

**COMMISSIONERS COURT OF UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025
10:00 A.M. REGULAR SESSION**

A regular meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Upshur County, Texas was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 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
Absent: Jay W. Miller – Commissioner Pct. #4

Judge Tefteller called the regular meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

1. Invocation and Pledges

Prayer was led by Commissioner Dolle.

Pledges to the U.S. & Texas flags led by Commissioner 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; Proclamation in Honor of the Walnut Creek Baptist Church; and, applications for use of Upshur County roads and rights-of way and permit requests.**

Commissioner Nicholson made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dolle to approve items 3A-F. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.
(SEE ATTACHED)

7. Discuss and take action to approve a request from Jason Weeks, Constable Pct. 2 to use his County Patrol vehicle to assist with Kerr County flood recovery in a law enforcement capacity.

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to approve the request from Jason Weeks, Constable Pct. 2, to use his County Patrol vehicle to assist Kerr County flood recovery in a law enforcement capacity. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

4. Hear any updates and discuss and take necessary action concerning the Round XII Courthouse Grant Renovation.

Judge Leward LeFleur presented the Court with 5 change orders for approval regarding the sprinkler system, fire suppression system, etc. at an estimated cost savings of approximately \$70,600.00. Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to approve the 5 change orders as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

Judge Lefleur also advised the Court that they have decided to go with wood doors for the fifth floor of the courthouse and are awaiting approval from the Historical Commission. He also informed the Court that they have found a company who mass-produces chairs like those in the balcony of the courtroom which will be a cost savings to the County.

5. Discuss and take action to accept donations for Constables Pct. 1, 3 and 4 for the purchase of body cameras and other equipment.

David Thompson, Constable Pct. 4, presented a list of donors to the Court who have donated or pledged to donate for the purchase of body cameras and other equipment for the Constables Pct. 1, 3 and 4. Constable Thompson requested the Court to allow him to place the money in a donation bank account as the funds are received. Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Dolle to accept the donations as presented to the Court and allow the County to receive those funds and put them into the general fund of the County under the dedicated donation line item to be available for use by the Constables when needed. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

6. Discuss and take action to accept for recording the plat for Green Hills Phase 1 subdivision.

Motion by Commissioner Dolle with a second by Commissioner Nicholson to accept for recording the plat for Green Hills Phase 1 subdivision. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

8. Discuss and take action to approve the Interlocal Agreement for E9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point Services between ETCOG and Upshur County.

Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Dolle to approve the Interlocal Agreement for E9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point Services between ETCOG and Upshur County. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

9. Discuss and take action to approve an Interlocal Contract with ETCOG for County 9-1-1 Database Maintenance.

Judge Tefteller announced that this Contract is a 2 year contract effective September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2027 at a cost of \$4,956.56. Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Nicholson to approve the Interlocal Contract with ETCOG for County 9-1-1 Database Maintenance. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

10. Hear a presentation from John Gaston and Keith Starr on the benefits Upshur County citizens receive from the 211 System [Texas Information and Referral Network (TIRN)]. Discuss, consider and take action to contribute funds to the program.

John Gaston introduced himself to the Court. He advised the Court that he was the President of United Way of Smith County. He went on to say that they have a service that they provide known as the 211 referral information hotline. He further informed the Court that it is a State service funded by the State of Texas and serves 14 counties of which Upshur is one of them. He was hoping for an increase in funding from the State however the Bill funding 211 died in the Senate. Therefore, he is approaching all of the 14 counties and asking for monetary support. He explained the services that 211 provides as well as advising the Court that over the past 3 ½ years they have served over 3000 people in Upshur County. Commissioner Ashley made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dolle to contribute \$3,000.00 to the Texas Information and Referral Network (TIRN) from the FY26 budget. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

11. Discuss and take action to set salaries of all elected County and Precinct Officers to reflect an \$1,800/year increase over the current salary level, and provide the District Attorney a \$12,000 annual supplement.

Auditor Connie Williams announced that she has published the required posting for the elected County officials proposed salary increase. Motion by Commissioner Dolle with a second by Commissioner Ashley to set the salaries of all elected County officials and Precinct Officers at \$1,800/year increase over the current salary level and to provide the District Attorney a \$12,000 annual supplement. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

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

_____ Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney(s));

_____ Section 551.072 (deliberation regarding real property);

A,B,D Section 551.0725 (deliberation and discussion of contracts being negotiated);

_____ Section 551.073 (deliberation about gifts and donations);

 C 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. Consideration of personnel matters relative to the Upshur County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office.
- D. Consideration

The Court went into **CLOSED SESSION** at 10:48 a.m.

The Court reconvened into **OPEN SESSION** at 11:31 a.m.

- 14. The Court will re-convene into open session and take any action necessary as a result of Executive Session.
- 12. Discuss and possibly take action on the FY26 Proposed Budget.

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson to allow the Tax Assessor-Collector, Luana Howell, with the help of the Auditor, to eliminate a vacant position and to disburse the allocated funds of that position amongst her county employees for the FY26 budget. Commissioner Dolle made a second to the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

15. Adjourn.

Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Dolle to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:33

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.