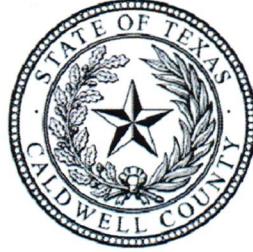


COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES
110 S Main St. 2nd Floor, Lockhart, Texas
Commissioners Court April 23, 2026, 9:00 AM



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 opened the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. INVOCATION

Paster Lora Hardaway of Resurrection Life Church opened 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 led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to both flags.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Items or comments from Court members or staff. There are no Announcements.

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>

Brad Frey, Taylor Rudman, Alan Rudman, Susie Carter, Mary Heath, and John Carter, all residents of Lockhart, asked the court to advocate for the county regarding data centers and to address potential long-term impacts on health, utilities, and land, while also raising concerns about the lack of restrictions and limited information available to citizens.

Andrew McClish, a resident of Prairie Lea, spoke about the stop sign issue in his neighborhood, addressing failures, liabilities, factual and data errors, and a series of misrepresentations followed by delays.

Bonita Marshall, a Lockhart resident, spoke about Groves Reactor, highlighting the associated risks and uncertainties.

Judge Haden informed the court that a resolution is being developed to grant the county greater authority within development agreements, noting that the county currently has limited powers. He also announced a town hall workshop on May 3rd and invited the public to attend.

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 \$1,219,719.51.

F.2.To approve County Payroll payment in the amount of \$553,739.39 (03/22/2026 through 04/04/2026).

F.3.To approve County Payroll Tax payment in the amount of \$163,429.75 (03/22/2026 through 04/04/2026).

F.4.To accept March 2026 Tax Collection Report from the Caldwell County Appraisal District.

F.5.To accept Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Caldwell County 2nd Quarter Investment Report ending March 31, 2026.

F.6.To accept the Caldwell County ESD No.5 Audit.

F.7.To approve employee bond renewal for Stephanie McKee, Commissioners Court Administrative Assistant.

F.8.To accept Caldwell County Constable PCT. 1 March 2026 Report.

F.9.To accept Caldwell County Constable PCT. 4 March 2026 Report.

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 \$1,219,719.51.

4 23 2026 AP Expense Approval Register.pdf

4 23 2026 AP Payment Register.pdf

F.2 To approve County Payroll payment in the amount of \$553,739.39 (03/22/2026 through 04/04/2026).

Payroll 03222026 thru 04042026.pdf

F.3 To approve County Payroll Tax payment in the amount of \$163,429.75 (03/22/2026 through 04/04/2026).

Payroll Tax 03222026 thru 04042026.pdf

F.4 To accept March 2026 Tax Collection Report from the Caldwell County Appraisal District. CCAD March 2026 Report.pdf

F.5 To accept Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Caldwell County 2nd Quarter Investment Report ending March 31, 2026.

Quarterly Investment Report Qty 2nd 2026.pdf

Cover Letter to Caldwell County Court Qty 2nd 2026.pdf

F.6 To accept the Caldwell County ESD No.5 Audit.

2025 CCESD5 Audit FINAL.pdf

2025 CCESD5 FINDINGS LETTER.pdf

F.7 To approve employee bond renewal for Stephanie McKee, Commissioners Court Administrative Assistant.

Bond Renewal_SMcKee.pdf

F.8 To accept Caldwell County Constable PCT. 1 March 2026 Report.

Constable PCT. 1 March 2026 Report.pdf

F.9 To accept Caldwell County Constable PCT. 4 March 2026 Report.

G. PRESENTATION:

G.1 2025 Pretrial Bond Supervision Report - Romelia Elizondo, Adult Probation Deputy Director, and Miranda Kelly, Pretrial Bond Supervision Officer

Romelia Elizondo, Adult Probation Deputy Director, introduced Miranda Kelly, Pretrial Services Officer, who presented an overview of the 2025 Pretrial Bond Report.

2025_PTS_PP.pdf

H. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

H.1 To discuss and take possible action regarding the approval of the Minutes for the April 9, 2026, regular meeting. Speaker: Judge Haden/Teresa Rodriguez; Backup: 12; Cost: \$0.00 04_09_2026 Agenda.pdf
Comm Ct Min 04_09_2026.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.2 To discuss and take possible action regarding the Final Plat for Tenney Creek Estates subdivision consisting of seven residential lots on approximately 13.083 acres located on FM 86 and Tenney Creek Road. Speaker: Commissioner Horne/Kasi Miles; Backup: 2; Cost: \$0.00
Final Plat: Tenney Creek Estates

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.3 To discuss and take possible action regarding the Development Agreement for Lockhart Property, LLC pertaining to 205.756 acres located in Caldwell County, Texas. Speaker: Judge Haden/Richard Sitton/Kasi Miles; Backup: 17; Cost: \$0.00

Commissioner Westmoreland "Aye", Commissioner Horne "Nay", Judge Haden "Aye", Commissioner Theriot "Aye", Commissioner Thomas "Aye "

Prime Data Centers - Dev Agreement Execution Version.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.4 To discuss and take possible action regarding the Final Plat for Larry's Estates, consisting of four lots on approximately 19.114 acres located at Track Rd. Speaker: Commissioner Thomas/Nicole Stephens; Backup: 2; Cost: \$0.00

Approval Final SFP Letter Larrys Estates.pdf
PID 10814 LARRYS ESTATES PLAT.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.5 To discuss and take possible action regarding a formal request for a one -year extension for the Tomahawk Subdivision, Phase 1, PICP construction plans approved on April 19, 2024, on approximately 152.54 acres located off FM 1854 and Tomahawk Trail. Speaker: Commissioner

Thomas/Kasi Miles; Backup: 2; Cost: \$0.00
One-year Extension Request- Tomahawk Subdivision PICP

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.6 To discuss and take possible action to approve a Reimbursement Agreement between Caldwell County and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) for costs associated with Preliminary Engineering Services work related to the North Magnolia Avenue Turn Lane Addition project and authorize the County Judge to execute all related documents. Speaker: Judge Haden/Commissioner Horne/Maria Castanon; Backup: 5; Cost: \$70,000.00 NMagnoliaAve-ReimbursementAgmt.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.7 To discuss and take possible action to approve a Reimbursement Agreement between Caldwell County and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) for costs associated with Preliminary Engineering Services work related to the North Hackberry Avenue Truck Route (Alt) project and authorize the County Judge to execute all related documents. Speaker: Judge Haden/Commissioner Horne/Maria Castanon; Backup: 5; Cost: \$50,000.00 ReimbursementAgreement-Hackberry.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 Caldwell County Burn Ban. Speaker: Judge Haden/Hector Rangel; Backup: 2; Cost: \$0.00

Hector Rangel, Chief EMC, recommends keeping the burn ban off.
Burn Ban Order 4.23.26.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.9 To discuss and take possible action regarding Order 05-2026 authorizing the sale of fireworks for Memorial Day. Speaker: Judge Haden/Hector Rangel; Backup: 2; Cost: \$0.00

Order 05-2026 is read.

2026-web-memorial-day-fireworks.pdf
4.23.26 Order 05-2026 Memorial Day Fireworks.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.10 To discuss and take possible action regarding a Proclamation recognizing the Retired Nurses Group of Caldwell County and its Nurse's Aide Training Program. Speaker: Commissioner Thomas/Annice Brawley; Backup: 1; Cost: \$0.00

Commissioner Thomas read a proclamation regarding the Retired Nurses Group of Caldwell County and Nurse's Aide Training Program.

Annice Brawley, a retired nurse, expressed her appreciation for the proclamation and announces that an Annual Health Fair will be held May 9th at the courthouse square. She invited everyone to attend the educational event and noted that sponsors are being sought to support student programs.

4.23.26 Proclamation - Retired Nurses and Nurse's Aide Training Program.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.11 To discuss and take possible action regarding a Proclamation recognizing May 4 - 8, 2026, as Economic Development Week. Speaker: Judge Haden/Emily Mathes/Sarah Martin; Backup: 1; Cost: \$0.00

A proclamation recognizing May 4 - 8, 2026 as Economic Development Week was read.

4.23.26 Proclamation - Economic Development Week.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.12 To discuss and take possible action regarding a Proclamation designating May 4 - 8, 2026, as Air Quality Awareness Week. Speaker: Judge Haden/Commissioner Westmoreland; Backup: 1; Cost: \$0.00

A proclamation designating May 4 - 8, 2026 as Air Quality Awareness Week was read.
2026 Air Quality Awareness Week Proclamation.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.13 To discuss and take possible action regarding a Management Control Agreement between the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office and Blue Layer. Speaker: Judge Haden/Mike Lane/Dave Erskine; Backup: 4; Cost: \$0.00

Dave Erskine spoke in support of the proposed Management Control Agreement.
Blue Layer Caldwell Mgmt Control Sheriff Office 2026.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.14 To discuss and take possible action regarding a renewal contract between Caldwell County and LexisNexis for background search for indigent burial requests. Speaker: Judge Haden; Backup: 2; Cost: \$2,400.00
FY 2025 Lexis Nexis_judge office.pdf
Caldwell County Redline Schedule A-2_2026 renewal.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.15 To discuss and take possible action regarding Budget Amendment 09 -2026 moving \$ 41,471.15 from Evacuation Shelter (001-6520-3665) into multiple Fund 20 line items. Speaker: Judge Haden/Danie Teltow; Backup: 1; Cost: \$0.00

Judge Haden introduced Phyllis Hillhouse as the new manager of the Evacuation/Civic Center.
BA 09-2026 BM Evac to Fund 20.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.16 To discuss and take possible action regarding Final Draft for RFP 26CCP01P Medical Service for Inmates. Speaker: Judge Haden/Dominique Esquivel; Backup: 31; Cost: \$0.00 RFP26CCP01P 2026 Final.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.17 To discuss and take possible action on Resolution 25-2026 authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the Texas Historical Commissioner (THC) for the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP) Round XIV Grant. Speaker: Judge Haden/Amber Quinley; Backup: 19; Cost: \$0.00

Amber Quinley, Grants Administrator, stated that the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program Round XIV Grant will cover both interior and exterior work on the courthouse with a 15% match required, and noted that the master plan will be placed on the next agenda.

Resolution 25-2026.pdf
Caldwell Round XIV THCPP Eligibility.pdf
THCPP_grant_app_guide_2025.pdf

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.18 To discuss and take possible action regarding updates on Project Apex Graphite economic development negotiations. Commissioners Court may provide further instruction or take necessary action as appropriate. Speaker: Judge Haden; Backup: 0; Cost: TBD

Motion to table.

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

MOTION APPROVED.

H.19 To discuss and take possible action regarding updates on Project Super Nova economic development negotiations. Commissioners Court may provide further instruction or take necessary action as appropriate. Speaker: Judge Haden; Backup: 0; Cost: TBD

Motion to table.

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

MOTION APPROVED.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive session opened at 10:00 a.m. and closed at 10:46 a.m.

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

No action taken.

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

No action taken.

I.3 Discussion with legal counsel of Allison, Bass & Magee, L.L.P. regarding Texas Tribune, Mano Amiga, and Caldwell/Hays Examiner v. Caldwell County, et al., 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 10:47 a.m.

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

MOTION APPROVED.

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 April 23, 2026.



Teresa Rodriguez

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