

STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF HOPKINS

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**BE IT REMEMBERED** on the 28<sup>th</sup>, day of AUGUST, 2023, there was conducted a **REGULAR** Public Meeting of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Hopkins County, Texas, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Commissioners' Courtroom, in the Courthouse, 118 Church Street, City of Sulphur Springs, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same.

**THE COURT MET AT:**

**9:02 A.M.**

**PRESENT:**

**ROBERT NEWSOM**  
COUNTY JUDGE

**MICKY BARKER**  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1

**GREG ANGLIN**  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 2

**WADE BARTLEY**  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3

**JOE PRICE**  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4

**COURTNEY WINSTEAD DEPUTY**  
COUNTY CLERK

**ABSENT:**

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The meeting was called to order by Judge Robert Newsom. Fire Marshall, Andy Endsley offered an invocation and Judge Newsom lead the court and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to The American Flag & Texas Flag.

The Court considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 at 8:14 A.M. Judge Newsom Declared A Quorum With All Members Being Present.

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## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon Motion By Commissioner Price, Seconded By Commissioner Bartley And Carried Unanimously, To Approve The Following Consent Agenda Items.

### **i) APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

### **ii) APPROVAL OF UTILITY EASEMENTS, BURIAL OF TELEPHONE CABLES AND CONSTRUCTION OF WATER DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES:**

#### **a) COURT TO APPROVE A REQUEST FROM FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TO CONSTRUCT ELECTRICAL POWER DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES WHICH WILL CROSS COUNTY ROAD 3338 And 4732.**

A Request From Farmers Electric Cooperative To Construct Electrical Power Distribution Facilities Which Will Cross County Road 3338 And 4732. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. ([Ex.1](#))

#### **b) COURT TO APPROVE A REQUEST FROM ONCOR ELECTRIC TO PERFORM WORK IN THE RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 4731.**

A Request From Oncor Electric To Perform Work In The Right Of Way Of County Road 4731. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. ([Ex.2](#))

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## **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

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## **OTHER COUNTY BUSINESS**

### **i) COURT TO CONSIDER APPROVING A BURN BAN FOR HOPKINS COUNTY.**

Fire Marshall, Andy Endsley, Reported The July Rain And High Humidity Has Helped Hopkins County Keep PDSI Numbers Down And We Were Able To Hold Off The Burn Ban. However, The Lack Of Rain And High Temperatures Have Taken Their Toll. All Surrounding Counties Have Burn Bans In Place At This Time. Andy, Stated That His Recommendation Is To Take Proactive Measures And Issue A 90 Day Burn Ban For Hopkins County. Commissioner Anglin, Stated That He Does Not Want To Hinder Anyone's Employment. Such As, Welders That Have To Use Fire To Work. However, We Have To Take Safety Measures. Andy Replied That Welders And Other Professions That Require Fire, Will Be Able To Work. They Will Just Be Required To Have A Safety Plan In Place. Commissioner Barker, Stated The Fire Department Has Been Working Hard Putting Out Road Fires But He Agrees It Is Time To Be Proactive And Put A Burn Ban In Place. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. ([Ex.3](#))

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**ii) COURT TO APPROVE THE 2023 SHERIFFS' AND CONSTABLES' FEES.**

Upon Motion By Commissioner Barker, Seconded By Commissioner Anglin And Carried Unanimously, To Approve The 2023 Sheriffs' And Constables' Fees. County Clerk, Tracy Smith Stated There Has Been No Changes Made. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. [\(Ex.4\)](#)

**iii) COURT TO APPROVE THE NAME CHANGE OF SUBDIVISION NOAH JOY ESTATES TO HIDDEN OAKS ESTATES.**

Upon Motion By Commissioner Barker, Seconded By Commissioner Bartley And Carried Unanimously, To Approve The Name Change Of The Subdivision Noah Joy Estates To Hidden Oaks Estates. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. [\(Ex.5\)](#)

**iv) COURT TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HOPKINS COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE AND I3 VERTICALS, LLC.**

Upon Motion By Commissioner Price, Seconded By Commissioner Anglin And Carried Unanimously, To Approve The Agreement Between The Hopkins County Clerk's Office And I3 Verticals, LLC. County clerk, Tracy Smith, Reported This Would Be An Update To The Netdata Program. The Project Should Begin By The End Of The Year. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. [\(Ex.6\)](#)

**v) COURT TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE HOPKINS COUNTY SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS.**

Upon Motion By Commissioner Bartley, Seconded By Commissioner Barker And Carried Unanimously, To Approve The Amendments To The Hopkins County Subdivision Regulations. Steve Hudson, Reported The New Regulations Change The Lot Width. The Previous Lots Are Narrow And The Fire Department Vehicles Do Not Have Enough Room To Turn Around. Owners Will Be Responsible For Clearing Right Of Way, Moving Ditches Back And Clearing Trees. Steve Stated That Developers Want ½ Acre Lots With Onsite Sewer Facility (OSF). With The ½ Acre Lots, Subdivisions Will Have To Have A Homeowners Association (HOA) To Monitor Regulations And Help The County With Road Maintenance Cost. The HOA Can Issue Fines To Residents That Are Not In Compliance With The Regulations And Can Place Liens On Property, If Needed. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. [\(Ex.7\)](#)

**vi) COURT TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2023-2024.**

Judge Newsom Opened The Public Hearing At 9:27 A.M. County Auditor, Shannah Aulsbrook, Reported That County Employees Will Receive An 8% Raise. Changed A Part-Time Position At The Tax Office To A Full-Time Position. The Sheriff's Office Will Add 4 New Positions To Work In The New Trusty Building And The Constables Office Budget Was Increased To \$1,000.00. Shannah Stated This Budget Is \$500,000.00 More Than 2022 Budget. Judge Newsom Closed The Public Hearing At 9:30 A.M.

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**vii) COURT TO ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR FY 2023-2024.**

Upon Motion By Commissioner Bartley, Seconded By Commissioner Barker And Carried As Follows:

AYE: Commissioners' Barker, Anglin, Bartley And Price

AYE: Judge Newsom

NAY: None

**viii) COURT TO APPROVE SALARIES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR FY 2023-2024.**

Upon Motion By Commissioner Price, Seconded By Commissioner Bartley And Carried Unanimously, To Approve Salaries For Elected Officials For FY 2023-2024. County Auditor, Shannah Aulsbrook Stated There Will Be An 8% In Salary Increase Due To Cost Of Living Increase.

**ix) COURT TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR 2023.**

Judge Newsom Opened The Public Hearing At 9:31 A.M. County Tax Collector, Debbie Mitchell Reported A Tax Rate Of 1.495870. Judge Newsom Stated The Tax Rate Has Dropped Almost 13% In The Last 3 Years. Judge Newsom Closed The Public Hearing At 9:33 A.M. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. ([Ex.8](#))

**x) COURT TO ADOPT THE PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR 2023.**

Upon Motion By Commissioner Barker, Seconded By Commissioner Anglin And Carried As Follows:

AYE: Commissioners' Barker, Anglin, Bartley And Price

AYE: Judge Newsom

NAY: None

**xi) COURT TO APPROVE THE AMENDED COUNTY ROAD INVENTORY (CRI) FOR HOPKINS COUNTY MILES OF COUNTY-MAINTAINED ROAD MILEAGE FOR CERTIFICATION FUNDING THROUGH TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT).**

Upon Motion By Commissioner Barker, Seconded By Commissioner Bartley And Carried As Follows:

AYE: Commissioners' Barker, Anglin, Bartley And Price

AYE: Judge Newsom

NAY: None

To Approve The Amended County Road Inventory (CRI) For Hopkins County Miles Of County-Maintained Road Mileage For Certification Funding Through Texas Department Of

Transportation (TxDOT). Judge Newsom Reported 846.799 Miles Of County Maintained Roads. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. [\(Ex.9\)](#)

**xii) COURT TO APPROVE AN ORDER SETTING THE SALARY OF THE OFFICIAL SHORTHAND REPORTER OF THE SIXTY SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS.**

Upon Motion By Commissioner Price, Seconded By Commissioner Bartley And Carried Unanimously, To Approve An Order Setting The Salary Of The Official Shorthand Reporter Of The Sixty Second Judicial District Of Texas. Judge Newsom Stated This Is Also Filed In The District Court. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. [\(Ex.10\)](#)

**xiii) REVIEW THE MONTHLY REPORT FROM COUNTY OFFICES**

The Monthly Reports From The Following Offices Were Reviewed By The Court And Recorded In The Minutes: Constable #1, Constable #2, County Clerk, District Clerk, Environmental, JP #1, JP #2, Agri-Life Extension Office, Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, And Treasurer. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. [\(Ex.11\)](#)

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**BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

Upon Motion By Commissioner Barker, Seconded By Commissioner Price And Carried Unanimously, To Approve The Amendments And Line Item Transfers. County Auditor, Shannah Aulsbrook, Reported Precinct 4 Received \$8,000.00 In Proceeds From Bar H Consulting For Road Work On County Road 4724. Precinct 4 Received \$6,000.00 From Cindy Rico For Road Work On County Road 4812. Precinct 1 Received \$15,840.00 From Wayne And Gena McCallum For Road Work On County Road 1189. Precinct 1 Received \$4,500.00 From Jerry Herrin For Road Work On County Road 1441. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. [\(Ex.12\)](#)

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**BILLS, REVENUES AND EXPENSES PAYROLL AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

All Bills, Revenue, Expenses, Payroll And Financial Statements On File In The Office Of The County Clerk Were Approved, Upon motion by Commissioner Anglin, seconded by Commissioner Bartley, and carried unanimously.

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**GRANTS**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

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## **DONATIONS**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

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## **CONTRACTS**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

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## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

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## **DISPOSAL OF ASSETS**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

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## **RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

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Upon Motion By Commissioner Barker, Seconded By Commissioner Anglin And Carried Unanimously, To Appoint Election Judges For The Term Of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 To August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. County Clerk, Tracy Smith, Recommended The Election Judges Be Reappointed. A Copy Is Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof. ([Ex.13](#))

Upon Motion By Commissioner Bartley, Seconded By Commissioner Price And Carried Unanimously, To Approve The New Jury Fees. County Treasurer, Danny Davis, Reported The State Recommended Jury Fee, Be Increased. Initial Jury Call Will Now Be \$20.00 And \$60.00 For Each Trail Day. With That Increase, Danny Requested Jury Cash Be Raised From \$2,000.00 To \$3,000.00.

Fire Marshall, Andy Endsley, Added The Previous Burn Ban Resolution Standards Will Be Followed During This Burn Ban. Also, The Cities Of Como, Cumby, And Tira Will Issue Their Own Burn Ban.

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**THE COURT TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Bartley, and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED AT 9:45 A.M.**

**MINUTES APPROVED OCTOBER 23, 2023:**

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**County Judge**

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**Commissioner #1**

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**Commissioner #2**

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**Commissioner #3**

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**Commissioner #4**

**ATTEST:**

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**County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk  
Of the Commissioners' Court of Hopkins County, Texas**