

**COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES**  
**110 S Main St. 2nd Floor, Lockhart, Texas**  
**Commissioners Court March 26, 2026, 9:00 AM**



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

**A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Judge Haden called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**B. INVOCATION**

Tim Parker opens the 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.

Commissioner Horne announces that the Luling Transportation Plan will be open to the public today at Zedler Mill in Luling from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and again from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**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: <https://www.co.caldwell.tx.us/page/CommissionersCourtForm>

John Castillo expressed opposition to the Tax Abatement in Caldwell County.

**F. CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**F.1.To approve County Invoices and Purchase Orders in the amount of \$1,835,908.13.**

**F.2.To approve County Payroll payment in the amount of \$553,784.18 (02/22/2026 through 03/07/2026).**

**F.3.To approve County Payroll Tax payment in the amount of \$161,548.26 (02/22/2026 through 03/07/2026).**

**F.4.To accept Treasurer's Office Cash Handling Audit.**

**F.5.To accept February 2026 Tax Collection Report from the Caldwell County Appraisal District.**

**F.6.To accept the DSHS Tobacco Settlement Distribution Program 2026 Expenditure Statement for Counties.**

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

- F.1 To approve County Invoices and Purchase Orders in the amount of \$1,835,908.13.  
3.26.26 PAYMENT REGISTER.pdf  
3.26.26 Expense Approval Register.pdf
- F.2 To approve County Payroll payment in the amount of \$553,784.18 (02/22/2026 through 03/07/2026).  
Payroll 02222026 thru 03072026.pdf
- F.3 To approve County Payroll Tax payment in the amount of \$161,548.26 (02/22/2026 through 03/07/2026).  
Payroll Tax 02222026 thru 03072026.pdf
- F.4 To accept Treasurer's Office Cash Handling Audit.  
CC Audit Letter March 2026 - Signed.pdf
- F.5 To accept February 2026 Tax Collection Report from the Caldwell County Appraisal District. CCAD February 2026 Report.pdf
- F.6 To accept the DSHS Tobacco Settlement Distribution Program 2026 Expenditure Statement for Counties.  
2026 Expenditure Statement for Counties- Caldwell County.pdf

**G. PRESENTATION:**

- G.1 Hays County Child Protective Board - Hays Caldwell County Collaboration Committee presentation on child welfare data and collaborative efforts between Hays and Caldwell Counties. Presenters: Dr. Karen Brown, Board Member, and Mary Cauble, Treasurer

Dr. Karen Brown, member of the Hays County Child Protective Board, introduces fellow members Mary Cauble, Dixie Camp, Treasurer, Courtney Poole; Abby Mendez-Villegas, Mary Beth Gonzales and Claralis Diaz, Child Protective Services - Conservatorship Supervisor for Caldwell County. Mary Beth Gonzalez and informs the court about the services provided to families as well as the financial assistance offered.

Judge Haden states he would like to add an item to the next agenda to discuss creating a Child Welfare Board in Caldwell County, to help with \$30,000.00 for this year, and to add a line item to the 2027 budget.

Sally Daniel, Executive Director of Caldwell County Foundation, addresses the court about assisting in creating the organization in Caldwell County.

Child protective board presentation.pdf  
Caldwell Commissioners Presentation.pdf  
Caldwell Commissioners Packet.pdf

**I. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

- I.1 To discuss and take possible action regarding the approval of the Minutes for the March 12, 2026, regular meeting. Speaker: Judge Haden/Teresa Rodriguez; Backup: 11; Cost: \$0.00  
3.12.26 Agenda.pdf  
3.12.26 Commissioner Court Minutes.pdf

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

- I.2 To discuss and take possible action regarding the approval of the Minutes for the March 12, 2026, Workshop meeting. Speaker: Judge Haden/Teresa Rodriguez; Backup: 3; Cost: \$0.00  
3.12.26 Workshop Agenda - Data Centers.pdf  
3.12.26 Commissioner Court Workshop.pdf

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

- I.4 To discuss and take possible action regarding the Development Agreement for EDC Austin, LLC pertaining to 329.893 acres located in Caldwell County, Texas. Speaker: Commissioner Theriot/Kasi Miles/Tracy Bratton/Bill Greenwood; Backup: 33; Cost: \$0.00  
Motion to Table Item I.4.  
Development Agreement: Edged - EDC Austin, LLC  
Tax Abatement: Edged - EDC Austin, LLC

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**H. PUBLIC HEARING 9:30 A.M.:**

The public hearing opened at 9:30 a.m. and closed at 9:32. a.m.

There are no speakers.

- H.1 To consider the approval of a tax abatement agreement with EDC Austin, LLC  
2.19.26 Notice Luling - Tax Abatement Agreement.pdf  
2.19.26 PH Notice Lockhart - Tax Abatement Agreement.jpg  
BB Tax Abatement Agreement EDC Austin LLC.pdf  
2.12.26 Signed Order 03-2026 Caldwell 142 Reinvestment Zone #1.pdf
- I.3 To discuss and take possible action regarding the approval of a tax abatement agreement, pursuant to Chapter 312, Texas Tax Code, that contains the following information:
  - Name of Property Owner and Applicant: EDC Austin LLC
  - Name and Location of the Reinvestment Zone: Caldwell 142 Reinvestment Zone #1, located within the following area:
    - North corner: W 97° 49' 19.16"; N 29° 51' 34.36"
    - East Corner: W 97° 48' 09.03"; N 29° 51' 13.37"
    - South Corner: W 97° 48' 40.09"; N 29° 50' 55.37"
    - West Corner: W 97° 48' 48.38"; N 29° 51' 56.86"
  - Nature of Improvements: Construction and maintenance of a turn-key data center campus.
  - Estimated Cost of Improvements: \$7,300,000,000.00Speaker: Judge Haden/Richard Sitton; Backup: 24; Cost: \$0.00

Commissioner Horne informs the court that he does not support the tax abatement and expresses concerns about the limited number of jobs it would create.

Judge Haden, Commissioner Theriot, and Commissioner Westmoreland concur that the abatement would be financially beneficial for the County.

02.19.26 Newsboy\_re-investment zone ad.pdf  
BB Tax Abatement Agreement EDC Austin LLC.pdf  
2.12.26 Signed Order 03-2026 Caldwell 142 Reinvestment Zone #1.pdf

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland, seconded by Commissioner Theriot to Approve.  
4 "Ayes", 1 "Nay" by Commissioner Horne.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

I.5 To discuss and take possible action regarding the Final Plat for Juniper Springs, Section 8 consisting of a single-lot subdivision on approximately 22.415 acres located off Borchert Loop. Speaker: Commissioner Westmoreland/Kasi Miles; Backup: 3; Cost: \$0.00  
Final Plat- Juniper Springs, Section 8

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

I.6 To discuss and take possible action regarding the Short Form Plat for ARWA Booster Pump Station, consisting of a single-lot commercial subdivision on approximately 49.242 acres located on State Highway 142 and Church Street. Speaker: Commissioner Theriot/Kasi Miles; Backup: 2; Cost: \$0.00  
Short Form Plat- ARWA Booster Pump Station

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

I.7 To discuss and take possible action regarding Resolution 23-2026 relating to approving financing by the National Finance Authority for the benefit of Public-Private Development Corporation (PPDC), and related matters (Lockhart ISD). Speaker: Judge Haden/Richard Sitton; Backup: 6; Cost: \$0.00  
Resolution 23-2026 of Caldwell County (Lockhart ISD) 4142-1619-2102 v.1.pdf

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

I.8 To discuss and take possible action authorizing the County Judge to initiate discussions and negotiate potential roadway access along the existing route that leads to the Caldwell County Evacuation Center. Speaker: Judge Haden; Backup: 2; Cost: \$0.00  
Access Route - CC Evac Center.pdf

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

I.9 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 3.26.26.pdf

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

- I.10 To discuss and take possible action regarding Budget Amendment 06-2026, moving \$30,000.00 from Contingency (001 -6510-4860) to Trial Expense (001 -3200-4130) to cover outside legal services for the District Attorney's Office. Speaker: Judge Haden/Danie Teltow; Backup: 1; Cost: \$30,000.00  
3.26.26 BA 06-2026.pdf

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

- I.11 To discuss and take possible action on the approval of Professional Service Agreement with Attorney Richard Wetzel & Caldwell County for outside services to the District Attorney Office. Speaker: Danie Teltow/Fred Weber; Backup: 3; Cost: \$30,000.00  
Haynes Appeal Contract.pdf

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

- I.12 To discuss and take possible action regarding an agreement with Coast/Torger Philosophos for a new work order system for the Caldwell County Maintenance Department. Speaker: Judge Haden/Dominique Esquivel/Curtis Weber; Backup: 43; Cost: \$4,248.00

Dominique Esquivel, Purchasing Administration Assistant, provides information on the Coast/Torger Philosophos system, which will be used by the Building and Purchasing departments.

Coast - Standard Agreement \_ Caldwell County Maintenance.pdf

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

- I.13 To discuss and take possible action regarding an agreement between Caldwell County and Blue Layer for Co-Managed Services. Speaker: Judge Haden/Danie Teltow/Chris Cunningham; Backup: 6; Cost: \$176,529.00/one-year commitment  
Blue Layer - Co-managed Services Agreement.pdf

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

- I.14 To discuss and take possible action regarding an agreement between Caldwell County and Blue Layer for Co-Managed Software and Cybersecurity Bundle. Speaker: Judge Haden/Danie Teltow/Chris Cunningham; Backup: 13; Cost: \$69,406.08/one-year commitment  
Blue Layer - Co-managed Software and Cybersecurity Bundle.pdf

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**J. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Executive Session opened at 9:56 a.m. and closed at 10:32 a.m.

J.1 Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087, the discussion of deliberation regarding economic development negotiations associated with Project Summit Ridge. Possible action may follow in open court.

No action will be taken.

J.2 Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087, the discussion of deliberation regarding economic development negotiations associated with Project Direct Forge. Possible action may follow in open court.

No action will be taken.

J.3 Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087, the discussion of deliberation regarding economic development negotiations associated with Project Mount Fuji. Possible action may follow in open court.

No action will be taken.

J.4 Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087, the discussion of deliberation regarding economic development negotiations with respect to 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Grant funding Project.

No action will be taken.

I. 15 To discuss and take possible action regarding updates on Project Summit Ridge economic development negotiations. Commissioners Court may provide further instruction or take necessary action as appropriate. Speaker: Judge Haden/Commissioner Westmoreland; Backup: 0; Cost: TBD

No action taken.

Motion to table.

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

I.16 To discuss and take possible action regarding updates on Project Direct Forge economic development negotiations. Commissioners Court may provide further instruction or take necessary action as appropriate. Speaker: Judge Haden/Commissioner Westmoreland; Backup: 0; Cost: TBD

No action taken.

Motion to table.

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

I.17 To discuss and take possible action regarding updates on Project Mount Fuji economic development negotiations. Commissioners Court may provide further instruction or take necessary action as appropriate. Speaker: Judge Haden/Commissioner Theriot; Backup: 0; Cost: TBD

No action taken.

Motion to table.

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

I.18 To discuss and take possible action regarding updates on 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Grant funding Project economic development negotiations. Commissioners Court may provide further instruction or take necessary action as appropriate. Speaker: Judge Haden/Commissioner Theriot; Backup: 0; Cost: TBD

No action taken.

Motion to table.

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**K. ADJOURNMENT:**

Court adjourns at 10:33 a.m.

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

**MOTION APPROVED.**

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I, 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 March 26, 2026.



*Teresa Rodriguez*

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