COUNTY OF FREESTONE

Commissioners Court
Linda K. Grant, County Judge
Andy Bonner, Precinct No. 1
Will McSwane, Precinct No. 2
Lloyd Lane, Precinct No. 3
Clyde Ridge Jr., Precinct No. 4

County Courthouse
Commissioners Courtroom
118 E. Commerce, Rm. 203
Fairfield, Texas 75840
903/389-3335 Phone
903/389-3839 Fax

FREESTONE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Notice of Open Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: December 18, 2024
LOCATION: 118 E. COMMERCE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM, FAIRFIELD, TEXAS
Pledge of Allegiance, Pledge to the Texas Flag
Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.
Posting in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, known as the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Members of the Public who wish to speak shall each have 3 minutes to address the Court regarding matters not appearing on the agenda or on an item on the agenda.
The Commissioners Court may not deliberate or take action on any item that is not posted. Any discussion of the subject must be limited to providing specific factual information.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. Approve minutes of December 4, 2024, regular meeting, and December 9, 2024, special meeting.
2. Budget transfers and amendments.
3. Approve and pay bills.
4. Approve payroll.
5. Reports: Senior Services, Justices of the Peace, County Clerk, District Clerk, Auditor, Treasurer, Sheriff, Road Reports, Tax Assessor/Collector, Constables, Veterans Service Officer, Extension Agents, Health, Environmental, and OSSF, Miscellaneous Reports.
6. Burn Ban.
7. Special Road Use Agreements, Contracts, Permits and Bonds and consider Notifications of Telephone Construction.
8. Approve bonds and education certificates of County Officials and Employees.
9. A public hearing on Freestone County's intent to enter into a Tax Abatement Agreement with Greenalia Solar Power Ratcliff, LLC relating to solar facilities and equipment.
10. Discussion and possible action on approval of Tax Abatement Agreement between Freestone County, Texas and Greenalia Solar Power Ratcliff, LLC.
11. A public hearing on Freestone County's intent to enter into a Tax Abatement Agreement with Palmera Solar Development, LLC relating to solar facilities and equipment.
12. Discussion and possible action on approval of Tax Abatement Agreement between Freestone County, Texas and Palmera Solar Development, LLC.
13. Approval of amendment and assignment of Tehuacana Creek Solar, LLC Tax Abatement Agreement.
14. Approval of Tax Abatement Agreement with Three Canes Solar, LLC.
15. Approval of Amendment by Order of the Fairway Storage, LLC Tax Abatement Agreement.
16. Reappointment of County Historical Commission Members.
17. Charles Morgan Noise Frequency.
18. Windstream Switches.
19. Security for Federal Building, DA's office, and Larry in Security.
20. Propose Policy for County Employees that use and operate County Systems.
21. ARPA.
22. Add Heather Sutton to the Citizen's Bank -Inmate Trust Fund bank account.

FILED FOR RECORD
At 3:32 o'clock PM
DEC 12 2024
RENEE GREGORY
Clerk, County Court, Freestone County, Texas
By

23. Consider going out for sealed bids to sell a 2002 Dodge 1 ton flatbed truck for Precinct 1 Road & Bridge.
24. Consider going out for sealed bids to sell a John Deere CX15 Mower for Precinct 1 Road & Bridge.
25. Consider going out for sealed bids to sell a 24' Tandem Axle Gooseneck Flat Bed Trailer for Precinct 1 Road & Bridge.

Comments from Commissioners Court members.
Adjournment.
Posted on bulletin board second floor at the Courthouse and on Freestone County website on December 12, 2024.

FREESTONE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

VIDEO OF THIS MEETING MAY BE VIEWED AT:
http://www.co.freestone.tx.us/default.aspx?Freestone_County/Commissioners.Court.Recordings

A regular meeting of the Freestone County Commissioners Court was held on December 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., in the Courtroom of the Freestone County Courthouse, 118 E. Commerce Street in Fairfield, Texas.

Linda Grant	**County Judge**	**Present**
Andy Bonner	**Commissioner, Precinct 1**	**Present**
Will McSwane	**Commissioner, Precinct 2**	**Present**
Lloyd Lane	**Commissioner, Precinct 3**	**Present**
Clyde Ridge	**Commissioner, Precinct 4**	**Present**

1. Approve minutes of December 4, 2024 regular meeting and December 9, 2024, special meeting.
Comm. Bonner MOVED to approve minutes of December 4, 2024 regular meeting and December 9, 2024, special meeting. Comm. Lane SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

2. Budget transfers and amendments.
Comm. Lane MOVED to approve budget transfers, and amendments. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

3. Approve and pay bills.
Comm. Lane MOVED to approve and pay bills. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

4. Approve payroll.
Comm. McSwane MOVED to approve payroll. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

5. Reports: Senior Services, Justices of the Peace, County Clerk, District Clerk, Auditor, Treasurer, Sheriff, Road Reports, Tax Assessor/Collector, Constables, Veterans Service Officer, Extension Agents, Health, Environmental and OSSF, Miscellaneous Reports.
Comm. Bonner MOVED to accept reports for the month of November from Senior Services and District Clerk. Comm. Ridge SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

6. Burn Ban.
NO ACTION

7. Special Road Use Agreements, Contracts, Permits and Bonds and consider Notifications of Telephone Construction.
Comm. McSwane MOVED to ***TABLE*** Special Road Use Agreements, Contracts, Permits and Bonds and consider Notifications of Telephone Construction. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

8. Approve bonds and education certificates of County Officials and Employees.
Comm. McSwane MOVED to approve Daniel Max Ralstin completing the education requirements for the period of 01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

9. Public Hearing on Freestone County's intent to enter into a Tax Abatement Agreement with Greenalia Solar Power Ratcliff, LLC relating to solar facilities and equipment.
Court entered into a Public Hearing at 9:09 a.m.
Court came out of Public Hearing at 9:10 a.m.
No comments from the public.

10. Discussion and possible action on approval of Tax Abatement Agreement between Freestone County, Texas and Greenalia Solar Power Ratcliff, LLC.
Comm. Lane MOVED to approve the Tax Abatement Agreement between Freestone County, Texas and Greenalia Solar Power Ratcliff, LLC. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

11. Public Hearing on Freestone County's intent to enter into a Tax Abatement Agreement with Palmera Solar Development, LLC relating to solar facilities and equipment.

Court entered into a Public Hearing at 9:22 a.m.
Court came out of Public Hearing at 9:25 a.m.
No comments from the public.

12. Discussion and possible action on approval of Tax Abatement Agreement between Freestone County, Texas and Palmera Solar Development, LLC.

Comm. Bonner MOVED to approve the Tax Abatement Agreement between Freestone County, Texas and Palmera Solar Development, LLC. Comm. Lane SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

13. Approval of amendment and assignment of Tehuacana Creek Solar, LLC Tax Abatement Agreement.

Comm. Ridge MOVED to approve the amendment and assignment of Tehuacana Creek Solar, LLC Tax Abatement Agreement. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

14. Approval of Tax Abatement Agreement with Three Canes Solar, LLC.

Comm. McSwane MOVED to approve the Tax Abatement Agreement with Three Canes Solar, LLC. Comm. Ridge SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

15. Approval of Amendment by Order of the Fairway Storage, LLC Tax Abatement Agreement.

Comm. Lane MOVED to approve the Amendment by Order of the Fairway Storage, LLC Tax Abatement Agreement contingent on $10,000.00 upfront. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

16. Reappointment of County Historical Commission Members.

Comm. Lane MOVED to appoint and reappoint County Historical Commission Members as follows: William Shelton, Linda Mullen, Carol Ann Biggars, Mandy Chavers, Jim McKee, Kathleen McKee, Sherrie Minze, Amy Miller, Matt Miller, Gwen Rosser Moore, Karen Moore, Angela Oglesbee, Vance Oglesbee, Patricia Pratt, Brad Pullen, Diane Pullin, Jeremy Shipley, Judy Wardle and Rita Zorate. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

17. Charles Morgan Noise Frequency.

Charles Morgan states that in his opinion the Compressor Stations are too loud and the noise is causing heart attacks, sexual disfunction, brain damage, restless leg syndrome and hearing loss. Mr. Morgan wants the County to regulate a low frequency noise on the Compressor Stations throughout the county.

Judge Grant replies to Mr. Morgan's complaint saying the issue is if the county has the authority to regulate low frequency noise and what can the county do. According to Jim Allison, the General Council of the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas and an Attorney since 1983, states that unlike a city, counties do not have the authority to adopt noise ordinances.

The Penal Code does provide a class C Misdemeanor but law enforcement must measure the noise and warn the offender.

The Attorney General of Texas addressed HB1818 and stated that the Railroad Commission shall develop an annual plan to ensure public safety and protect the environment. The Attorney General said in an opinion that we find no expressed provision in statutes governing the Railroad Commission that requires the Commission to enforce noise controls in Oil & Gas Operations.

An Attorney General Opinion is a written interpretation of the existing law. An Attorney General Opinion cannot create new provisions in the law.

18. Windstream Switches

Comm. Ridge MOVED to ***TABLE*** Windstream Switches. Comm. Lane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

19. Security for Federal Building, DA's office and Larry in Security.

Comm. Lane MOVED to approve the Verkada camera system for the DA's office using the ARPA funds in the amount of $6,476.51. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

Comm. Lane MOVED to approve the Verkada camera system for the Communication's Building using the ARPA funds in the amount of $36,403.81. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

Comm. Lane MOVED to approve the Verkada camera system for the Courthouse Security using the ARPA funds in the amount of $36,403.81. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

20. Propose Policy for County Employees that use and operate County Systems.

Comm. Lane MOVED to ***TABLE*** proposed Policy for County Employees that use and operate County Systems. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

21. ARPA.

Comm. Lane MOVED to approve the purchase of a Ford 550 Truck using ARPA allocated funds to Precinct 3 in the of $79,057.00. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

Comm. Lane MOVED to approve the remaining unallocated ARPA funds in the amount of $105,255.34 to be split between R&B Precinct 1, R&B Precinct 2, R&B Precinct 3, and R&B Precinct 4 equally. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

Comm. Lane MOVED to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Freestone County and Freestone County Office of Precinct 1 Commissioner for the road repair work in the County, including but not limited to a County ARPA allocation of $504,621.64. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

Comm. Bonner MOVED to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Freestone County and Freestone County Office of Precinct 2 Commissioner for the road repair work in the County, including but not limited to a County ARPA allocation of $264,111.71. Comm. Lane SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

Comm. McSwane MOVED to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Freestone County and Freestone County Office of Precinct 3 Commissioner for the road repair work in the County, including but not limited to a County ARPA allocation of $383,973.02. Comm. Lane SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

Comm. Lane MOVED to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Freestone County and Freestone County Office of Precinct 4 Commissioner for the road repair work in the County, including but not limited to a County ARPA allocation of $332,392.67. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

22. Add Heather Sutton to the Citizen's Bank-Inmate Trust Fund bank account.
Comm. Lane MOVED to add Heather Sutton to the Citizen's Bank-Inmate Trust Fund bank account. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

23. Consider going out for sealed bids to sell a 2002 Dodge 1 ton flatbed truck for Precinct 1 Road & Bridge.
Comm. Bonner MOVED to approve going out for sealed bids to sell a 2002 Dodge 1 ton flatbed truck for Precinct 1 Road & Bridge. Comm. Lane SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

24. Consider going out for sealed bids to sell a John Deere CX15 Mower for Precinct 1 Road & Bridge.
Comm. Lane MOVED to approve going out for sealed bids to sell a John Deere CX15 Mower for Precinct 1 Road & Bridge. Comm. Ridge SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

25. Consider going out for sealed bids to sell a 24' Tandem Axle Gooseneck Flat Bed Trailer for Precinct 1 Road & Bridge.

Comm. Lane MOVED to approve going out for sealed bids to sell a 24' Tandem Axle Gooseneck Flat Bed Trailer for Precinct 1 Road & Bridge. Comm. Ridge SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

Comm. Bonner MOVED to adjourn. Comm. Lane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

I, Renee Gregory, County Clerk of Freestone County, Texas, do hereby certify that the above Commissioner Court Minutes are true and correct record of the proceedings from the Commissioners Court Meeting.

ATTEST:

Renee Gregory, County Clerk