

**CALDWELL COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES
1403 Blackjack Street, Lockhart, Texas
Special Meeting May 8, 2013 2:00 p.m.**



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.

Meeting begins at 2:06 p.m.
All Commissioners Present

05.08.01 Invocation.

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Ray Chandler. Judge Bonn announced that Deborah Kortan's father had passed.

05.08.02 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 all present in the Pledge to both flags.

05.08.03 Announcements: Items or comments from Court Members or Staff.

Judge Bonn and Commissioner Madrigal announce that they have sent out the notifications for the first Caldwell County Mass Gathering on May 7, 2013 and a permit has been requested. A concert will be put on at Don's Fish Camp in Martindale. Commissioner Madrigal spoke about the visit to the Capitol. Senator Zaffirini invited representatives from Caldwell County to the Senate Floor. They were presented a Resolution for May 7th, 2013 as Caldwell County Day. Commissioner Buchholtz recognized Commissioner Muñoz for his part in having representatives from the Chambers, the school boards and other entities in Caldwell County present also.

05.08.04 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).

1. Lucy Knight said that in the past year that she believes that there is not only mistrust and disrespect between members of the court and the taxpayers. Through all of this, the Commissioners Court forged ahead and wisely created two new positions that ushered Caldwell County into the 21st century. These new positions were Human Resource Department and the County Administrators Office. The County Administrators Department gives the department heads that one person to go to if any problems arose. Caldwell County has over 220 employees and with all of the matters and decisions, there needs to be a Human resource Department.

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2. Susan Stewart observed that the majority of citizens that were in the room today have not been attending until now. She explained that she had visited the Guadalupe Commissioner Court meeting and that they did not have a County Administrator and have built a Justice Center. They also have over 700 county employees. She doesn't believe that Caldwell County needs a County Administrator.
3. Susan Modrall asked why our County needs two County Administrator's? She said that the other counties that were within the same size and population of Caldwell County did not have a "County Administrator" and that we did not need two. She said that if Mr. Heggemeier wants to be an administrator of our County there is an election for the position of the "Administrator".
4. Ray Chandler feels that it would be a travesty to abolish these two positions. He feels that the County is moving in a forward position to have a County Administrator and a Human Resource Department. The County Administrator is there to assist the County Judge. The City of Luling and Lockhart have City Manager's, the Lockhart ISD and Luling ISD have administrator's positions. The Human Resource Department helps to eliminate Employee issues. He wants his tax dollars to help us to move forward, not backward. He says that these departments are needed.
5. Stephanie Shunick feels that a well-trained Human Resource Department is needed with the growth of our County. With the expansion of the toll road, Caldwell County will grow not only with businesses and employees but also homeowners. These two departments will be needed to support and protect our employees for administrative duties and training advancements.
6. Kathy McCormick spoke in favor of the two positions. She is concerned with the businesses that may expand to our area and other people with lifestyle changes and possible moving their family's to our area. She spoke about the airing of dirty laundry being in the paper and that with the positions in tact are moving forward. She asked the court to look at the big picture and put our best foot forward.
7. Oscar Fogle looks backward at the way things used to be. We need to run our County more efficiently. Human Resource is more important than ever. He says that the County is out of compliance and spoke about the OSHA requirements and Safety meetings. Over 20,000 acres of land has already been bought for development in Caldwell County. He called it good growth. He spoke of investors and people that want to spend money in our County. He says to stay on course and don't move us backward.
8. Stuart Carter said that the county administrator's office is a stabilizing position between the elected officials and the running of the government. He reminds everyone that Mr. Heggemeier has already saved the county \$385,000.00 in negotiations with the healthcare contracts. He believes that he has already paid for his salary. The employees need a Human Resource Department to be there with the new laws and the many changes that our employees have in training. We need these two departments.
9. Coyle Buhler said that he had been watching the progress of Commissioner Court and said that it seems like there is personal animosity and a personal vendetta on the Commissioner Court. This is healthy if it helps our county to move forward. We need someone who is not politically motivated. He feels that Commissioners Court take all the personality and politics off the table. On election day, the County Administrators job will not end. Human Resource is there to protect the County by knowing the laws and assisting the employees. If they are abolished, it will prevent our county from moving forward.
10. Kathy Haigler has checked in Travis County. No, they do not have an administrator. They have at least two full time assistants at each precinct and 4 full time assistants for the County Judge. They also have a position titled Intergovernmental Administrator. They also have a planning, a budget department and a Human Resource department. She is concerned about opening up our County to a lawsuit.

Judge Bonn thanks all the citizens who came and spoke. At this time they will begin Executive Session.

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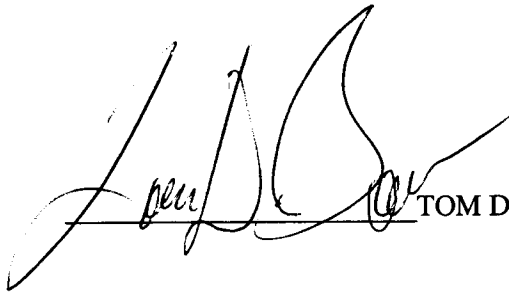
05.08.05 **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** For consultations with attorney pursuant to Texas Government Code §552.071 regarding county administrator and human resources director and deliberation of personnel matters pursuant to Texas Government Code §552.074 regarding county administrator and human resources director. No action will be taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION BEGINS: 2:53 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS: 4:44 p.m.

05.08.06 **Adjournment**

Motion made by Commissioner Madrigal, second by Commissioner Roland to adjourn. All Voting "Aye".



TOM D. BONN, County Judge