

JULY 28, 2025

The Wheeler County Commissioners court met on the above date at 9:00 AM to provide a Public Hearing concerning the creation of the Wheeler County Emergency Services District No. 1.

Those attending the hearing were: Judge McDowell, Commissioner Jackie Don May Jr-Pct #1; Commissioner Phillip Gaines-Commissioner Pct #2; Cecil W Gaither Sr-Commissioner Pct #3; John Walker-Commissioner Pct #4; Margaret Dorman-County Clerk/Clerk of the Court; Larry Gatlin-IT Director; Cindy Brown-Tax Collector; Sherri Jones-District Clerk; Annette Walden-HR Director; Rick Walden-KP #2; Lieslie Timmons-County Attorney; Natalie Thomas-JP #1; Jeff Shortnacy-Constable #2; Tyler Kincaid & Carrie Gaines-SO/Jail Department; Marla Ford, Robert Ford, Ann Fagan Cook, Barry Sanders, Karla Benson, Taire Knight, Mark Trostle, Brenda Sparlin, Janie VanZandt, Chuck Robertson, Jace Henderson, Michael Mendoza, Louis Stas, Kimberly Morgan, Suzanne Lohberger, Ada Lester, Misty Copeland, Ann Graham, Roger Pace, Rhonda Gallagher.

Several attendees offer their comments, both Pro and Con.

Judge McDowell Closed the Public Meeting at 9:18, after asking if anyone wanted to make further comments.

At 9:30 the Commissioners Court met in Regular session with the above in attendance. Judge McDowell called the meeting to order and then Commissioner May Jr offered the opening prayer.

CECIL W GAITHER SR-Appointment to fill Unexpired Term-Commissioner Pct #3

Judge McDowell introduced Cecil W Gaither Sr as his appointed Commissioner of Precinct No. 3, effective July 18, 2025. No action needed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Trostle addressed the Court concerning: Website lateness, Claim Report, draft of expenditures prior to approval by court and his suggestions to accomplish his suggestions. He also commented on the Emergency Services District.

ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY FEE REPORTS

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to approve the County Treasurers Claim report covering their period of July 15, 2025 through July 23, 2025 and totaling \$211,627.69. Motion carried unanimously.

COMPENSATORY TIME BALANCES APPROVED

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to approve the compensatory time balances for the period ending July 26, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

No action needed.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

No action needed.

BUDGET LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve the below listed line item transfers:

TREAS -\$ 700.00 from Conf & training Staff to Conf Training official
SO -\$ 622.00 from Equipment purchase to Dues & Publications
JAIL -\$15,000.00 from Prisoner medical to Jail Bldg expense
TAC -\$ 500.00 from out of state service fee to Supplies
EXTENSION-\$ 550.00 from Supplies to Travel & conf & training staff
JP #2 -\$ 1,500.00 from Wages employees to Over Time
Cons #1 -\$ 120.00 from Supplies to Telephone
Auditor -\$ 810.00 from Supplies to Conf Training official
Cons #2 -\$ 120.00 from Equipment purchase to telephone
NonDept -\$10,000.00 from Indigent defense district to Indigent defense unindicted

Motion carried unanimously.

BURN BAN

No action taken.

JUDGES REPORT

Judge McDowell shared the following information with the Court: Pct #4 removed broken limbs at courthouse with their bucket truck, County Treasurer Renee Warren received an County Investment Academy Award, County Court had a large criminal docket call on July 17th, hospital district and Interlocal Agreements will be discussed at the August 25th court meeting, sealed bid on lot east of Wheeler Ambulance Barn will need to be readvertised, TxDot meeting on July 15th revealed that the Route 66 historic bridge and pavement of both directions from Sharmock will be repaired and/or replaced in the next 9-10 years.

No action needed.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Commissioner May Jr reminded the court that the 100th anniversary of the County will be next year.

No action needed.

ORDER CALLING SPECIAL NOVEMBER 4, 2025 SPECIAL ELECTION-Emergency Services District No. 1

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to Order the Special Election for creation of Emergency Service District No. 1 for November 4, 2025. Motion carried unanimously. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER CALLING SPECIAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 4, 2025-Constitutional Amendment

Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to Order a Special Election for November 4, 2025 for the Constitutional Amendment election. Motion carried unanimously.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE RENEWED-1 year-\$3,122.00

Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to renew the Interlocal Agreement for Public Defender services for Capital Murder trials. The Wheeler County fee will be \$3,122.00. Effective date will be October 1, 2025 and expiring September 30, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

SO-CADEN WALDEN REMOVED FROM PAYROLL, effective July 15, 2025

At the request of Sheriff Reeves, John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to remove Caden Walden from the payroll, effective July 15, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

TAX-MARY CRUZ ROCHA ADDED TO PAYROLL, effective August 1, 2025-\$19.87 hourly

At the request of Cindy Brown, Tax Collector, Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to add Mary Cruz Rocha to the payroll, effective August 1, 2025 with an hourly rate of \$19.87 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.

JUDGE-PAUPER BURIALS AND CREMATION-POLICY CHANGE

Chuck Robertson-Robertson Funeral Home owner, met with the Court to discuss making a change to the current policy concerning Indigent Burials/Cremations. He requested that the policy only contain a provision for cremation services. After discussion, Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to change the Wheeler County Policy concerning indigent burials/cremations to Cremations only, and pay no more than \$1,000.00 per occurrence, effective July 28, 2025. Motion carried unanimously

JUDGE-NEW PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE POSTINGS-three business days-2:00 pm on Tuesday prior to Monday court meetings

In response to a newly created law, Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to approve setting 2:00 PM on the Tuesday prior to each Monday Commissioners Court meeting as the deadline to submit agenda requests to the County Judge Court Coordinator in order for the agenda to be posted by 5:00 pm on the Tuesday prior to Monday court meetings. The effective date will be September 1, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

WHEELER COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMITTEE-Distinguished Service Award-2024

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to recognize the Wheeler County Historical Committee and for their work receiving the 2024 Distinguished Service Award. Motion carried unanimously.

TAC-Tax Deed Approved-Lots 1 & 2, Block 32, Shamrock- \$1,500.00

At the request of Cindy Brown, Tax Collector, Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to accept the \$1,500.00 purchase for Lots 1 & 2, Block 32, Shamrock by Michelle Doebele and execute the Tax Deed conveying the Deed to her. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDITOR-JP #2-AT&T DECOMMISSIONING COPPER SERVICES-OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Larry Gatlin, IT Director, met with the Court to offer additional information about options for service at the JP office. After discussion, Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to discontinue service with AT&T and seek information from FiberLight, effective July 28, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDITOR-PROPOSED SALARY, EXPENSES & OTHER ALLOWANCES-2026 Fiscal year

Nichole Mock, County Auditor, presented proposed fiscal year 2026 salary, expenses & other allowance spread sheet according to LGC Section 152.013(B) for all elected & appointed officials and employees of Wheeler County. Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to propose \$3,000.00 for all employees and officials. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to pay the bills as approved. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING-10:35 AM

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

_____, Margaret Dorman, County Clerk

Pat McDowell, County Judge

APPROVED: _____