

**CALDWELL COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES
1403 Blackjack Street, Lockhart, Texas
Regular Meeting April 15, 2013**



TOM D. BONN County Judge
CAROL HOLCOMB County Clerk

ALFREDO MUÑOZ Commissioner Pct. 1
FRED F. BUCHHOLTZ Commissioner Pct. 2
NETO MADRIGAL Commissioner Pct. 3
JOE IVAN ROLAND Commissioner Pct. 4

Call Meeting to order. Judge Bonn announced that all Citizen Comments would be heard and then the Court would go into Executive Session.

- 04.15.01 Invocation-** Caldwell County Christian Ministries.
A member of Caldwell County Ministries opened the meeting with prayer.
- 04.15.02 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags.** (Texas Pledge: Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible).
Judge Bonn led those present in the Pledge to both Flags.
- 04.15.03 Announcements:** Items or comments from Court Members or Staff.
None
- 04.15.04 Citizens' Comments:** At this time any person may speak to Commissioners Court if they have filled out a Caldwell County Commissioners Court Participation Form. Comments will be limited to four (4) minutes per person. No action will be taken on these items and no discussion will be had between the speaker(s) and members of the Court. The Court does retain the right to correct factual inaccuracies made by the speakers. (If longer than 30 minutes, then the balance of comments will continue as the last agenda item of the day).
Those signed up for comments:
1. Dee Rodgers said that she would like for the Commissioners to put their differences aside and do what is best for our county.
 2. Susan Stewart feels that Caldwell County doesn't need a Human Resource Dpt. or a County Administrator.
 3. Ray Chandler said that the county is changing and the Human Resource Dpt. It is necessary to protect the rights of our employees and our County. It ensures checks and balances.
 4. Howard Berg feels that all members of the Court should be prepared for each meeting and not look to the people in the room for decisions. He would like to see the negativity stopped.
 5. Troy Swift urged the Court to keep the H. R. Dpt. He spoke about the legal side of their job and to consider the employees of our County. The loss of this department leaves our employees vulnerable.
 6. Tracy Forester believes that the H. R. Department should be abolished. She would like to see small government remain and does not like the way the tax dollars are being spent.
 7. John Cyrier thanks the Court for the time to speak. He believes that some of the Commissioners are under political pressure to abolish the positions. He spoke about the plans for our Counties growth and asked Commissioner Munoz to do the right thing for our community.
 8. Stuart Carter concerned about the way that the taxes are going to be spent. He stated that by saving the County in negotiations of the health care contract he believes Ron Heggemeier has already payed for his salary. He said he believed that smaller government is how much money you put in, not how many employees that you have.
 9. Robert Wilson Pct. 3, questions an agriculture change about fencing requirements and wanted to know who to ask about sheep and goat fencing requirements.

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10. Steven Zunker Pct. 2, is concerned about the creating of new departments and the turn down of police vehicles and repair of our County roads. He wants the money used to protect our County and new vehicles and equipment for the County Deputy's.

11. Kathy Haigler asks who will do the work of the two offices that are being discussed. She asked the Commissioners if they would be taking on the work that is done in Human Resource and the County Administrators office, if it was abolished.

12. Kathy McCormick spoke about some of the past changes in Lockhart and that change can be for the good. People just don't like change. She said that the Human Resource Department is important to help employees to move forward.

13. Hays County Judge Bert Cobb spoke to Court and said that "Austin has Caldwell County in their bullseye". The growth is coming this way. He stressed the importance of the Human Resource Department. He spoke about the plan for our County and encouraged to pay the employees what they are worth.

14. Kathy Sellers said that the County bought the Wal-Mart building without consideration from the tax payers. She wants the two departments abolished because she feels they are a waste of money.

15. Susan Modrall has concerns that our County is being compared with larger counties and said that we do not need an H. R. Department.

16. George Sanchez asked where the tax money is being spent. He is concerned with the taxes going up and wants to see the Law Enforcement paid more.

17. There was also a letter received via-email from Architect, Robert Steinbomer which was read by Commissioner Muñoz in support of the County Administrator. He wrote not only as a business owner but also as a Caldwell County citizen.

04.15.11 **Executive Session** for consultation with attorney pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.071 regarding elimination of Human Resources Department and County Administrator Department.
Executive Session begins: 10:12 a.m.
Executive Session ends: 11:00 a.m.
No Action Taken

04.15.05 **Commissioners Court Minutes.** Approval of April 8, 2013 Minutes.
Motion made by Commissioner Muñoz, second by Commissioner Madrigal to approve the minutes dated April 8, 2013. All Voting "Aye"

04.15.06 **Consent Agenda.** (Any member of the Court may request that an item within the Consent Agenda be moved to the Regular Agenda for further discussion and action).
None.

04.15.07 **County Administrator Report/Presentation.** None

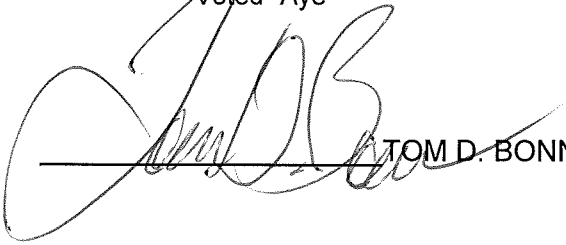
04.15.08 **Special Presentations.** None

(ALL OTHER AGENDA ITEMS)

04.15.12 **Discussion/Action** concerning abolishment of the Human Resources Department to be effective May 1, 2013.
Commissioner Roland thanks each and everyone that spoke, whether in favor or against agenda items 12 & 13. Motion made by Commissioner Roland, second by Commissioner Muñoz to table this item concerning abolishment of the Human Resources Department to be effective May 1, 2013., for two weeks, to call a special meeting on April 29, 2013. He would like to speak with attorneys at Texas Association of Counties. Commissioner Muñoz has offered to go with Commissioner Roland. All Voting "Aye"

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- 04.15.13** **Discussion/Action** concerning abolishment of the County Administrator Department to be effective May 1, 2013.
Motion made by Commissioner Roland, second by Commissioner Madrigal to table this item for two weeks, to call a special meeting on April 29, 2013. He would like to speak with attorneys at Texas Association of Counties. All Voting "Aye"
- 04.15.09** **Discussion/Action** concerning use of Courthouse lawn and surrounding area for Cinco De Mayo celebration May 3-5, 2013.
George Sanchez, Vice President of the Greater Caldwell County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce stated that the City of Lockhart has provided a more economical solution. It will be held on Main St. No action taken.
- 04.15.10** **Discussion** concerning CARTPO (Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization) list of projects.
Judge Bonn spoke about the planning process and how important they are to our County and the safety of the residents and those driving through our County.
- 04.15.14** **Adjournment**
Motion made by Commissioner Buchholtz second by Commissioner Muñoz to Adjourn. All Voted "Aye"



TOM D. BONN, County Judge