

AUGUST 25, 2025

The Wheeler County Commissioners Court met in Regular Session on the above date at 9:00 AM to consider the below listed agenda items. Member present were: Judge McDowell, Commissioners May Jr, Gaines, Gaither Sr and Walker-Commissioners Precincts 1,2, 3 & 4, respectively. Also present were: Margaret Dorman-Clerk of the Court; Nichole Mock-County Auditor; Cindy Brown-Tax Collector; Sherri Jones-District Clerk; Natalie Thomas-JP #1; Rick Walden-JP #2; Renee Warren-County Treasurer; Tim Reeves, Tyler Kincaid, Carrie Gaines,Angela Jolly-Sheriff and Department; Brenda Sparlin; Barry Sanders; Paul Burke; Taire Knight; Chalone Hefley and Matt Ferguson.

Court was called to order by Judge McDowell and thenJackie Don May Jr offered the opening prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None were offered

BUDGET HEARING-9:01 AM
Judge McDowell opened the budget hearing at 9:01 am. No Comments were offered. The hearing was closed at 9:02AM

TAX HEARING-9:03
Judge McDowell opened the tax rate hearing at 9:03 am. No comments were offered. The hearing was closed at 9:04 AM.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FEE REPORTS
Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded Phillip Gaines to approve the County Treasurer claim report for the period of August 12, 2025 through August 20, 2025 and totaling \$318,725.78. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF COMPENSATORY TIME BALANCES
John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Cecil Gaither Sr to approve the compensatory time balances as submitted by the County Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS
Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve the following budget amendments:
SO-\$4,242.00 LEOSE funds to Conference/training
Constable 2 -\$1,028.00 LEOSE funds to Conference/training
SO-\$55,400.00 LEOSE funds to vehicle purchase
Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFERS
No action needed

BUDGET LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to approve the following budget line item transfers:

SO ASSET FORFEITURE	-\$20,000.00 from Equip purchase
	-\$10,000.00 from Buy Money
	-\$ 6,000.00 from K9
	-\$12,009.00 from Supplies
	-\$ 1,125.00 to Travel/transport
	-\$12,693.00 to Computer expense
	-\$ 690.00 to Conf Training official
	-\$ 7,358.00 to Uniforms
	-\$18,974.00 to Vehicle Expense
	-\$ 7,169.00 to Ammunition & Weapon exp
SO	-\$ 8,988.00 from Fuel Expense
	-\$ 1,196.00 from Wages Emp to PT wages custodial
	-\$ 6,000.00 to vehicle expense
	-\$ 2,288.00 to telephone
	-\$ 700.00 to travel/transport
TAX Assessor	-\$ 443.00 from Bond premium to supplies
Dist Clerk	-\$ 7,320.00 from Wages part time to Wages employees
Extension	-\$ 1,500.00 from utilities-AgriLife to Conf & Training staff & vehicle expense
Bldg/Main	-\$50,000.00 from Courthouse Bldg Exp to Capital Expense
	-\$ 800.00 from Weigh Station to Main Bldg Utilities
IT	-\$ 1,350.00 from Equipment purchase
	-\$ 425.00 from Conf Training Staff
	-\$ 100.00 to Supplies
	-\$ 175.00 to Dues & Publications
	-\$ 1,150.00 to Computer Hardware
Non Depart.	-\$23,750.00 from Contingency Line Item
	-\$20,000.00 to Indigent Def-Unindicted
	-\$ 3,750.00 to Attorney Ad Litem
R&B 4	-\$ 3,500.00 from Utilites
	-\$ 6,500.00 from Supplies
	-\$ 2,500.00 from Warehouse exp
	-\$12,500.00 to Road Materials
CC Rec Management	-\$ 4,492.00 from storage fees to computer expense
SO	-\$ 3,500.00 from RLEG employes to RLEG-PT

Motion carried unanimously.

BURN BAN

No action taken

JUDGES REPORT

Judge McDowell mentioned briefly the new election law changes and their effect on small counties. Discussion will be offered by Margaret Dorman-County Clerk at a later date. He also mentioned there a few dying trees on the CH lawn and a solution will have to be reached concerning them.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

None presented

PCT 1-SHOW BARN CONCRETE FLOOR PROPOSAL-\$49,916.20 for 8,051 square feet

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Cecil Gaither Sr to approve adding 8,051 square feet of concrete to the Ag Show Barn in Wheeler with a cost of \$49,916.20, with the work being done by Alejandra Rubi Loera and Victor Loera. The proposal includes removal and disposal of existing posts and other materials. Motion carried unanimously.

JAIL-PROPOSAL ACCEPTED FOR LOCK SYSTEM UPGRADE-Fiscal year 2026 purchase

Proposals were received from: Montgomery Technology Systems LLC-\$152,400.00; Sustainable Security Solutions-\$217,787.00 and Sydaptic Inc-\$182,008.75. After discussion, Cecil Gaither Sr made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to accept the proposal from Sydaptic due to its overall features. Motion carried unanimously.

SO-AUSTIN JOHNSON CHANGED FROM PART TIME TO FULL TIME JAILER/DISPATCHER, effective September 1, 2025-\$20.43 hourly

At the request of Sheriff Reeves, Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to change Austin Johnson from a part time jailer/dispatcher to a full time jailer/dispatcher, effective September 1, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

SO-PITNEY BOWES UPDATED TERMS APPROVED, effective September 15, 2025

At the request of Sheriff Reeves, Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to approve the updated terms for the Pitney Bowes postage meter of the Sheriff Department. Motion carried unanimously.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT-SOUTH WHEELER COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT TERMINATED-effective September 30, 2025

Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to terminate the Interlocal Agreement between Wheeler County and the South Wheeler County Hospital District effective September 30, 2025 but continue to provide dispatch and 911 support for the ambulance service. Motion carried unanimously.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH NORTH WHEELER COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT TERMINATED-effective September 30, 2025

Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to terminate the Interlocal Agreement between Wheeler County and the North Wheeler County Hospital District effective September 30, 2025 but continue to provide dispatch and 911 support for the ambulance service. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDITOR-US BANK PURCHASING CARD CONTRACT CHANGE FROM 946-M2 to 946-M4 CHARGE CARDS

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to approve the change to be made by US Bank for purchasing cards. Motion carried unanimously.

TAX-BID FROM ROBERT HOLDEN FOR 3 LOTS IN LELA APPROVED-\$1,000.00

At the suggestion of Cindy Brown, Tax Collector, Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to accept the bid from Robert Holden for the purchase of Lots 10-12, Block J, Lela, Texas in the amount of \$1,000.00. Voting FOR-Commissioners May Jr, Gaines & Walker & Judge McDowell. ABSTAINING-Commissioner Gaither Sr. Motion carried.

SALARY SCHEDULE FOR 2026 APPROVED

After discussion among the Elected Officials, employees and people from the public sector, the following consideration and actions were taken:

- 1) Fund 31-Asset Forfeiture: Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to approve this fund. Voting FOR: Commissioners May Jr, Gaither Sr and Walker & Judge McDowell. Commissioner Gaines Abstained. Motion carried.
- 2) Fund 4-Pre-trial Diversion: Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Cecil Gaither Sr to approve this fund. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Fund 35-RLEG Jail Admin: Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to approve this fund. Voting FOR-Commissioners May Jr, Gaither Sr and Walker and Judge McDowell. Commissioner Gaines abstained. Motion carried.
- 4) Fund 35-RLEG Jail Admin Assist: Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to approve this fund: Voting FOR: Commissioners May Jr, Gaither Sr and Walker, and Judge McDowell. Commissioner Gaines Abstained. Motion carried.
- 5) Fund 35-RLEG All Others (\$3,000): Cecil Gaither Sr made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to approve this fund. Voting FOR: Commissioners May Jr, Gaither Sr and Walker also Judge McDowell. Abstain- Commissioner Gaines. Motion carried.
- 6) Fund 36-RPG (\$3,000) Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to approve this fund. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7) Fund 2-Road & Bridge (\$3,000): Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to approve this fund. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8) Fund 1-Certificate Pay (SO/Jail only): Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Judge McDowell to approve this fund. Voting FOR-Commissioners May Jr, Gaither Sr and Walker, also Judge McDowell. Abstaining-Commissioner Gaines.
- 9) Fund 1-General Fund(\$3,000 or prorated amt): Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to approve this fund. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 CHANGES APPROVED AS WARRANTED BY LGC 111.008b

Cecil Gaither Sr made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to approve the changes to the 2026 fiscal year budget as warranted by LGC 111.008b. Motion carried unanimously.

RATIFY PROPERTY TAX INCREASE REFLECTED IN 2026 BUDGET

Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Philip Gaines to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the 2026 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET FOR 2025-2026 ADOPTED

Jackie Don May Jr made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to adopt the 2025-2026 budget as on file. Jackie Don May Jr-FOR: Phillip Gaines-FOR; Cecil Gaither Sr-FOR; John Walker-FOR; Judge McDowell-FOR. Voting NO-None; Abstaining-None. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT 2025 TAX YEAR GENERAL, ROAD AND BRIDGE AND SPECIAL LATERAL ROAD PROPERTY TAX RATES

Jackie Don May Jr made the following motion: I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.51724, which is effectively a 7.44 percent increase in the tax rate, which was seconded by Phillip Gaines. Motion carried unanimously.

AIR EVAC CONTRACT AND INVOICE FOR PERIOD BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 APPROVED

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve the contract and invoice for the Air Evac services, beginning September 1, 2025. 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

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Jackie Don May Jr to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 am. Motion carried unanimously.

PAT MCDOWELL, COUNTY JUDGE

MARGARET DORMAN, COUNTY CLERK

APPROVED: _____