



NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S COURT MEETING

Erath County Courthouse
County Courtroom, 100 W. Washington, Stephenville, Texas
Monday, April 14, 2025 9:00 AM

MINUTES

On the 14th day of April, 2025 the Honorable Commissioners Court of Erath County, Texas, convened in Regular Session hereof in the County Courtroom of the Erath County Courthouse for the following purport, to wit:

Members Present: Commissioner Precinct 1, Dee Stephens
Commissioner Precinct 2, Albert Ray
Commissioner Precinct 3, Sherman Edwards
Commissioner Precinct 4, Jim Buck
County Judge, Brandon Huckabee

Members Absent: None

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
County Judge, Brandon Huckabee
2. Invocation
Invocation - Pastor Ed Dittfurth
3. Public Comments.
Commissioners Court recognized Thomas Boyle and the Erath County 4H students for their accomplishments in the spring contests. Congratulations Thomas and students!!
Public Comments: Allison Callison with Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott, LLP
4. Discussion and action to approve Proclamation for Stop the Silence with Cross Timbers Family Services.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Precinct 1 Dee Stephens and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 2 Albert Ray to approve the Proclamation for Stop the Silence with Cross Timbers Family Services.

Ayes: (4) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck: Noes: (0) None
Motion Passed / Number 2025-135

5. Discussion and action to terminate the current contract for the collection of delinquent justice court fines and fees.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Precinct 1 Dee Stephens and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 3 Sherman Edwards to terminate the current contract for the collection of delinquent justice court fines and fees.

Ayes: (4) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck: Noes: (0) None
Motion Passed / Number 2025-136

6. Discussion and action to approve a resolution to enter into a contingent fee contract with the law firm of McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. for the collection of delinquent justice court fines and fees pursuant to Tex. Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 103.0031(b).

In Accordance with Texas Government Code, section 2254.1036(a)(1), the County of Erath, Texas provides written notice to the public of their consideration of the following:

1. Erath County is seeking the legal services of McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C., a delinquent fines and fees collection law firm, to collect justice court delinquent fines and fees owed to Erath County. The desired outcome of the legal services would be for Erath County to collect the delinquent justice court fines and fees that its justice court is owed in as short a time period as is possible.
2. McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. have been competently collecting delinquent fines and fees for over sixteen-years and currently represents hundreds of Texas cities and counties in the collection of delinquent fines and fees. McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. is a competent, qualified, and experienced delinquent fines and fees collection law firm.
3. The legal services desired by Erath County that are the subject of the contract cannot be adequately performed by the attorneys and supporting personnel of Erath County.
4. The legal services desired by Erath County that are the subject of the contract cannot be reasonably obtained from attorneys in private practice under a contract providing for the payment of hourly fees without contingency because Erath County does not have funds in its budget to pay the estimated hourly fees and other costs incurred to implement an effective delinquent fines and fees collection program under a contract providing only for the payment of hourly fees and costs. Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 103.0031 allows a county to recover a penalty to defray the costs of collecting delinquent fines and fees, only if the county has entered into a contract with a private attorney or public or private vendor pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 103.0031.
5. To defray the costs of collecting delinquent fines and fees as provided by Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 103.0031, and to save money and ensure that the collection of delinquent fines and fees is diligently pursued for Erath County, a contingent fee contract with McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. is in the best interests of the residents of Erath County.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Precinct 1 Dee Stephens and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 4 Jim Buck to approve a resolution to enter into a contingent fee contract with the law firm of McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. for the collection of delinquent justice court fines and fees

Ayes: (4) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck: Noes: (0) None
Motion Passed / Number 2025-137

7. Discussion and action to approve ROW permits from Atmos Energy for County Roads 110, 116, 119, 120, 121, 419, 435.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Precinct 4 Jim Buck and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 3 Sherman Edwards to approve ROW permits from Atmos Energy

Ayes: (4) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck: Noes: (0) None
Motion Passed / Number 2025-138

8. Discussion and possible action to research options for call-in pay for county employees.
Commissioner Buck, Commissioner Ray, County Auditor and HR will research options for call-in pay for county employees and get back to the court at the next meeting
9. Discussion and action on options for time clock intervals.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Precinct 4 Jim Buck and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 3 Sherman Edwards to change the time clock back to 7 forward and 8 back.

Ayes: (4) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck: Noes: (0) None

Motion Passed / Number 2025-139

10. Discussion and action to approve matching funds for Rifle Resistant Body Armor.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Precinct 2 Albert Ray and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 1 Dee Stephens to approve matching funds for Rifle Resistant Body Armor.

Ayes: (4) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck: Noes: (0) None

Motion Passed / Number 2025-140

11. Discussion and action to surplus the District Attorney's Expedition via GovDeals.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Precinct 1 Dee Stephens and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 3 Sherman Edwards to surplus the District Attorney's Expedition via GovDeals.

Ayes: (4) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck: Noes: (0) None

Motion Passed / Number 2025-141

12. Discussion and action to renew contract between Erath County and CivicPlus for the CivicClerk Agenda and Minutes Management services.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Precinct 3 Sherman Edwards and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 1 Dee Stephens to renew contract between Erath County and CivicPlus for the CivicClerk Agenda and Minutes Management services.

Ayes: (4) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck: Noes: (0) None

Motion Passed / Number 2025-142

13. Discussion and action to approve a yearly service contract for Web Accessibility with CivicPlus.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Precinct 1 Dee Stephens and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 3 Sherman Edwards to approve a yearly service contract for Web Accessibility with CivicPlus.

Ayes: (4) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck: Noes: (0) None

Motion Passed / Number 2025-143

14. Discussion and action to allow participation with the City of Stephenville in the Electronics Recycle Event and split the costs of \$4,800.00.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Precinct 1 Dee Stephens and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 2 Albert Ray to allow participation with the City of Stephenville in the Electronics Recycle Event.

Ayes: (4) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck: Noes: (0) None

Motion Passed / Number 2025-144

15. Discussion and action to approve budget adjustment transfers.

MOTION was made by County Judge Brandon Huckabee and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 4 Jim Buck to approve budget adjustment transfers.

Ayes: (5) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck, Brandon Huckabee: Noes: (0) None

Motion Passed / Number 2025-145

16. Discussion and action to approve invoices presented for regular and recurring payment as presented by the County Auditor and issue order to the County Treasurer to disburse the funds. (K Reeves)

MOTION was made by Commissioner Precinct 4 Jim Buck and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 2 Albert Ray to pay the bills.

Ayes: (4) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck: Noes: (0) None

Motion Passed / Number 2025-146

17. Presentation of Treasurer's Report March 2025.

March 2025 Treasurer's Report presented

18. Discussion and action on burn ban.

Burn ban - no action

19. Closed Executive Session in Accordance with the Open Meeting Act, *Tex. Govt. Code 551.071 through 551.086*, to discuss:

- a. Personnel
- b. Legal Matters
- c. Real Estate
- d. Reconvene

Closed Session not needed

20. Discussion and action on items discussed in closed executive session.

Closed session not needed

21. Discuss any new business.

New Business: Tire recycle event will be 4-24-2025 8:00-4:00 at 1075 Glen Rose Rd., Stephenville; Contractor at Mountain Lakes finished the job, we hope everyone at Mountain Lakes enjoys it.

22. Adjourn.

MOTION to Adjourn was made by Commissioner Precinct 4 Jim Buck and seconded by Commissioner Precinct 2 Albert Ray

Ayes: (4) Dee Stephens, Albert Ray, Sherman Edwards, Jim Buck: Noes: (0) None

Number 2025-147

Meeting was Adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ERATH

The above and foregoing is a true and complete copy of the minutes taken in my capacity as County Clerk of the Commissioners Court of Erath County, Texas, at the time and place heretofore set forth. DATED at Stephenville, Texas, this 14th day of April, 2025.

ATTESTED BY: GWINDA JONES, Erath County Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gwinda Jones", is written over a horizontal line.

