

COMMISSIONERS COURT OF UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024
10:00 A.M. REGULAR SESSION

A regular meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Upshur County, Texas was held on Monday, July 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., with the following members of the Court being present, to-wit:

Present: Todd Tefteller – County Judge presiding,
 Gene Dolle – Commissioner Pct. #1
 Dustin Nicholson – Commissioner Pct. #2
 Mike Ashley – Commissioner Pct. #3
 Jay W. Miller – Commissioner Pct. #4

Judge Tefteller called the regular meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. Invocation and Pledges

Prayer was led by Gene Dolle.

Pledges to the U.S. & Texas flags led by Dustin Nicholson.

2. Citizen comments. None

3. Consider and take action on approval of:

- A. The minutes of previous meetings;
- B. Payroll changes;
- C. Payroll;
- D. Budget amendments;
- E. Accounts Payable;
- F. **Accept for recording: Auditor report; Treasurer report; Bonds; Oaths; Deputations; Certificates; State and County Taxes Summary; refund of overpayment or erroneous tax payments in excess of \$2500.00; Texas Realtors Commercial Lease between Cook Brothers Rentals and Upshur County; and applications for use of Upshur County roads and rights-of way and permit requests.**

Dustin Nicholson made a motion with a second by Gene Dolle to approve items 3A-F. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

(SEE ATTACHED)

4. Hear any updates and discuss and take necessary action concerning the Round XII Courthouse Grant Renovation and/or the Courthouse employee relocation during the renovation.

Judge Tefteller commented that the drilling is almost complete for the HVAC.

- 5. Hear presentation from Charter Communications relative to the provisions of Spectrum Broadband Digital Services in Upshur County under the Rural Digital Opportunity Funding program (RDOF).**

Rhonda Anderson, Joe Canales, and Brad Shely with Charter Communications outlined the areas of Upshur County where they would be installing Spectrum Broadband Digital Services as well as the time line and other information related to the installation of services funded by the Rural Digital Opportunity Funding program.

- 6. Discuss and take action to approve the donation of County Precinct property of 3-evidence lockers (Pct. 1, Pct. 3, Pct 4) and 1-office chair (Pct. 3) to Upshur County Crime Stoppers.**

No action.

- 7. Discuss and take action to approve transferring \$7,515.18 from Courthouse Renovation Contingency to cover Capital Murder Expenses.**

Motion by Mike Ashley with a second by Gene Dolle to approve transferring \$7,515.18 from Courthouse Renovation Contingency to cover Capital Murder Expenses. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 8. Discuss and take action to approve allowing a law enforcement officer from another agency, who has been assigned to the UCSO SIU Unit through a Memorandum of Agreement, to operate a Sheriff's Office vehicle while in the course and scope of official business of the UCSO SIU Unit.**

Sheriff Larry Webb explained to the Court why he is asking for permission to allow a law enforcement officer from another agency to operate a Sheriff's Office vehicle while in the course and scope of business of the SIU Unit. Sheriff Webb referred to the Upshur County Personnel Policy in regards to a non-employee operating a county vehicle. Connie Williams has talked with TAC regarding the issue and she informed the Court that TAC has approved the use of the vehicle by this individual. Motion by Gene Dolle with a second by Dustin Nicholson to approve allowing a law enforcement officer from another agency, who has been assigned to the UCSO SIU Unit through a Memorandum of Agreement, to operate a Sheriff's Office vehicle while in the course and scope of official business of the UCSO SIU Unit. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 9. Discuss and take action to approve payment of an autopsy expense of a deceased infant ordered by the Camp County Justice of the Peace.**

This matter will be discussed in CLOSED SESSION.

10. Discuss and take possible action on the 2024-2025 Appraisal District's budget, by resolving that Upshur County Appraisal District calculate a new budget.

Gene Dolle requested this matter be put on the agenda. He informed the Court that the Appraisal District's budget has gone up and he is suggesting that the Court approve a Resolution to present to the Appraisal District Board to request them to calculate a new budget. Connie Williams further explained that all of the taxing entities are to pay a share of that budget and Upshur County's portion has increased considerably. She also informed the Court that they had questioned them regarding the reserve funds that are carried over but has not received an answer. There were also questions regarding vehicle allowances to the employees, addition of two employees, and the 5% salary increases to employees. Gene Dolle made a motion with a second by Mike Ashley that the Court request a meeting with himself, Judge Tefteller, Connie Williams, and another member of the Court, with Brandon Dodd, President of the Appraisal Board, and the Chief Appraiser, and any public member that might want to attend, to discuss and see if they can reconcile these matters regarding the Appraisal District's budget. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

11. Discuss and take action to set salaries of all elected County and Precinct Officers reflecting a \$1,200/year increase over the current salary level, with the exception of those elected County and Precinct Officers who currently receive increases under the S.B. 22 Salary Assistance Grant.

Gene Dolle made a motion to set salaries of all elected County and Precinct Officers reflecting a \$1,200/year increase over the current salary level, with the exception of those elected County and Precinct Officers who currently receive increases under the S.B. 22 Salary Assistance Grant. Dustin Nicholson and Jay W. Miller announced that they do not want their salary increase. Judge Tefteller noted on the record that he does not agree with Dustin Nicholson and Jay W. Miller giving up their raise as Upshur County elected officials are below the State standards in pay. Motion was seconded by Mike Ashley. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

12. Discuss and take action on the FY25 Proposed Budget.

Connie Williams informed the Court that there were still two departments that needed to be discussed. The travel expense for the Extension Office was discussed. Connie Williams suggested to the Court that when the District Attorney Investigator gets his new vehicle, that his current vehicle can be used by the Extension Office for local travel which would save the County on their local mileage reimbursement. Connie Williams suggested to set their fuel line item at \$600.00 and their maintenance line item at \$1,000.00. Gene Dolle made a motion that when the District Attorney Investigator gets his new vehicle in service, that his current vehicle be transferred to the Agriculture Extension Office for their use for their events in the County, and add \$600.00 for fuel and \$1,000.00 for maintenance. Jay W. Miller made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

Connie Williams informed the Court that Officer Akin had spoken with her regarding the DPS budget. He has requested, in addition to the \$1,200.00/year pay increase to his Office Assistant, he requested an additional \$1,200.00/year increase to her salary to be transferred from his supplies line item to her salary at no additional cost to the County. Gene Dolle made a motion with a second by Dustin Nicholson to approve the additional \$1,200.00/year pay increase to the Office Assistant to be moved from the current supplies line item budget to the salary line item for the Office Assistant. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

Before going into CLOSED SESSION, the Court recognized Terri Ross, Upshur County Clerk, as being nominated County Clerk of the Year by the County and District Clerk's Association as one of 8 out of 254 counties.

13. The Court will/may go into CLOSED SESSION under Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551 as indicated:

- E Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney(s));
- A,B,C Section 551.072 (deliberation regarding real property);
- A,B,C,E Section 551.0725 (deliberation and discussion of contracts being negotiated);
- Section 551.073 (deliberation about gifts and donations);
- D Section 551.074 and 551.0745 (personnel matters);
- Section 551.076 (deliberation about security audits or security devices).

TO WIT:

- A. Consideration of the Round XII Project administration in reference to the Courthouse Renovation.**
- B. Consideration of Round XII Renovation Funding and ARPA Grant requirements consistent therewith.**
- C. Discuss personnel appointments.**

The Court went into **CLOSED SESSION** at 11:26 a.m.
The Court went out of **CLOSED SESSION** at 12:12 p.m.

14. The Court will re-convene into open session and take any action necessary as a result of Executive Session.


The Court reconvened into **OPEN SESSION** at 12:15 p.m.

No action as a result of CLOSED SESSION.

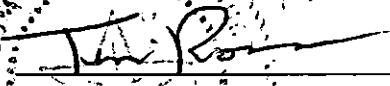
15. Adjourn.

Motion by Mike Ashley with a second by Gene Dolle to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.



ATTEST:



TERRI ROSS, UPSHUR COUNTY CLERK

Attendance sheet placed into minutes for recording purposes only.

Bills previously approved placed into minutes for recording purposes only.

Jury payroll placed into minutes for recording purposes only.