

COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES 110 S Main St. 2nd Floor, Lockhart, Texas
Commissioners Court September 9, 2025, 11:30 AM



AMENDED

Hoppy Haden	County Judge	B.J. Westmoreland	Commissioner, Pct. 1
Teresa Rodriguez	County Clerk	Rusty Horne	Commissioner, Pct. 2
		Ed Theriot	Commissioner, Pct. 3
		Dyral Thomas	Commissioner, Pct. 4

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Judge Haden called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

B. INVOCATION

Chet Robbins opens meeting in prayer.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. AND TEXAS FLAGS:

(Texas Pledge: Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.)

Judge Haden leads all present in the pledge to both flags.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Items or comments from Court members or staff.

Judge Haden stated that a tax hearing had been published; however, due to an amendment to the rate, the hearing will now be held at the next Commissioners Court meeting on September 23rd.

Ezzy Chan, Executive Assistant, announced that the next Commissioners Court will be held on September 23, with the agenda cut off set for Thursday, September 11th.

E. 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.) Citizens' Comments may be submitted to the Court by using the form found at: <http://www.co.caldwell.tx/us/page/caldwell.CommissionersCourtForm>

Mary Eisenberg, a Lockhart resident, expressed concern regarding the data center built six miles from downtown and for future ones planned for the county. She provided information on data centers' water and energy usage, questioned their long-term impact on residents and businesses, and stated that it is time for an open public discussion.

Chet Robbins, member of American Legion Post 177, provided information on *Wreaths Across America*, a volunteer-based organization that coordinates wreath-laying events and offers free programs for veterans and

their families. He announced that a wreath-laying event will be held at the Luling City Cemetery on Saturday, December 13, at 11:00 a.m. Wreaths may be purchased for \$17.00, and additional information was included in the handouts provided.

Andrew McClish, a Prairie Lea resident, spoke about the all-way stop in Prairie Lea and provided background on how it was established.

Anna Nunez, Public Information Officer for the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, stated that Caldwell County is eligible for Economic Injury Disaster Loans for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. The application deadline is April 6, 2026. Handouts were provided to the Court.

F. CONSENT AGENDA:

(The following consent items may be acted upon in one motion.)

F.1.To approve payment of County Invoices and Purchase Orders in the amount of \$788,607.76.

F.2.To approve County Payroll payment in the amount of \$462,975.82 (08/10/2025 through 08/23/2025).

F.3.To approve County Payroll Tax payment in the amount of \$135,672.47 (08/10/2025 through 08/23/2025).

F.4.To accept and acknowledge the completion of Caldwell County Justice of the Peace, PCT. 1, Cash Handling Audit.

F.5.To accept and acknowledge the completion of Caldwell County Sheriff's Department Commissary Audit of FY 2024-2025.

F.6.To accept and acknowledge the completion of Caldwell County Unit Road Department Audit.

F.7.To accept Caldwell County ESD #2 financial audit, pursuant to Health and Safety code § 775.082(d).

F.8.To accept the August 2025 Indigent Burial Report.

F.9.To accept Caldwell County Constable PCT. 4 August 2025 Report.

Motion made by Commissioner Theriot, seconded by Commissioner Horne to Approve . All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

F.1 To approve payment of County Invoices and Purchase Orders in the amount of \$788,607.76.

9 9 2025 AP Expense Approval Register.pdf

9 9 2025 AP Payment Register.pdf

F.2 To approve County Payroll payment in the amount of \$462,975.82 (08/10/2025 through 08/23/2025).

Payroll 08102025 thru 08232025.pdf

F.3 To approve County Payroll Tax payment in the amount of \$135,672.47 (08/10/2025 through 08/23/2025).

Payroll Tax 08102025 thru 08232025.pdf

F.4 To accept and acknowledge the completion of Caldwell County Justice of the Peace, PCT. 1, Cash Handling Audit.

JP 1 CC Audit Letter.pdf

F.5 To accept and acknowledge the completion of Caldwell County Sheriff's Department Commissary Audit of FY 2024-2025.

SO Commissary Audit Letter.pdf

F.6 To accept and acknowledge the completion of Caldwell County Unit Road Department Audit. Unit Road Audit Letter.pdf

F.7 To accept Caldwell County ESD #2 financial audit, pursuant to Health and Safety code §

775.082(d).
ESD 2 Extension Request - Financial Report.pdf
2024 Letter on CC ESD 2.pdf
CWCESD 2 12.31.2024 Audit Report.pdf

F.8 To accept the August 2025 Indigent Burial Report.
Aug 2025 Indigent Burial Report.pdf

F.9 To accept Caldwell County Constable PCT. 4 August 2025 Report.
Monthly Report August 2025.pdf

G. PUBLIC HEARING @ 9:30 A.M.:

G.1 Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

Public Hearing opens at 11:52 a.m. and closes at 11:54 a.m.

08.21.25 PH Budget.pdf
Taxpayer Impact Statement FY25-26.pdf
Proposed Budget for 09.09.2025 UPDATED ver 2.pdf

G.2 Regarding consideration for Little Acres Subdivision, Replat of Lot 2-B consisting of two lots on approximately 6.76 acres located off Westwood Road.

Public Hearing opens at 11:54 a.m. and closes at 11:55 a.m.

8.21.25 PH Notice - Little Acres.jpg
8.28.25 PH Notice - Little Acres.jpg
9.4.25 PH Notice - Little Acres.jpg
Little Acres Subdivision - Replat Lot 2-B.pdf

H. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

H.1 To discuss and take possible action regarding the approval of the Minutes for the August 26, 2025, regular meeting and budget workshop meeting. Speaker: Judge Haden/Teresa Rodriguez; Backup: 9; Cost: \$0.00
8.26.25 Agenda.pdf
08.26.2025 Commissioner Court Minutes.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Horne, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to Approve . All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.2 To discuss and take possible action regarding the approval of the Minutes for the August 21, 2025, Salary Grievance Committee Meeting. Speaker: Judge Haden/Teresa Rodriguez; Backup: 4; Cost: \$0.00
8.21.25 Salary Grievance Committee Agenda AMENDED.pdf
08.21.2025 Amended Salary Grievance Committee Minutes.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Horne, seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to Approve . All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.4 To discuss and take possible action to accept the new proposed FY 2025-2026 Tax Rate, by record vote. Speaker: Judge Haden/Danie Teltow; Cost: \$0.4391

Danie Teltow, County Auditor, requested that the court reconsider newly proposed rate of .4391.

Record Vote shows as: Commissioner Westmoreland "Aye", Commissioner Horne "Aye", Commissioner Theriot "Aye", Commissioner Thomas "Aye" and Judge Haden "Aye".

Caldwell County Notice About 2025 Tax Rates.pdf

2025 Tax Rate Info Cover Sheet - Executed 8.7.25.pdf

Taxpayer Impact Statement FY25-26.pdf

Notice of PH for FY 2026 tax 9.23.25 CORRECT VERSION.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland, seconded by Commissioner Theriot to Approve.

All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

- H.3 To discuss and take possible action to adopt the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget, by record vote. Speaker: Judge Haden/Danie Teltow; Backup: 109; Cost: \$0.00

Danie Teltow, County Auditor, noted corrections to the backup, stating that Judge Mireles' salary was off by \$0.06.

The Tax Assessor-Collector's machinery & equipment will increase to \$26,069.00 for Nemo Cue system with annual cost of \$7,698.

Record vote: Commissioner Westmoreland "Aye", Commissioner Horne "Aye", Commissioner Theriot "Aye", Commissioner Thomas "Aye", Judge Haden "Aye".

08.21.25 PH ad budget crop.pdf

Taxpayer Impact Statement FY25-26.pdf

Proposed Budget for 09.09.2025 UPDATED ver 2.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Horne, seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

- H.5 To discuss and take possible action regarding Little Acres Subdivision, Replat of Lot 2-B consisting of two lots on approximately 6.76 acres located at Westwood Road. Speaker: Commissioner Westmoreland/Kasi Miles; Backup: 4; Cost: \$0.00

8.21.25 PH Notice - Little Acres.jpg

8.28.25 PH Notice - Little Acres.jpg

9.4.25 PH Notice - Little Acres.jpg

Little Acres Subdivision - Replat Lot 2-B.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland, seconded by Commissioner Theriot to Approve.

All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

- H.6 To discuss and take possible action regarding the Final Plat for Bollinger Subdivision, Phase 3 consisting of 46-lots on approximately 6.696 acres located at FM 2720 and Bob White Road. Speaker: Commissioner Theriot/Kasi Miles; Backup: 4; Cost: \$0.00

Final Plat - Bollinger Phase 3.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Theriot, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.7

- To discuss and take possible action regarding a Proclamation from Capital Area Councils of Government (CAPCOG) designating the week of September 22-26, 2025, as Falls Prevention Awareness Week. Speaker: Judge Haden; Backup: 1; Cost: \$0.00

Proclamation is read.

9.9.25 Proclamation Falls Prevention Week Sept 22-26, 2025.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Horne, seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.8 To discuss and take possible action regarding a Proclamation from Capital Area Councils of Government (CAPCOG) designating September 2025 as Senior Center Awareness Month.

Speaker: Judge Haden; Backup: 1; Cost: \$0.00

Proclamation is read.

9.9.25 Proclamation Senior Center Awareness Month - Sept 2025.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Theriot to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.9 To discuss and take possible action regarding Resolution 19 -2025 for the Texas Department of Agriculture Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program. Speaker:

Judge Haden/Kelly Franke; Backup: 1; Cost: \$2,153.75

Judge Haden requested a motion to table the item, as Meals on Wheels members could not attend due to the schedule change.

9.9.25 Resolution 19-2025 HDM Grant Program 2026.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Horne, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to Postpone. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.10 To discuss and take possible action on Resolution 20 -2025 regarding Elections Day Voting Locations and Hours for the November Election and the combination of certain election precincts. Speaker: Judge Haden/Devante Coe; Backup: 4; Cost: \$0.00

Devante Coe, Elections Administrator, presented recommendations from the County Election Board and the Election Administrator regarding early voting and branch locations. He noted a change for the branch locations on the last 2 days, October 30 and 31, with closing time set for 6:00 p.m.

Resolution 20-2025 is read.

Resolution 20-2025 - Election Polling Places.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Horne, seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.11 To discuss and possibly take action regarding a Resolution Proposing Amendments to 2024 and 2025 Budgets from the Caldwell County Appraisal District. Speaker: Judge Haden/Shanna Ramzinski; Backup: 2; Cost: \$0.00

Judge Haden stated that the Caldwell County Appraisal District voted to retain \$200,000, which would normally be returned to entities, to cover future legal expenses, noting that this is within their budget.

Commissioner Theriot made a motion to deny approval of the Resolution proposing amendments for the 2024-2025.

CCAD Resolution for Proposed Budget Amendments.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Theriot, seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to Deny. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.12 To discuss and take possible action regarding the Adopted 2026 Caldwell County Appraisal District Budget. Speaker: Judge Haden/Shanna Ramzinski; Backup: 10; Cost: \$0.00

Commissioner Theriot made a motion to oppose or deny the adopted 2026 Caldwell County Appraisal District budget.

Adopted 2026 Appraisal District Budget.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Theriot, seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to Deny. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.13 To discuss and take possible action regarding a Caldwell County Burn Ban. Speaker: Judge Haden/Hector Rangel; Backup: 2; Cost: \$0.00

Hector Rangel, Chief EMC, recommends keeping the burn ban on.

Burn Ban Order 9.9.25.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Horne to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.14 To discuss and take possible action regarding Budget Transfer 15-2025 moving funds from line-item Machinery and Equipment (001-6510-5310) to Autopsy (001-6510-4123). Speaker: Judge Haden/Danie Teltow; Backup: 1; Cost: \$20,000.00
BT 15-2025 for Non Departmental.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Theriot to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.15 To discuss and take possible action regarding Hill Country Forensic Invoices #315 and #352 in the amount of \$9,600.00. Speaker: Judge Haden/Dulce Arellano; Backup: 2; Cost: \$9,600.00
Hill Country Forensic Inv #315 #352.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Theriot to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.16 To discuss and take possible action regarding Budget Transfer 16-2025 moving \$40,000.00 from Machinery and Equipment (001-4310-5310) to Professional Services (001-4310-4110). Speaker: Judge Haden/Danie Teltow; Backup: 1; Cost: \$40,000.00
BT 16-2025 County Jail 4310 - 8.28.25.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Horne, seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.17 To discuss and take possible action regarding Budget Transfer 17-2025 moving funds from line-items Machinery & Equipment (001-4300-5310) and Transportation (001-4300 -4260) to Dues & Subscriptions (001- 4300- 3050) to cover OCV and Motorola invoices. Speaker: Judge Haden/Danie Teltow; Backup: 1; Cost: \$65,311.87
9.9.25 BT 17-2025 OCV and Motorola Invoices.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.18 To discuss and take possible action regarding OCV and Motorola invoices in the amount of \$37,160.59. Speaker: Judge Haden/Danie Teltow; Backup: 2; Cost: \$37,160.59
SO invoices.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Theriot, seconded by Commissioner Horne to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.19 To discuss and take possible action regarding final draft for RFP 25CCP02P Jail Inmate Medical Service. Speaker: Judge Haden/Dulce Arellano; Backup: 41; Cost: \$0.00
RFP 25CCP02P Medical Service for Inmates.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Horne to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.20 To discuss and approve Gov Deals Auction of Caldwell County Surplus items. Speaker: Judge Haden/Danie Teltow/Dominique Esquivel; Backup: 1; Cost: \$0.00
Auction Items for 9.9.25 CC.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland, seconded by Commissioner Theriot to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

H.21 To discuss and take possible action on accepting an award from the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) a subgrant by FEMA for the DR4781-TX Public Assistance Grant- Texas Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding. Speaker: Judge Haden/Amber Quinley; Backup: 15; Cost: \$0.00

Amber Quinley, Grants Administrator, stated that the award amount is \$25,192.19.

DR-4781 _ Caldwell County _ PW 695 _ Award Notification Package.pdf DR-4781 _ Caldwell County _ PW 695 _ P4-unsigned, draft.pdf DR-4781 _ Caldwell County _ PW 695 _ DOB-unsigned, draft.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Horne, seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland to Approve. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session opens at 12:24 p.m. and closes at 12:56 p.m.

I.1 Discussion with legal counsel of Allison, Bass & Magee, L.L.P. regarding Texas Tribune, Mano Amiga, and Caldwell/Hays Examiner v. Caldwell County, Civil Action No. 1:23-CV-910; United States District Court, Western District of Texas, Austin Division and any potential action needed. [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code, Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]
No Action Taken.


J. ADJOURNMENT:

Court adjourns at 12:56 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland, seconded by Commissioner Horne to Adjourn. All voting "Aye."

MOTION APPROVED.

TERESA RODRIGUEZ, COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT do hereby certify that the foregoing contains a true and accurate record of the proceedings held by the Caldwell County Commissioners' Court on September 9, 2025.

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TERESA RODRIGUEZ, COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF CALDWELL COUNTY, TEXAS.

