

State of Texas	§	Court Order
Collin County	§	2023-1022-10-09
Commissioners Court	§	

An order of the Commissioners Court approving the filing of the September 18, 2023 minutes.

On Monday, September 18, 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 Darrell Hale, Precinct 3
Commissioner Duncan Webb, Precinct 4

Absent: Commissioner Cheryl Williams, Precinct 2

Commissioner Webb led the Invocation.
Commissioner Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Commissioner Williams 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 2:31 p.m.

President Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Health Care Foundation at 2:31 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

DECISIONS MANDATED BY LEGAL ENTITIES OUTSIDE OF COMMISSIONERS COURT AUTHORITY:

1. AI-54685 Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.
2. AI-54686 Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

FYI NOTIFICATION:

1. AI-54661 Intra-County account transfers transmitted August 31, 2023, Auditor.

2. AI-54662 Addendum No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, and No. 5 to Standby Generators Preventative Maintenance Equipment Parts & Repairs (IFB No. 2023-192) to make various changes to the Invitation For Bid, Purchasing.

3. **Notification of budget adjustment(s)/amendment(s):**

a. AI-54548 \$36,456 to establish the match budget for the FY2024 Community Mental Health Program Grant, Auditor.

COMMISSIONERS COURT BUSINESS:

Public comments related to an item on the Agenda.

1. **Consent Agenda Items:** Judge Hill asked for comments on the consent agenda. Commissioner Webb pulled item 1e1 for discussion and Commissioner Hale pulled item 1k10 for comment. With no further comments, a motion was made to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. (Time: 1:32 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Second by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Vote: 4-0: Passed

Commissioner Webb requested some time before discussing item 1e1. Judge Hill moved the discussion to item 1k10.

a. AI-54655 Disbursements for the period ending September 12, 2023, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-843-09-18

b. AI-54656 Indigent Defense Disbursements, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-844-09-18

c. AI-54659 Tax refunds totaling \$72,902.20, Tax Assessor-Collector.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-845-09-18

d. **Award(s):**

1. AI-54658 Standby Generator Preventive Maintenance and Equipment Parts & Repairs (Contract No. 2023-192) to various vendors, Facilities.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-846-09-18

2. AI-54657 ESRI ArcGIS Software Maintenance (Quote No. 2023-366) to Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., Information Technology.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-847-09-18

e. Agreement(s):

1. AI-54647 Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the Collin County Sheriff's Office and the Community Supervision and Corrections Department for the SCORE/VALOR programs, Adult Probation.

At 1:33 p.m., Commissioner Webb stated he is supportive of this item. However, he expressed concerns regarding one of the two caps under Article 2.1 for compensation. The first cap states, "the department shall pay the sum not to exceed \$29,541.01 per month". The County is running into problems with the monthly cap because during two months out of the year, there are three checks which means the County is not being reimbursed from the grant for those checks. Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve this item with the stipulation of removing the statement regarding the monthly cap and only retain the information regarding the annual cap. Judge Hill confirmed with Purchasing and the Auditor's Office this change was acceptable. (Time: 1:35 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb

Second by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Vote: 4-0: Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-848-09-18

f. Amendment(s):

1. AI-54652 No. 4 to Interlocal Agreement for Fire Inspection and Fire Plan Review (Contract No. 2019-376) with the Town of New Hope to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2024, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Fire Marshal.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-849-09-18

2. AI-54648 No. 5 to Video Visitation System (Contract No. 2014-259) with Global Tel Link Corporation (GTL) d/b/a ViaPath Technologies to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2024, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Information Technology.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-850-09-18

3. AI-54625 No. 6 to Professional Services, Architectural, Adult Detention Center Expansion, Phase 2 & 3 (Contract No. 2021-353) with Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects, Inc. to add repackaging, rebidding and estimating the cost of the Adult Detention Center Phase 2 Medical and Mental Health Addition, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Construction & Projects.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-851-09-18

g. Contract Renewal(s):

1. AI-54649 Software Maintenance for Tax Collection Software (Contract No. 2014-271) with SpindleMedia, Inc. to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2024, Information Technology.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-852-09-18

h. Budget adjustment(s)/amendment(s):

1. AI-54640 \$31,544 for supplemental salary for various positions within the District Attorney's office, District Attorney.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-853-09-18

i. Receive and File, Auditor:

1. AI-54633 Monthly financial reports for July 2023.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-854-09-18

j. Filing of the Minute(s), County Clerk:

1. AI-54650 August 21, 2023.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-855-09-18

2. AI-54674 August 28, 2023.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-856-09-18

k. Miscellaneous:

1. AI-54671 Appoint Ashley McSwain as magistrate pursuant to Sec. 54.2201 of the Texas Government Code, Administrative Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-857-09-18

2. AI-54672 Appoint Grant Brenna as magistrate pursuant to Sec. 54.2201 of the Texas Government Code, Administrative Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-858-09-18

3. AI-54665 Acceptance of a PetSmart gift card in the amount of \$1.42, Development Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-859-09-18

4. AI-54641 Accept the roads within Cope Addition 2 for county maintenance, Engineering.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-860-09-18

5. AI-54632 Establish one (1) cash drawer in the amount of \$200 for EnerGov in the Fire Marshal's Office, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-861-09-18

6. AI-54583 Redesignation of the east-west part of County Road 9 as WJ Fred Smith Parkway with associated address updates, GIS/Rural Addressing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-862-09-18

7. AI-54681 Rescind Court Order No. 2014-739-10-06, and designate Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. as the sole source provider for software maintenance for ArcGIS, and grant an exemption from the competitive bid process per Texas Local Government Code 262.024(7)(a), Purchasing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-863-09-18

8. AI-54587 Acceptance of the FY2023 Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$19,073, and Exhibit "A" Interlocal Agreement and Exhibit "B" Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Plano, City of McKinney, City of Frisco and the Sheriff's Office for disbursement of the grant award, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-864-09-18

9. AI-54687 Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-865-09-18

10. AI-54688 Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

Commissioner Hale congratulated Gilbert Rodriguez on his transfer and promotion within the County. With no further comments, a motion was made to approve the item as presented. (Time: 1:33 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Second by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Vote: 4-0: Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-866-09-18

Judge Hill moved the discussion to item 1e1.

2. **General Discussion Items:**

Presentation, discussion and any action regarding:

a. AI-54780 Texas Fusion Center grant funding, County Judge.

Judge Hill stated Collin County operates one of only a few fusion centers in the state which aids the Sheriff's Office (SO) in gathering intel for crime fighting. The County receives funds from the state for this center. Additionally, the County has a policy of not continuing grant funded positions when the grant terminates. Usually for this particular grant, the funding is usually late in providing funds. Sheriff Skinner brought this to the Court's attention for discussion.

James Skinner, Sheriff's Office, said this is a problem which seems to be delayed longer each year in providing funds. The grants are first distributed to the Office of the Governor, who then sends them to the COG (Council of Governments). In turn, the COG distributes to the offices needing the funds. This grant funds four SO positions: two research analysts, one research specialist and one crime-victim assistance coordinator. The grant for these positions expires on Saturday, September 30, 2023. Due to the current County policy, these grant-funded positions will be terminated. Sheriff Skinner has been working with budget and other departments to find a solution. He recommended the Court to move the grant to the calendar year. Although Collin County has been ahead of the schedule in preparing and submitting renewal of the grant, funding from the federal level is still being delayed. The fed government has approved the grant funds and they are happy to extend the grant cycle to avoid the immediate problem. Sheriff Skinner requested Monika from Budget present the temporary solution for these positions while awaiting the grant funds.

Monika Arrias, Budget, said the proposed solution for this issue is to take four vacant positions in the SO, elevate them to the same level as the grant funded positions with the same title and roles, and then transfer those people from grant funded to the SO vacant positions temporarily. These people would be moved back to the grant funded positions once funding comes through. The SO positions would also be moved back to their original level. The County will be able to recoup the money from the grant for the money spent from the County budget on these positions. This is a potential issue for other grants throughout the County. The Court agreed this might require additional discussion on how to handle those other grant-funding issues. There was some discussion regarding requesting the federal government to extend the funds for this grant by three months. Ms. Arrias said the Budget Department has been working on changing the timing of the grant so it does not hit right in the middle of the County's fiscal year. This will require discussions with the federal government to make this change as well as adjust for the gap problem. It would be better to move grants to January 1.

Concerns were raised regarding temporarily moving grant-funded positions to vacant County positions. Some of these grants might end up being fully terminated. Ms. Arrias said it would then become an issue for HR (Human Resources) as the County might need a policy put in place regarding terminating if the change in the funding source would bust the County budget. Judge Hill asked for Ms. Arrias' recommendation on how to handle this situation for other grants. Ms. Arrias said it would need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Fletcher asked if the temporary changes to these positions would cause defunding of the Sheriff's Office. Ms. Arrias said no, it would not cause any defunding since there is movement available.

Judge Hill asked for clarification regarding the HR concerns Ms. Arrias mentioned earlier. Ms. Arrias said she would need to discuss with HR the details regarding legal implications of moving grant-funded to County positions, the explanation of termination since it would change if the positions were transferred, etc. Additionally, Ms. Arrias would need to sit down with HR and the Auditor's Office to discuss the best plan going forward. She will work with them on developing a document for the Court to review and consider. However, it will not be ready by the next Commissioners Court. Judge Hill asked Mr. Bilyeu for advice on this situation.

Bill Bilyeu, County Administrator, said to treat this current situation as a one-off and have the Court address the re-writing of the County policy at another time. Although there are many grants throughout the County which are unpredictable regarding if funding will be renewed, the grant for the fusion center is different. Historically the fusion center grant does renew, although it has been regularly late in providing funding. The document to be developed by Budget, Human Resources and Auditor's Office would be an overall policy regarding all grants. Mr. Bilyeu recommended the Court approve the temporary transfer of the fusion center grant-funded positions into the detention positions for a period of sixty days, retaining their titles in the SO positions and maintaining their salaries. Commissioner Webb added the condition

once the grant is fully approved and funded, the staff are to revert back to their grant-funded positions and funds paid by the County are to be recouped. Judge Hill requested all these details be captured in the court order that the Court would adopt. Ms. Arris will work with the Court Order Team regarding the write up for this order.

The Court discussed concerns related to changing of the policy and other possible ways to address funding as well as the risks related to unpredictable grants. Additionally, an addendum was suggested regarding reimbursable grants would be included on the agenda and non-reimbursable grants would not. However, due to there not being a consensus, the Court was unable to make a determination regarding the policy at this time.

A motion was made to approve the proposal presented for this item.

Sheriff Skinner commented the Office of the Governor might send over additional funds over the next ninety days. Additionally, the proposed temporary solution is certainly a great stop-gap as the fusion center is needed. (Time: 2:07 p.m.)

Motion: Commissioner Duncan Webb

Second: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Vote: 4-0: Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2023-867-09-18

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

Commissioner Webb provided the monthly update from last Thursday's RTC (Regional Transportation Council) meeting. One of the highlights from the meeting was the approval of the Metropolitan Transportation Bundle Policy Round 5. This awards transportation development credits to various cities if they adopt more than 50% of the RTC policies. Frisco, McKinney and Plano each received the maximum of 2 million credits. Richardson received 1 million credits. These credits can be used as a match for federal projects. The RTC also approved the submission for federal funding to reconnect communities and neighborhood programs. This included the McKinney State Highway which is a \$30 million project. Another item of interest is RTC received a letter from the mayors of Fort Worth, Dallas, Plano and all major transit systems including DART (Dallas Rapid Transit), Tarrant County and Denton County. They requested RTC hire an independent consultant to review all three transit systems to see how they interact and determine if there is a better way to integrate them into one big system and what that structure would look like. This is an action item for next month. The study could take a year to one and a half years and could lead to major changes such as legislative actions. The stipulation on the consultant is they have no ties to the DFW area to ensure it is completely independent. The RTC is preparing for a major restructuring of the system, especially to find the best way to provide transit to those communities which

currently do not have a transit system in place. The RTC received an update on electric vehicles (EV's) in the State. Texas in one year had a 56% increase in electric vehicle registrations. DFW had a 63% increase in electric vehicles registrations which is largest in the state. Collin County saw an increase of 76% in electric vehicle registrations in one year which is the highest of any county in the state. However, Commissioner Webb was concerned to learn Collin County is behind in building charging stations. Currently, there are only thirteen level three, fast charging stations in the entire County. Fast chargers can charge an electric vehicle in five to ten minutes instead of hours like with other chargers. Federal legislation related to EV's is in the process of setting up grants for installing fast chargers along all interstates. However, Collin County does not have any interstates, only corridors. Commissioner Webb is working to find ways to get funding to install DC fast chargers along US 75, US 380 and toll roads in Collin County. Lastly, RTC received the Transportation Safety Performance Report on 2021 to 2022. In one year, Collin County's number of crashes went up by 11.63% and fatalities increased by 51%. Most of the fatalities occurred along US 75, US 380 and Preston Road. Therefore, this is an issue the County needs to focus their attention. All other major counties had a decrease in fatalities in the same timeframe. Commissioner Webb will present a more detailed report to the Court on the crashes and fatalities at the next monthly report on RTC. (Time: 2:15 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.

Judy Dishong, Plano, came to speak regarding the idea of paper ballots and the demand to scrap current machines and processes, even though Collin County was recognized as the gold standard from the recent election audit. There seems to be a problem during election cycles, where the suggestion of fraud is used to scare and convince people there are issues with a given election. Once people are convinced, it is very difficult to change their mind. Almost every day there are politicians talking about rigged elections and fraud causing a lot of division, time and money. Ms. Dishong has experience working in elections with paper ballots. She remembered the issue of the hanging chads in Florida and the adage in reference to Chicago regarding how easy it is to stuff the ballot boxes with paper ballots. Since there has been discussions around setting up a commission on election integrity, Ms. Dishong requested the panel have diversity in terms of political stance and opinions. Additionally, she asked to work with Commissioner Webb regarding the accidents report to share her experience with being rear-ended. She has some ideas on the root causes of these accidents as well as some positive ideas on how to alleviate the issue.

Jan Gori, Frisco, is a volunteer for CDF (Citizens Defending Freedom) to pursue election integrity for Collin County and Texas. Ms. Gori has attended several Commissioners Court meetings and found the Court to be good listeners. For her part, Ms. Gori has block walked, door knocked, clerked, poll watched, poll reader, DVR, surveyed and served as Secretary on the Board of North Texas Conservators. As the

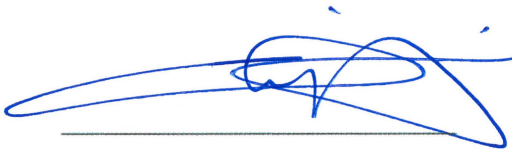
2024 presidential election is closing in and Collin County must be prepared to ensure votes are counted as cast. Ms. Gori believes Collin County has a low level of voting issues. However, it is well known there are people who want to change the political direction of Texas and especially Collin County. We need this Court to be proactive in keeping Collin County intact. Additionally, our local and state GOP must not be reactive as this is why there are so many arising issues. Our state legislature is ignoring election integrity, giving the Court a path to do the same. Ms. Gori recognized the Court agreed to make a few minor changes to what CDF presented. However, those minor changes will not prevent or deter voting issues. Voters want assurance and transparency regarding their vote being counted as cast. This means no machines and a sound government that is proactive for the people. Ms. Gori said the time is of the essence to get rid of the machines and go back to paper ballots.

Margie McAllister, McKinney, came to speak for the first time after attending Court for the past year. Ms. McAllister said she felt the court has not taken election integrity seriously. For a long time she witnessed many people beg the Court to put election integrity on the agenda. She could not understand why elected officials would not listen to citizen's concerns and requests to make changes. Ms. McAllister thanked the Court for finally adding election integrity to the agenda after a long time of no action. During the discussion, forty people provided comments on election integrity and the gallery was completely filled. Although the court discussed the seventeen points provided by the CDF and agreed some of them should be done, there still seems to be very little progress. It is important to establish timelines for delivery and share it with the public. Ms. McAllister was concerned with the fact election integrity was not on this week's agenda as it appeared CDF's efforts have been pushed aside. This issue will not go away. Citizens of Collin County have serious concerns about election integrity. Until positive, sustained actions are taken, the subject will not be closed. Ms. McAllister requested election integrity remain on the agenda until all the seventeen points have been cleared. Perhaps this would be best done on a committee which reports to the Court.

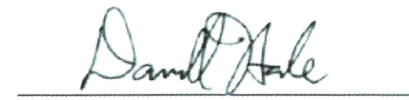
Chuck Reynolds, Celina, first thanked the Court for having election integrity on the agenda three weeks ago. He believed the feedback from the citizens was incredible. Mr. Reynolds recognized the Court has a major responsibility and challenge regarding this issue. Since November 2020, Mr. Reynolds has witnessed an assault on election integrity. There is evidence of a lack of security and issues with voter registration rolls, mail-in ballots, and electronics. Simultaneously, there was an extensive censorship of election truths and widespread implementation of mistruths. This is a very serious violation of the Constitution. All Americans should be on alert to protect our freedoms. Our states and nation are being taken over by non-secure elections. Therefore, this is a time to defend our county. If citizens cannot verify the information on their electronic ballots, then the process is not secure. In April 2022, at the executive meeting for Collin County Precinct chairs, a resolution was passed to eliminate election electronics. Three weeks ago when election integrity was discussed in Court, it was unanimously agreed that we couldn't trust the electronics. Although this is a big ask to remove these machines, it is necessary. These changes requested by the citizens are not small.

Joshua Murray, Lavon, came to speak on planning for the future and taking into consideration comments provided today regarding asks and wants. Mr. Murray said there is a recurring issue from all of these requests, which is the County's lack of personnel, funding and planning. He said it is evident the County needs to use a fake reserve account funded by open and vacant positions within the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Murray said the County has \$683 million in bonds for citizens to approve. Additionally, the County has approved ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) bonds to fund infrastructure. However, Mr. Murray noticed there were lines outside the Tax Assessor and County Clerk's offices today. Additionally, he noted there are inadequate conditions at the County Animal Shelter and unmaintained roads for MUDs (Municipal Utility Districts) and special districts. Reaction times for public safety in the eastern portion of the County is not quick enough. Until recently, the Court has not acknowledged these issues. Mr. Murray said this is because the Commissioners were hoping with their own selfish desires that these would not come up during their careers. He said it is time to pay the bill and be honest with the people. Additionally, Mr. Murray stated voting to spend money but not to fund the infrastructure is lying to the people. He asked the Court to put together a plan for the next five to seven years to actively man the infrastructure and how to fund the County.

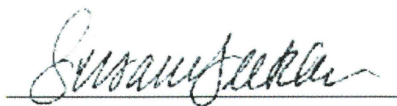
With no further business of the Court, Judge Hill adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.



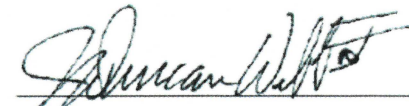
Chris Hill, County Judge



Darrell Hale, Commissioner, Pct 3



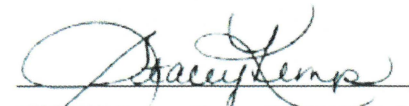
Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct 1



Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct 4



Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct 2



ATTEST: Stacey Kemp, County Clerk