attachment)
- County Clerk Monthly Activity Report for March 2021 (See attachment)
- Treasurer's Report for February 2021 (See attachment)
- Asset Control quarterly report (January 2021 to March 2021) (See attachment)
- Auditor re: application for Tobacco Settlement Grant and State Criminal Alien Asset Program (SCAAP) Grant. (No attachments)

c) Budget Amendment: FY21-08 for various line items (No attachment)

d) Capital Expenditure Plan: None

e) Claims/Payroll:

Claims and Payroll registers as presented in Dropbox (No attachment)

County Auditor Ann McCuiston discussed the following:

- Ag Extension Office no receipts (No attachment)
- J. Ronald Gray settlement of \$32,110.00 as it related to 271<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court Cause Number CV-19-01-087 Targa Midstream Services LLC v Wise County Appraisal District. (No attachment)
- Denise Hill 271<sup>st</sup> District Court reporter purchased laptop not through IT. (No attachment)
- Johnson Control invoice (last one) for \$9,010.43. Allen stated this amount was based on the annual amount. Allen stated the county is about six months into the transition from Johnson Control to another vendor. Systems Administrator Steven Melton commented on this transition process. The court discussed agreement process for Johnson Control. (No attachment)

f) Utility Requests/Right of Way:

- Lakota Energy LP for CR 2646 located in Precinct No. 1 (See attachment)

g) Contracts/Interlocal Agreements:

(Original Contracts and Interlocal Agreements are filed in the Asset Control Office by Diana Allen.)

- Allen verbal: Cities Readiness Initiative Amendment No. 5 pending Aaberg's review/approval. (No attachment)
- Allen verbal: County Clerk Office same record archive/indexing that the office has currently being a continuation with current vendor Tyler Eagle pending Aaberg's review/approval. (No attachment)
- Alldata for the Wise County Sheriff's Office (See attachment)
- TIDC Statement of Grant Award (See attachment)
- Updated Treasury Forfeiture Fund Act and Wise County (MOU Between the 271<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office of Jack and Wise Counties and the U.S. Secret Service) (No attachment)
- Wise County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) 2021 (Ranger College Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Academy) (No attachment)
- Fully Executed (list): City of Decatur CivicReady Mass Notification (See attachment); LexisNexis Law Library (See attachment)
- Renewals (list): Correctional Dental; Vigilant IDP (list only)

Motion made by Kennedy seconded by Burns and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve all items listed under agenda item 15, as presented.

16) Project Agreement for Road Repair:

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City of New Fairview at Pioneer Road (Precinct No. 1) the city is supplying material and the county is doing the work to make the road an all-weather road. (No attachment)

Paradise ISD parking lot by the baseball field (Precinct No. 4) blade and smooth the road. (No attachment)

Project Number #3029 for City of New Aurora in Precinct No. 3 for various roads. (No attachment)

Project Number #1009 for Precinct No. 1 for Pioneer Road (above) (No attachment)

Motion made by Hayes seconded by Kennedy and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve all project agreements, as presented.

17) Right-of-Way Improvements: None

18) Burn Ban: Clark stated the burn ban is good and read a statement from Fire Marshal Jeff Doughty about the current online logging of burn bans and the feedback/changes to the Emergency Management phone line. (No attachment)

19) Committee Reports: None

20) Motion made by Kennedy seconded by Burns and unanimously adopted by the Court to enter into Executive Session for private consultation under Texas Government Code 551.074 for discussion of personnel matters at 10:00 AM.

21) Court reconvened from Executive Session at 10:33 AM.

Clark stated the court has a personnel issue the county needs to discuss. Clark stated that Wise County Veteran Services Officer Laura Clark is retiring May 31, 2021. Clark discussed promoting Blake Walls who is a veteran service officer in that department. L. Clark discussed the office dynamics. L Clark stated there is now an opening for the assistant veteran service officer position. Walls discussed his 20 year military and Veterans service office experience.

Motion made by Burns seconded by Lambert and unanimously adopted by the Court to hire Blake Walls as Veteran Services Officer upon the retirement of Laura Clark and make Walls' pay commensurate with Walls' skill set and the budget. (No attachment)

Burns thanked L. Clark for her service to the County as Veteran's Services Officer.

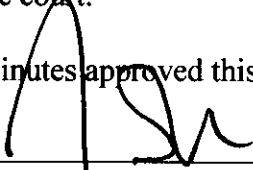
22) Clark announced the next meeting as Monday, April 26, 2021. Clark stated Biggerstaff, Heath & Delgado will be present at that meeting via video conference for a redistricting presentation. Clark hopes the county can contract with this firm for redistricting purposes.



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23) Clark adjourned the meeting at 10:48 AM, there being no further business to be had by the court.

Minutes approved this 26th day of April, 2021, as printed.

  
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J.D. Clark, County Judge, Wise County

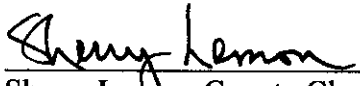
  
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John "Biff" Hayes, Commr. Pct. No. 1

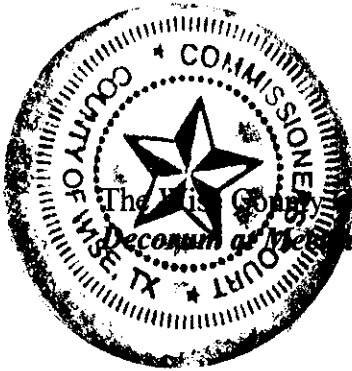
  
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Kevin Burns, Commr. Pct. No. 2

  
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Danny Lambert, Commr. Pct. No. 3

  
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Gaylord Kennedy, Commr. Pct. No. 4

ATTEST:

  
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Sherry Lemon, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners' Court,  
Wise County, Texas.



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