



Ector County Commissioners' Court

September 09, 2025

10:00 AM

Commissioners' Courtroom, Ector County Administration Building Annex, 1010 E. 8th St.,
Odessa, Texas

CALL TO ORDER- JUDGE DUSTIN FAWCETT

Dustin Fawcett, County Judge
Mike Gardner, Commissioner Precinct #1
Greg Simmons, Commissioner Precinct #2
Samantha Russell, Commissioner Precinct #3
Billy Hall, Commissioner Precinct #4
Minutes taken by Marco Dominguez, Assistant Chief Deputy Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

INVOCATION- COMMISSIONER SAMANTHA RUSSELL

The invocation was led by Commissioner Russell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- UNITED STATES AND TEXAS

Commissioner Simmons led the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag and the pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/REQUESTS/RESOLUTIONS

1. Public Participation/Comments, Shelby Rigtrup- Public Information Officer

To receive public comments on non-agenda related items.

Shirley Jo Kelley - P.O. Box 69012 Odessa, Texas - Spoke against the tax raise on the County, how the current courthouse could be refurbished, and about how ECISD could have built a high school in the area where the new golf course is being built.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

2. Early Voting Schedule, Elizabeth Sertuche- Elections Administrator

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *approve* the *Early Voting Schedule* for the November 4th, 2025, *Joint Constitutional Amendments & The Ector County Road District No. 1 Election*, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to *approve* the *Early Voting Schedule* for the November 4th, 2025, *Joint Constitutional Amendments & The Ector County Road District No. 1 Election*; Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

3. Out-of-State Travel Request, Eddie Landrum- Development Services Director

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *approve* Pamela Berry, Development Services GIS Manager, to attend an out-of-state conference from October 5th-9th, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall to *approve* Pamela Berry, Development Services GIS Manager, to attend an out-of-state conference from October 5th-9th, 2025; a second was made by Commissioner Gardner.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

4. Out-of-State Travel Request, Eddie Landrum- Development Services Director

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *approve* Eddie Landrum, Development Services Director, to attend an out-of-state conference from October 27th-28th, 2025.

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to *approve* Eddie Landrum, Development Services Director, to attend an out-of-state conference from October 27th-28th, 2025; Commissioner Hall seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

5. Ector County Parks Advisory Board Member Appointments, Debbie Clay- Commissioners' Court Administrative Assistant

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to approve member appointments to the *Ector County Parks Advisory Board*, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to approve member appointments to the *Ector County Parks Advisory Board*; A second was made by Commissioner Russell.

Michele Lee Spinks - 1716 N. Roadrunner Odessa, Texas - Spoke about the current Ector County Parks Advisory Board members.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

6. Donation, Mike Griffis- Sheriff

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *approve* a \$250.00 donation from Western Outlaw Field Services to the Ector County Sheriff's Office for their Halloween Event.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion to *approve* a \$250.00 donation from Western Outlaw Field Services to the Ector County Sheriff's Office for their Halloween Event; Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS/GRANTS

7. Unimproved Property Contract, John Henderson- Commissioners' Court Attorney/Grant Writer

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *approve* an *Unimproved Property Contract* by and between Ector County, Texas, and Alexander Rivas and Danitza Rivas regarding a 0.036-acre right-of-way located at 16th Street and Tripp Avenue, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall to *approve* an *Unimproved Property Contract* by and between Ector County, Texas, and Alexander Rivas and Danitza Rivas regarding a 0.036-acre right-of-way located at 16th Street and Tripp Avenue; A second was made by Commissioner Simmons.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

8. Motorola Solutions, Inc.- Tower Sites, Mike Griffis- Sheriff

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding the *Motorola Solutions, Inc., Proposal for TDMA/DDM Upgrade(s)* for the Penwell and Notrees Tower Sites to approve either

financing the cost or paying it as a Capital Expenditure, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item; the Commissioners' Court approved to upgrade the Penwell and Notrees Tower Sites licenses on July 8th, 2025.

Minutes Attachments

1. Agenda Item #8.pdf

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to take any necessary action regarding the *Motorola Solutions, Inc., Proposal for TDMA/DDM Upgrade(s)* for the Penwell and Notrees Tower Sites to approve either financing the cost or paying it as a Capital Expenditure; Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion.

Mr. White talked about the cost of the towers being installed and the different levels of plans that the Motorola Solutions, Inc. has for this project.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

9. WOVFD Property Occupancy/Lease, Mike Gardner- Commissioner, Pct. #1

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding Ector County-owned property that is being occupied/leased by the West Odessa Volunteer Fire Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardner to consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding Ector County-owned property that is being occupied/leased by the West Odessa Volunteer Fire Department; A second was made by Commissioner Russell.

Commissioner Mike Gardner commented how he has been receiving complaints about the exterior and how it looks around the residential area. He would like to make an agreement between the County and the Volunteer Fire Department.

Ryan Kelly - Volunteer Fire Department Captian - Spoke regarding the maintenance on the building and how he would like to get some form of security out in that area.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

10. Floodway Discussion: 7331 Hughes Lane, Eddie Landrum- Development Services Director

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding floodway discussion for the property located at 7331 Hughes Lane, Precinct #1, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to table this item into Executive Session; Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Commissioner Russell abstained due to conflict.

Gary Sims - Sims and Guest Realtors Odessa, Texas — Represents Luis Olivas, the homeowner of the property. Mr. Sims read a statement regarding how Mr. Olivas bought the property and during the time of the purchase there was no notice of the floodway that the property was built on.

Judge Dustin Fawcett has said that the Commissioner's Court will soon be passing a flood mitigation plan to help those homeowners that are in these situations.

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to deny the request regarding the floodway action on the property located at 7331 Hughes Lane, Precinct #1; Commissioner Hall second the motion. Commissioner Russell abstained due to conflict.

MOTION PASSED 4 - 0

11. MHRC Development Proposal Application: 2021 N. Redondo Avenue, Eddie Landrum- Development Services Director

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding an *MHRC Development Proposal Application* to serve 2021 N. Redondo Avenue, Precinct #1, and authorize the County

Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

Minutes Attachments

1. Agenda Item #11.pdf

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardner to take action regarding an *MHRC Development Proposal Application* to serve 2021 N. Redondo Avenue, Precinct #1; A second was made by Commissioner Hall.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

12. Variance Application: 3730 W 11th Street, Eddie Landrum- Development Services Director

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding a *Variance Application* for a Proposed MHRC to serve 3730 W 11th Street, Precinct #4, and authorize the County Judge, and other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

Minutes Attachments

1. Agenda Item #12.pdf

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to take action regarding a *Variance Application* for a Proposed MHRC to serve 3730 W 11th Street, Precinct #4; Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion.

Commissioner Mike Gardner explained he wanted an agreement between the property owner and the County, that states the ally way will be maintained to have a clear path for emergency vehicles.

Joseph Donally with S.W. Howell Inc., is asking for a variance to the property for emergency vehicles.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

CONSENT AGENDA

13. Proposed Consent Agenda, Tristan Marquez- County Auditor

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action on the following *Proposed Consent Agenda*:

13a.) Line-Item Transfer- Building Maintenance:

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *approve a line-item transfer* to General Fund, Building Maintenance, Special Departmental Equipment, 001-710-5507 from Major Building Projects, 001-710-5510 for \$15,000.00, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

13b.) Line-Item Transfer- County Court at Law #2:

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *approve a line-item transfer* to General Fund, CCL #2, Educational Travel, 001-150-5161 from Office Supplies, 001-150-5171 for \$684.00, and Postage, 001-150-5193 for \$73.00 and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

13c.) Line-Item Transfer- 161st District Court:

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *approve a line-item transfer* to General Fund, 161st District Court, Office Supplies, 001-070-5171 from Professional Dues & Fees, 001-070-5302 for \$650.00, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

13d.) Line-Item Transfer- 161st District Court:

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *approve a line-item transfer* to General Fund, 161st District Court, Educational Travel, 001-070-5161 from Subscriptions, 001-070-5207 for \$1,000.00, and from Postage, 001-070-5193 for \$200.00, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

Minutes Attachments

1. Agenda Item #13A.pdf
2. Agenda Item #13B.pdf
3. Agenda Item #13C.pdf
4. Agenda Item #13D.pdf

A motion was made by Commissioner Hall on the above Proposed Consent Agenda; A second was made by Commissioner Simmons.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

BUDGET/FINANCIAL

14. Budget Amendment: Constable, Tristan Marquez- County Auditor

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *approve a budget amendment* to General Fund, Constable, Professional Dues & Fees, 001-390-5302 from Unreserved Fund Balance, 001-3310 for \$45.00, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

Minutes Attachments

1. Agenda Item #14.pdf

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to *approve a budget amendment* to General Fund, Constable, Professional Dues & Fees, 001-390-5302 from Unreserved Fund Balance, 001-3310 for \$45.00; Commissioner Russell seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

15. Homestead Exemptions, Dustin Fawcett- Ector County Judge

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding Homestead Exemptions for senior citizens 65 years old and older and individuals on disability, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to table this agenda item and come back at a later date; A second was made by Commissioner Russell.

Motion Passed 3 - 2

Kris Crow - 2388 Bainbridge - Spoke about extending this policy to all County residents to help those families.

Michele Lee Spinks - 1716 N. Roadrunner Odessa, Texas - talked about needing a system to stop the increase in the tax rates.

Jeff Russell asked for clarification of the 20% that is in Ector County on the current Homestead Exemptions.

16. Public Hearing: FY 2025-2026 Proposed Budget, Shelby Rigtrup- Public Information Officer

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *conduct* a public hearing on the *Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026*.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to close the public hearing portion; Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion.

Motion Passed 5 - 0

Jeff Russell - Talked about the meeting that was held on Thursday Sept. 4th at 6pm and how Midland County had an 8% decrease in their taxes, He would like for the Court to consider other options rather than increasing the taxes.

Joe Soto - Talked about being against the proposed tax increase and the effects that it would cause to the families in the County.

Kris Crow - Recalled a meeting between him and Judge Fawcett where they had a conversation on if the taxes were dropped one year, the next year the taxes would be raised.

Gene Burns - Talked about how a County cannot increase the tax rate pass the 3.5%.

17. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget, Shelby Rigtrup- Public Information Officer

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *adopt* the *Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget* for Ector County, Texas, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to table this agenda item until the next meeting; A second was made by Commissioner Russell.

Motion Passes 5 - 0

Jeff Russell spoke on options that could be used to cut down the County budget.

Shawn Callendar spoke on behalf of the new Bonding Agent position and how it could help his office/Jail reduction.

Commissioner Simmons addressed certain budget items that he would like to look over again and make separate motions to those changes.

A motion to remove the Deputy Constable position from precinct #4 and related vehicles and equipment was made by Commissioner Simmons; Seconded by Commissioner Hall
Motion Passes 5 - 0

A motion to eliminate 1 heavy equipment operator #3 was made by Commissioner Simmons; Seconded by Commissioner Russell
Motion Passes 4 - 1

A motion to eliminate the survey technician position was made by Commissioner Simmons; Seconded by Commissioner Russell
Motion Passes 5 - 0

A motion to remove Traffic Tech position 2 in fund 002-830 was made by Commissioner Simmons; Seconded by Commissioner Russell
Motion Passes 5 - 0

A motion to remove the planner position, GIS web administrator, GIS analyst, and the Inspector position from Development Services was made by Commissioner Simmons; Seconded by Commissioner Russell
Motion Passes 3 - 2

A motion to have six new roll offs and not 14 from Environmental was made by Commissioner Simmons; Seconded by Commissioner Hall
Motion Passes 3 - 2

A motion to cap all director pay at 10% was made by Commissioner Simmons; Seconded by Commissioner Russell
Motion Fails 3 - 2

A motion to increase the medical examiner pay to 10% was made by Judge Fawcett;

Seconded by Commissioner Gardner
Motion Passes 3 - 2

A motion to hold the premiums and deductibles at the same rate on the insurance was made by Commissioner Simmons; Seconded by Commissioner Gardner
Motion Passes 5 - 0

A motion to reduce the Grant Writer to 2% pay was made by Commissioner Simmons; Seconded by Commissioner Russell
Motion Passes 3 - 2

A motion to leave the car allowance where it is for the Public Information Officer was made by Commissioner Simmons; Seconded by Commissioner Russell
Motion Passes 4 - 1

18. Public Hearing: FY 2025-2026 Proposed Tax Rate, Shelby Rigtrup- Public Information Officer

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *conduct* a public hearing on the *Proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2025-2026*.

Jeff Russell spoke about the concerns on the tax rate and how it could affect taxpayers.

Michelle Villanueva Subia - 2240 Linda Odessa, Texas - Spoke about the consequences of raising the taxes and how it could change commercial businesses.

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to close the public hearing on the proposed tax rate; Commissioner Hall second the motion.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

19. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Tax Rate, Shelby Rigtrup- Public Information Officer

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *adopt* the *Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Ad Valorem Tax Rate* for Ector County, Texas, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to table this item until next meeting; A second was made by Commissioner Hall.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

20. Financial Reports/Statements, Tristan Marquez

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to *approve* the *Accounts Payable Fund Requirements Report* for September 9th, 2025, and review County financial statements and reports.

Minutes Attachments

1. MN 09 09 25 GENERAL.pdf
2. TRUST 09 09 25.pdf

Commissioner Hall made a motion to *approve* the *Accounts Payable Fund Requirements Report* for September 9th, 2025, and review County financial statements and reports; Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

A motion to adjourn to executive session was made by Commissioner Simmons; Seconded by Commissioner Gardner.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0; **Adjourned** at 12:52 P.M.

Commissioner Simmons made a motion to reconvene; Commissioner Hall seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0; **Reconvened** at 01:43 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

21. Legal Matters, John Henderson- Commissioners' Court Attorney/Grant Writer

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding *legal matters* pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 551, Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, in relation to oil and gas legal representation regarding mineral interests at the Ector County- Odessa Schlemeyer Field Airport, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to take any necessary action regarding *legal matters* pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 551, Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, in relation to oil and gas legal representation regarding mineral interests at the Ector County-Odessa Schlemeyer Field Airport; A second was made by Commissioner Hall.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

22. Legal Matters & Real Estate, John Henderson- Commissioners' Court Attorney/Grant Writer

To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action regarding *legal matters* pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 551, Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, and *real estate issues/transactions* pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 551, Section 551.072, Texas Government Code, in relation to the property acquisition along Tripp Avenue, as it relates to roadway expansion and Ector County Independent School District, and authorize the County Judge, and any other necessary party, to sign all documents associated with this agenda item.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

ADJOURN

Time 01:48 P.M.

With no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Simmons with a second by Commissioner Gardner.

MOTION PASSED 5 - 0

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF ECTOR

I, Jennifer Martin, County Clerk, do hereby attest to the accuracy of the Commissioners Court Proceedings for the meeting held on the above date.

October 07, 2025 at 09:17 AM



Jennifer Martin, Ector County Clerk