

MINUTES
WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT
REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Honorable Commissioner's Court of Waller County, Texas, met in **REGULAR SESSION** on Wednesday, the 23rd day of September 2020 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 9:00 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
Jeron Barnett, Commissioner Precinct 3
Justin Beckendorff, Commissioner Precinct 4
Debbie Hollan, County Clerk

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

1. **Approval of Agenda.**

Motion made by Commissioner Beckendorff, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

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.com/swagit.com/live>.

Gwen Munford, Regional Voting Protection Director for the Texas Democratic Party, made public comment via teleconference to show her support for the Waller County Democratic Party for the desire for expansion of early voting locations including that of the Prairie View University.

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** – September 16, 2020 Regular Session
3. **Request by County Treasurer for approval of Payroll.**
4. **Request by County Tax Assessor for approval of the 2020 Tax Roll.**
5. *Item 5 removed from Consent Agenda, Court to vote on separately (page 2 of 6).*

6. Request to approve payment on the following:
 - (a) \$1,700.00 for invoice dated August 31, 2020 to Schmidt Funeral home from line item 125-411-561502 [Pauper Burial].
 - (b) \$33,769.59 for invoice # 38 to Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects from line item 601-601-545405 [Professional Services Jail].
 - (c) \$29,519.00 for Application # 2 and \$54,418.00 for Application # 3 for a total of \$83,937.00 to Precision Utility from line item 125-600-581610 [Precinct 4 Building].

7. Request by County Auditor for approval and/or ratification of Accounts Payable.

Commissioner Beckendorff moved to pass the consent agenda minus number 5, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

5. Request by County Engineer to approve a Utility Permit for Comcast of Houston, LLC, to install Fiber Optic within the right-of-way of Owens Road.

Motion made by Commissioner Smith, 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 Barnett – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes</i>

WALLER COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD

8. **Presentation** by Katina Harris on the status of the Child Welfare Board.

No action required.

TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR

9. Discuss and take action to authorize the County Judge to sign three resale deeds for the private tax resale of properties currently held in trust by Waller County pursuant to Section 34.05(h)(2) of the Texas Tax Code.

Motion made by Commissioner Smith, 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 Barnett – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes</i>

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

10. Discuss and take action to authorize the Waller County Auditor to conduct annual Chapter 59 Audit for the District Attorney’s Forfeiture/Seized funds accounts.

Motion made by Commissioner Beckendorff, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR

11. Discuss and take action to approve the Notice of Joint General Election to be held on November 3, 2020 and authorize the Elections Administrator to publish said Notice in a newspaper of general circulation in Waller County as required by Sec 4.003 of the

Texas Election Code. Advertising to be paid from line item 125-434-544200 [Publications/Elec Notices].

Motion made by Commissioner Beckendorff, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

12. Discuss and take action to approve Proclamation in recognition of National Voter Registration Day/Month and recognize the Volunteer Deputy Registrar program in Waller County.

Motion made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Beckendorff.

(Commissioner Beckendorff read Proclamation)

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

13. Discuss and take action to approve the change in voting locations in Precinct 418.

Motion made by Commissioner Beckendorff, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

(to be changed to the new Waller County Precinct 4 Annex Building in Brookshire, Texas)

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

14. Discuss and take action on Elections Administrator's request to require all poll workers employed by Waller County to wear protective mask and/or shields while working polls during Early Voting and on Election Day.

Motion made by Commissioner Beckendorff, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

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15. Discuss and take action to approve replacement of circuits to Harris County for Radio Communications.

Motion made by Commissioner Beckendorff, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Judge Duhon made motion to amend to include labor not to exceed \$4,000.00 and all these items to be paid out of line item 601-601-581000, seconded by Commissioner Beckendorff.

Amendment carried by 5-0 vote.

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

Amended Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER

16. Discuss and take action to approve proposal for Engineering Services with Halff Associates related to the preparation of TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund application for Spring Creek Watershed Flood Protection Study.

Motion made by Commissioner Beckendorff, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Judge Duhon made motion to amend to be paid from line item 110-530-545800, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Amendment carried by 5-0 vote.

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

Amended Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

17. Discuss and take action to approve proposal for Engineering Services with Halff Associates related to the preparation of the TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund application for Brazos River Flood Update Study.

Judge Duhon made motion to also be paid from line item 110-530-545800, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

18. Discuss planned process for requesting bids for road materials and rental equipment for 2021-2023.

Motion made by Commissioner Smith, 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 Barnett – Yes</i>	<i>Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes</i>

FIRE MARSHAL

19. ~~Discuss and take action on Burn Ban.~~ Item WITHDRAWN.

SHERIFF

20. Discuss and take action to approve Service Agreement with Motorola Solutions Inc.

Motion made by Commissioner Beckendorff, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

AUDITOR

21. Discuss and take action to certify the 2020 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Cares Act Grant award of \$47,283.69 and amend the 2020 budget, WC 2020-39.

Motion made by Commissioner Beckendorff, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

22. Discuss and take action to certify the TxDot County Transportation Infrastructure Grant award of \$229,353.00 and amend the 2020 budget, WC 2020-40.

Motion made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Amsler.

Motion carried by 5-0 vote.

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

Court reconvened from Executive Session at 11:39 a.m.

31. Reconvene in Open Session to take any action necessary on matters discussed in Executive Session.

No action taken from Executive Session.

ADJOURN MEETING

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

Motion carried by 4-0 vote.

Judge Trey Duhon – Yes

Commissioner Amsler – Yes

Commissioner Smith – Not present

Commissioner Barnett – Yes

Commissioner Beckendorff – Yes

Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 11:39 a.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

Debbie Hollan
Waller County Clerk

APPROVED this the 30th day of September 2020.

Trey Duhon

Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon, III
County Judge