

MINUTES
WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT
REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 24, 2022

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Honorable Commissioner's Court of Waller County, Texas, met in **REGULAR SESSION** on Wednesday, the 24th day of August 2022 at its meeting place in the Commissioners Courtroom of the Waller County Courthouse, Hempstead, Texas. The meeting was called to order by Waller County Judge Trey Duhon at 9:05 a.m. with the following members of the Court present to-wit:

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III, County Judge
John A. Amsler, Commissioner Precinct 1
Walter Smith, Commissioner Precinct 2
Kendric D. Jones, Commissioner Precinct 3
Justin Beckendorff, Commissioner Precinct 4
Stephanie Tompkins, Chief Deputy Clerk

Delivery of Invocation by: Commissioner Amsler
Pledge to the American Flag and Texas Flag led by: Commissioner Beckendorff

1. **Approval of Agenda.**

Motion made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Beckendorff.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

<i>Judge Trey Duhon</i> – Yes	<i>Commissioner Amsler</i> – Yes	<i>Commissioner Smith</i> – Yes
	<i>Commissioner Jones</i> – Yes	<i>Commissioner Beckendorff</i> – Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

To slow the spread of COVID-19, the public may make public comment at the beginning of the meeting by teleconference. **Local callers should call 979-921-6212.** Non-local callers should call 800-576-1131. The user code for both numbers is **14329937**. Callers will be asked if they would like to make public comment. After public comment, the teleconference line will be closed. The public may continue to watch the meeting streamed online at <http://wallercountytexas.swagit.com/live>.

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|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| 1. Cliff Williams | 3. David Sanders | 5. Larry Parr | 7. Brenda Nichols |
| 2. Bill Parks | 4. Rick MacDonald | 6. Yancy Scott | 8. Constable Herschel Smith
<i>(via teleconference)</i> |

CONSENT AGENDA

Items identified within the consent agenda are of a routine nature, and will be passed with one vote without being discussed separately. If a member of the court or public requests that a particular item be discussed, that agenda item will be pulled from the Consent Agenda and discussed as part of the regular agenda at the appropriate time. One vote will approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda.

2. Approval of the minutes – August 17, 2022 Regular Session
3. Request by County Treasurer for approval of Payroll.
4. Request by County Treasurer for approval of accounts payable for retiree insurance.

5. Request to approve payment on the following:
 - (a) \$3,382.00 for Invoice # 9714 to Harris County from line item 125-423-540702 [Autopsy].
 - (b) \$1,295.00 for Invoice dated August 11, 2022 to Magnolia Funeral Home, Inc.
6. Request by County Auditor for approval and/or ratification of Accounts Payable.
7. Request by County Engineer to advertise for a Public Hearing on September 14, 2022 for the establishment and installation of “No Thru Trucks” signs on the following roads:
 - Robinhood Lane – Pct. 2
 - Lakeside Drive – Pct. 2
 - Clear Creek Road – Pct. 2

Advertising to be posted in the Katy Times Newspaper, payment to be funded from line item 125-401-544100 [Bid Notices and Printing]. *(no backup submitted)*

8. Request by County Engineer to approve the Final Plat of I-10 West Addition.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda made by Commissioner Beckendorff, seconded by Commissioner Jones.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

<i>Judge Trey Duhon – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Amsler – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Smith – Yes</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jones – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes</i>

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

9. **Presentation** and discussion by Chris Massey from the Harris County Houston Sports Authority and Derek Webber of Webber Marketing Consulting on the 2022 National Battle of the Bands Event.

No action required.

10. Discuss and take action to approve Proclamation recognizing August 27th 2022 at National Battle of the Bands Day.

Motion made by Commissioner Beckendorff, seconded by Commissioner Jones.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

<i>Judge Trey Duhon – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Amsler – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Smith – Yes</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jones – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes</i>

COUNTY JUDGE

11. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding the 2022 tax rate.

Commissioner Beckendorff moved that the Waller County Commissioners Court propose to adopt a total tax rate of \$.548445 cents per \$100 valuation, the same rate being a combination of the rates for the Waller County General Fund rate at \$.464595 per \$100 valuation and a Farm to Market Flood control rate of \$.025852 and to the Debt Service Fund rate of \$.057998 and to schedule a Public Hearing for the 2022 tax rate on September 14, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Waller County Courthouse in Hempstead, Texas, seconded by Commissioner Jones.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

<i>Judge Trey Duhon – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Amsler – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Smith – Yes</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jones – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes</i>

Judge Duhon announced the Waller County Commissioners Court has proposed to adopt a total tax rate of \$.548445 cents per \$100 valuation, the same rate being a combination of rates for the Waller County General Fund rate of \$.464595, and the Farm to Market Flood control rate of \$.025852, and to the Debt Service Fund rate of \$.057998.

As the proposed rate exceeds the No New Revenue Rate by 6.81%, Commissioners Court will hold a Public Hearing on a Tax Increase on September 14, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at its meeting place in the Waller County Courthouse located at 836 Austin Street, Hempstead, Texas.

12. Discuss and take action to set salaries, expenses, and other allowances of all elected county and precinct officers. *(no backup submitted)*

Motion made by Commissioner Beckendorff, seconded by Commissioner Jones.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

<i>Judge Trey Duhon – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Amsler – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Smith – Yes</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jones – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes</i>

13. Discuss and take action to authorize the County Judge to publish the Notice of Salary Increases for Elected Officials in the Katy Times, Waller Times, Hot Line Press, and The Waller County Express and on the County website. Funds to be paid from line item 125-401-544100 [Bid Notices & Printing].

Motion made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Beckendorff.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

<i>Judge Trey Duhon – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Amsler – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Smith – Yes</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jones – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes</i>

14. Discuss and take action to authorize the County Judge to publish the Notice of 2022 Tax Year Proposed Tax Rate for Waller County in the Katy Times, Waller Times, Hot Line Press, The Waller County Express and on the County website to be paid from line item 125-401-544100 [Bid Notices & Printing].

Motion made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Beckendorff.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

<i>Judge Trey Duhon – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Amsler – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Smith – Yes</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jones – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes</i>

15. Discuss and take action to authorize the County Judge to publish the Notice of Budget Hearing in the Katy Times, Waller Times, Hot Line Press, and The Waller County Express and on the County website. Funds to be paid from line item 125-401-544100 [Bid Notices & Printing].

Motion made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Beckendorff.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

<i>Judge Trey Duhon – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Amsler – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Smith – Yes</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jones – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes</i>

16. Discuss and take action to appoint Robert Pechukas to the HGAC Natural Resources Advisory Committee. *(no backup submitted)*

Motion made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Beckendorff.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

<i>Judge Trey Duhon – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Amsler – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Smith – Yes</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jones – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes</i>

Judge Trey Duhon – Yes

Commissioner Amsler – Yes

Commissioner Smith – Yes

Commissioner Jones – Yes

Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes

FIRE MARSHAL

24. Discuss and take action on Burn Ban.

Judge Duhon made motion we rescind the burn ban on the County with the exception of the area that is West of Hwy 6 and North of 290, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion carried by 4-1 vote.

Judge Trey Duhon – Yes

Commissioner Amsler – No

Commissioner Smith – Yes

Commissioner Jones – Yes

Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes

AUDITOR

25. **Spread** upon the minutes the certification of the Juvenile Probation Department, TJJD Grant award, in the amount of \$238,056.00 and create the 2022-2023 grant budget, WC 2022-35 ~~34~~.

No action required.

26. Discuss and take action to certify Washington County Inmate Housing revenue in the amount of \$233,480.00 and amend Sheriff (Jail and Administrative) 2022 budgets, WC 2022-35.

Motion made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Beckendorff.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

Judge Trey Duhon – Yes

Commissioner Amsler – Yes

Commissioner Smith – Yes

Commissioner Jones – Yes

Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes

MISCELLANEOUS

27. Discuss and take action to approve agreement with Thomson Reuters for Westlaw legal research services for the District Attorney's Office. Funds to be paid from line item 125-416-535000 [Books].

Motion made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Beckendorff.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

Judge Trey Duhon – Yes

Commissioner Amsler – Yes

Commissioner Smith – Yes

Commissioner Jones – Yes

Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

28. Consultation with District Attorney and outside counsel pursuant to Government Code Section 551.071.

Court convened to Executive Session at 12:40 p.m.

Court reconvened from Executive Session at 12:52 p.m.

29. ~~Reconvene in Open Session to take any action necessary on matters discussed in Executive Session. Item WITHDRAWN.~~

ADJOURN MEETING

Motion to **adjourn** meeting by Commissioner Amsler, seconded by Commissioner Jones.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

Judge Trey Duhon – Yes

Commissioner Amsler – Yes

Commissioner Smith – Yes

Commissioner Jones – Yes

Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes

Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 12:52 p.m.

I **ATTEST** that the above proceedings are the true and correct minutes taken in my capacity as
Ex-Officio for the Commissioners’ Court of Waller County.

Debbie Hollan, Waller County Clerk



By: *Stephanie Tompkins*
Stephanie Tompkins, Chief Deputy Clerk

APPROVED this the 31st day of August 2022.

Trey Duhon
Carbett “Trey” J. Duhon, III
County Judge