

State of Texas	§	Court Order
Collin County	§	2023-827-09-11
Commissioners Court	§	

**An order of the Commissioners Court approving the filing of the August 14, 2023 minutes.**

On Monday, August 14, 2023, the Commissioners Court of Collin County, Texas, met in Regular Session in the Commissioners Courtroom, Jack Hatchell Collin County Administration Building, 4th Floor, 2300 Bloomdale Road, City of McKinney, Texas, with the following members present, and participating, to wit:

Judge Chris Hill

Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Precinct 1

Commissioner Cheryl Williams, Precinct 2

Commissioner Darrell Hale, Precinct 3

Commissioner Duncan Webb, Precinct 4

Commissioner Fletcher led the Invocation.

Judge Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Webb led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

Judge Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Commissioners Court at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

President Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Health Care Foundation at 2:13 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

**DECISIONS MANDATED BY LEGAL ENTITIES OUTSIDE OF COMMISSIONERS COURT AUTHORITY:**

1. AI-54454 Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

**FYI NOTIFICATION:**

1. AI-54461 Addendum No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 to Inmate Food Service Management (RFP No. 2022-368) to make various changes to the Request for Proposal, Purchasing.

**COMMISSIONERS COURT BUSINESS:**

### **Public comments related to an item on the Agenda.**

Joshua Murray, Lavon, said he came to support the animal shelter bond. Mr. Murray said all the bonds passed over the years have caused issues by not addressing infrastructure. Additionally, another issue is the County does not contest the implementing of new MUD's (Municipal Utility Districts). He asked the Court to draft an order allowing for MUD applications to be contestable. This will ensure TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) is aware the County does not have the infrastructure to support these new MUDs. In Lavon, when an animal like a cow is hit and dying on the road, the sheriff is called. However, they do not have the ability to euthanize the animals. Therefore, the local citizens have to step in to end the suffering of the animals. Since the County needs to develop its infrastructure to address these kinds of issues, Mr. Murray asked the Court to approve funding for the animal shelter.

James Widman, Frisco, came to talk about the expansion of the animal shelter. He and his wife met with the Mayor of Frisco a year ago regarding their concerns, and nothing has changed. Services need to expand as the population grows, and this includes the animal shelter. Mr. Widman said we are stewards of our animals whether they are working animals or pets. According to the American Veterinarian Association, one-third of all households have at least one pet. Mr. Widman encouraged the Court to approve the bond and let the voters decide on it just like all other infrastructure items.

Jessie Ringness, Frisco, said Collin County Animal Services, along with their volunteers and constituents who drop off donations of food, towels and toys are part of what makes this the best county to live in. Mr. Ringness asked the Court to support the animal shelter expansion bond. Residents are heartbroken at the sight of cages stacked on top of each other, and said the County can do better. He supports updating and expanding the shelter so we can continue to be a beacon of light and hope in North Texas.

Commissioner Fletcher thanked Mr. Ringness and all the other volunteers who brought fans to help when keeping the shelter cool for the animals during the crisis this summer. Mr. Ringness reciprocated by thanking Commissioner Fletcher for all she has done to help and answer concerns when they are raised.

Mary Wasserman, Plano, began by thanking Commissioners Williams, Fletcher, Webb, and Hale for voting in favor of adding the animal shelter project to the bond last week. Furthermore, she gave a special thanks to Commissioners Williams and Fletcher for all their support. She asked the Court to ensure this project be on the November ballot so all residents of the county can vote on it. Ms. Wasserman has fostered rescue dogs from the Collin County shelter and looks forward to the opportunity to vote for this bond. As the population continues to grow in the County, the problem of strays and abandoned animals will continue to increase as well. Although the expansion project does not solve every problem, it is a step in the right direction. Collin County does not want to become like other counties known for being killing machines. We can do better. At \$5.7 million for the animal shelter, it comes out to less than 1% of the total amount for projects proposed in the bond. There is an amortization chart which shows costs that will be

charged out to the participating cities. In closing, Ms. Wasserman stated there is a need to expand a nearly twenty-year-old shelter, and she encouraged the Court to move the bond forward.

William Blake, Plano, started by taking the opportunity to thank the Court for all the difficult work they do. He is a taxpayer from precinct 1, a member of the Lincoln Society, an economist and most assuredly a friend of the Court. Mr. Blake recognized the incredibly difficult task of the Court in balancing the needs of the County and being proactive in addressing possible issues. Mr. Blake pledged his support of the SO (Sheriff's Office). We are all proud of Sheriff Skinner as well as the hard work by the men and women under his command. Mr. Blake was pleased to receive the email from Judge Hill and read it thoroughly. As an economist, Mr. Blake pointed out not only is the County facing inflation and population growth, but we have also faced a material change to the nature of the population. There are two issues we are trying to contend with a rise in crime and the County becoming a target due to its prosperity. Mr. Blake said he is concerned with law enforcement's capacity to continue to expand. He asked the Court to consider strategic investments and give due consideration to some of the requests from the SO.

Sarah Hustwit, McKinney, came to advocate for the local animal shelter and the bond proposal to address some of the issues it is facing. Ms. Hustwit has been a volunteer for the shelter for over nine years. The shelter has been a crucial resource, but its capacity has been stretched to its limit due to population growth and increased demand for sheltering services. The expansion of the shelter is imperative to ensure the shelter staff are able to adequately care for these animals. Ms. Hustwit would like to comment on several components of the expansion. First, the additional kennel runs will provide animals with larger and healthier living spaces. She noted the recent images of the animals in stacks of crates could be worse because there are people being asked to wait on surrendering their animals. Crates are hard on the animals both mentally and physically, and it is difficult for the staff and volunteers caring for them. Additionally, treating the illnesses caught while in the stacked crates is time consuming and expensive. Adequate housing would contribute to their overall wellbeing as well as increase their chances of being adopted.

Also in the proposal is a clinic room that is surgery based to provide better medical care on site. This would reduce the need for outsourcing and ensuring timeline interventions. Ms. Hustwit said an on-site veterinarian and more vet techs are not included in the proposal, but it is something the shelter needs. They could not only do their own care but also do community outreach programs to keep animals out of the shelter. The proposal does include a cat quarantine room and sick base to enable the shelter to separate and address any medical needs of incoming animals promptly. Also proposed is an educational space for community engagement, vaccination clinics, volunteer training, workshops and wildlife rehab classes. Since there is a budget meeting after Court, Ms. Hustwit encouraged the Court to consider additional funds for an in-house veterinarian. (Time: 1:50 p.m.)

1. **Consent Agenda Items:** Judge Hill asked for comments on the consent agenda. Commissioner Webb pulled item 1c3, and Commissioner Hale pulled item 1f1 for discussion. With no further comments, a motion was made to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. (Time: 1:51 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Second by: Commissioner Duncan Webb

Vote: 5-0: Passed

a. AI-54427 Disbursements for the period ending August 8, 2023, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-687-08-14

b. AI-54428 Indigent Defense Disbursements, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-688-08-14

c. **Award(s):**

1. AI-54413 In-building Fiber Distributed Antenna System (Contract No. 2023-253) through DIR Cooperative Contract No. DIR-TSO-4101, Construction & Projects.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-689-08-14

2. AI-54374 Firearms, Ammunition, and Accessories (IFB No. 2023-218) to various vendors, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-690-08-14

3. AI-54443 Inmate Food Service Management (RFP No. 2022-368), Sheriff.

Commissioner Webb said he supports this item and only wanted to make sure the Court was aware it is a change in policy and it will include food for staff. The contract will save the County money. Commissioner Webb said it might increase staffing as well. With no further comments, a motion was made to approve. (Time 1:53 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb

Second by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Vote: 5-0: Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-691-08-14

d. **Agreement(s):**

1. AI-54422 Assessment Collection Services Agreement between the Collin County Tax Assessor-Collector and the City of Lavon for the Trails of Lavon Public Improvement District, Tax Assessor-Collector.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-692-08-14

2. AI-54424 Assessment Collection Services Agreement between the Collin County Tax Assessor-Collector and the City of Lowry Crossing for the Simpson Road Operations and Maintenance Public Improvement District, Tax Assessor-Collector.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-693-08-14

3. AI-54423 Assessment Collection Services Agreement between the Collin County Tax Assessor-Collector and the City of Lowry Crossing for the Simpson Road Public Improvement District, Tax Assessor-Collector.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-694-08-14

**e. Budget adjustment(s)/amendment(s):**

1. AI-54439 \$57,546.90 to move funds from a completed project to projects with negative balances, Engineering.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-695-08-14

2. AI-54430 \$75,000 to increase Maintenance & Operations to cover FY2023 expenses, Medical Examiner.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-696-08-14

**f. Miscellaneous:**

1. AI-54490 Proposed bond election and order calling a bond election to be held on November 7, 2023 within the County, making provisions for the conduct of the election and other provisions relating thereto, Administrative Services.

Commissioner Hale was looking for the proposition B and he wanted to ensure it was specified in the bond. However, after review Commissioner Hale withdrew his request for discussion and made a motion to approve this item as presented. (Time 1:45 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Second by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Vote: 5-0: Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-697-08-14

2. AI-54455 Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-698-08-14

3. AI-54456 Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-699-08-14

**2. General Discussion Items:**

a. AI-33858 Regional Transportation Council monthly update, Commissioner, Precinct 4.

Commissioner Williams reported on the discussion regarding the UTP (Unified Transportation Program) plan update, particularly on US 380 and US 399. Commissioner Williams and others on the council moved to pass the plan, but it did not pass the vote. TxDOT (Texas Department of Transportation) insisted they would not pull back on the planned changes to those roads. The main concern during the meeting was regarding written commitment. Commissioner Webb added he was on the phone with TxDOT and others trying to get a written commitment as the project has gone from \$2.5 billion to \$6 billion and is now projected to be \$8 billion. This is the largest non-tolled project in the Metroplex. Commissioner Webb has pushed for the commitment to ensure TxDOT will put enough money in UTP to make sure we are not slowed down during construction. The project was broken up into segments so they could be done concurrently which allows for more funding. He is working with the Commissioner of TxDOT and the Governor's office regarding the funding. Commissioner Williams said one of the adopted motions was to ask for the written commitment.

The only other item of interest is Amtrak will collaborate with Texas Central and bring back the high-speed rail from Dallas to Houston. This is a brand new attempt to bring this project back. Funding and efforts for the project are forthcoming. (Time: 1:58 p.m.)

NO ACTION

**3. Executive Session Items:** The Court did not recess into Executive Session.

**Public Comments not related to an item on the Agenda.**

Chuck Reynolds, Prosper, is extremely concerned about the election situation for Collin County and across the nation. After college, Mr. Reynolds worked for the Defense Industry with floppy disk drives in their computers. Over the years as computers have advanced, Mr. Reynolds was initially encouraged and motivated with the improvements computers brought with each advancement. However, he noticed in recent decades failures in their security. It is not a matter of if but when those with bad intentions will target Collin County. There are clear warning signs and we need to pay attention to them especially from computer experts who have found evidence of security issues. We are being advised by all experts to

change back to hand-counting ballots. Mr. Reynolds said, although it is sad to lose the efficiency of counting ballots by computer, it is worse to lose our freedom.

Barbara Lyke, Wylie, came to speak as a concerned resident of Collin County. As the County grows, crime such as drug trafficking, sexual crimes, child abduction, domestic crimes, and traffic crimes have increased which strains law enforcement. Ms. Lyke suggested having a substation where deputies could report for their duty shifts. Substations could help law officers get to those in need faster and cut down on travel time for transporting prisoners between jails. Constable Gary Edwards' office in Lavon is an ideal location for this substation. He gave Ms. Lyke a tour of the location and showed her the area which could be used for the substation which included ample parking. Although this would mean an increase in taxes, Ms. Lyke was told this would be a minimum rise in taxes. Those who have expressed support for this recommendation include: Sheriff James Skinner and Captain Chris Ware of the Collin County Sheriff's Office, Chief Anthony Henderson and Lieutenant Anthony Cotton of the City of Wylie Police Department, Chief Michael Jones of the City of Lavon Police Department, Chief Kirk Aldridge of the City of Royce City Police Department, Chief Marsha Phillis of Farmersville Police Department, Constable Gary Edwards of Collin County Precinct 2, Commissioner Cheryl Williams of Collin County Precinct 2, and Representative Candy Noble and Congressman Keith Self. She thanked the Court for presenting this recommendation for a substation.

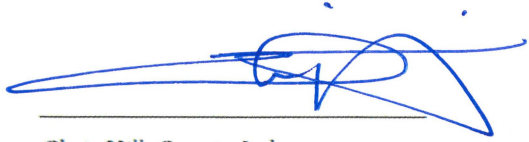
Mike Grilz, Prosper, stated Texas has recently joined several other states in severing contracts with the Electronic Registration Center (ERC). Although initially cheering the decision, Mr. Grilz said he and other are now wondering what would happen next. In researching the Secretary of States website, he found there was hardly any documentation on a plan going forward for any of the states. Mr. Grilze discovered only Alabama had a documented plan which included relying on change of address information from the United States Postal Service, use of DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) records, and accessing death records from the Department of Public Health. While ERC was conceptually a great solution, it came in the form of a black box with no access to source code and absolutely no information on what happens to registration data once it is submitted to the State. In fact, when a Gateway pundit visited the corporate headquarters for ERC, he found a vacant floor with no staff present. In Mr. Grilz opinion, the only thing ERC did well was process the entire center of registrations for the state. However, now we are relegated to grass-roots volunteers taking on the laborious task of identifying registrations who need to be removed and working with the elections office to get this done. Mr. Grilz stated information has already been presented to this Court regarding current voter rolls containing entries which are no longer valid. Mr. Grilz suggested the County and State look into ways to electronically validate the content of our voter registrations. Mr. Grilz offered a list of suggested way to identify these registrations such as an inordinate number of voters at a single address, registered voters at an apartment with no apartment number, identification of undeliverable addresses for registered voters, registrations that show up at vacant lots, warehouses, churches, banks, etc. and the identification of non-citizens. If the Court does not have information on a plan going forward after ERC, he said another budget item might need to be considered.

Todd Lindstrom, Frisco, commented on a budget item since he is unable to stay for the budget workshop. Over the July 4 weekend, Mr. Lindstrom watched the movie Sound of Freedom where it brought his attention to the dangers and realities of child abuse and trafficking. During the budget workshop, Sheriff Skinner will present requests for staffing in order for him to combat these types of crimes and others. Mr. Lindstrom asked the Court to consider the Sheriff's requests. Mr. Lindstrom said he is willing for his taxes to increase to ensure the Sheriff's Office has the staff they require. Trafficking of children cannot be tolerated in Collin County. Drug smuggling and distribution cannot be tolerated as well. Cartel gains must not be made in our community. Mr. Lindstrom asked the Court to fully fund the Sheriff's Office in the upcoming budget workshop.

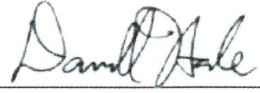
Debbie Lindstrom, McKinney, asked the Court to fully fund the Sheriff's Office. There is not one department more crucial to the character of our community than the Sheriff's Office. They are the unsung heroes. Ms. Lindstrom remembers a time children wanted to grow up to be police officers. However, today they are viewed as an enemy. Our deputies and officers are overworked and underappreciated. Their job has become increasingly more dangerous, and the criminals have become more violent. With population increases in Collin County and an open border with Mexico, the County faces rising risks of drug overdoses from fentanyl, sex trafficking and crime. Ms. Lindstrom said our Sheriff's Office is one of the best in the state, but they will not stay that way if we do not give them the money and staffing they need. Collin County is an affluent area, but our jail system is overcrowded. The Sheriff's Office needs more detention officers, deputies and crime investigators. Ms. Lindstrom noted the County has not added a new crime investigator position in 15 years. She attended last year's budget meeting where the Court turned down the Sheriff's request for 15 new deputies. The crisis at the border is getting worse every day, and we do not know who is coming across the border. She asked the Court what happens when those crossing the border act out in our community and the Sheriff's Office does not have staffing to address it. Ms. Lindstrom said she cares more for safety in her community than potholes and does not mind paying extra taxes to fund the Sheriff's Office. Citizens want more funding for the Sheriff's Office. Ms. Lindstrom closed by thanking Sheriff Skinner for all he has done for Collin County. Both he and his whole department are truly appreciated.

With no further business of the Court, Judge Hill adjourned the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

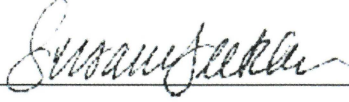




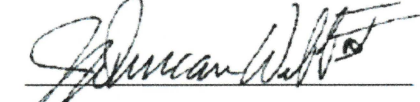
Chris Hill, County Judge



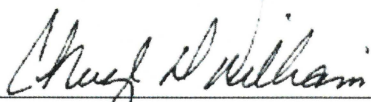
Darrell Hale, Commissioner, Pct 3



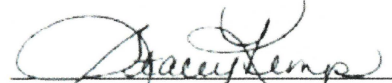
Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct 1



Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct 4



Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct 2



ATTEST: Stacey Kemp, County Clerk