

MINUTES

On this, the 10th day of August, 2026, the Commissioners Court of Jack County, Texas, met in Regular Session at 10:09 a.m., beginning with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag and Texas flag, with the following individuals present:

Brian Keith Umphress	County Judge
Gary Oliver	Commissioner Precinct 1
Ronald Fitzgerald	Commissioner Precinct 2
Henry Birdwell, Jr.	Commissioner Precinct 3
Vanessa James	County Clerk
Lisa Perry	County Auditor
Brad Campsey	County Treasurer
Cara Smith	County Treasurer's Assistant
Frank Hefner	Emergency Management / IT
T-Bob Hauger	Jack County Sheriff
Doug Angell	SO Chief Deputy
Macaul Johnson	County Judge's Assistant
Ron Butler	TDEM County Liaison
David Vanderkaay	Deputy County Constable

The following public members were in attendance: Connie Fellers, Nathan Dudley, Sioux Trombley, Gretta Owens, Jeff Jackson, Anna Fitzgerald, Juliana Koselich, Kathy Pruitt, LeeAnna Furman, Tom Olle, Charlie Edmonson, Don Sneed, Ken Alles, Ricky Wade, Gary Lobdell, Mary Sandberg, Donna Handley, Jim Harvison, Callie Kostelich, Tony Horn, Janice Thompson, Karen Vanderkaay, Ashely Anderson, Nichole Rose, Kris Alles, John Barry IV, Mike Smith, Jeremy Jennings, Jack Dechazo, Betsy Moore, Bobby Miles and, Susan Abshire

PUBLIC FORUM(LIMITED TO 5 MINUTES PER PERSON)

Several members of the public spoke to the Court.

([See attached](#))

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS

Judge Umphress moved to approve all accounts and claims submitted. Commissioner Birdwell seconded the motion, which passed. (3-0). Commissioner Oliver abstained from the vote.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- (a) Approval of Minutes of Meeting for August 3, 2026;
- (b) Acceptance of Extension Activity and Travel [Reports](#) from agent Alinda Cox for the month of July 2026;
- (c) Approval of Interlocal Cooperation [Contract](#) between the Department of Public Safety and Jack County for use of the TXCR site to report to DPS;

Judge Umphress made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Birdwell and passed (4-0).

PRESENTATION BY KAREN VANDERKAAY WITH WISE HOPE

Jana Thompson, Executive Director of Wise Hope, and Karen Vanderkaay gave a presentation.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session began at 10:59 a.m.

Legal Consultation:

- (a) The Commissioners' Court will conduct a closed meeting pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 to seek the advice of its attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551;

Economic Development:

- (b) The Commissioners' Court will conduct a closed meeting pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the county has received from a business prospect that the county seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the county and with which the county is conducting economic development negotiations, or to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to such a business prospect;

OPEN SESSION

Action, if there is any, on Items 5a and 5b.

Court reconvened at 1:02 p.m.; no final action or final vote was taken during closed session.

Judge Umphress made a motion that Capex Resources be placed on an upcoming agenda to update the court on all pending 312 Tax Abatement Applications, with applicants invited, to be held in public session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Birdwell, and it passed. (4-0)

(Attachment from public comment)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE MESA AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES FOR JACK COUNTY EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FY2026-2027

Correcting spelling to MASA Air Ambulance. Covers all ground ambulances and aircraft or helicopters. This covers what health insurance does not cover. This plan will cover employees, and the employee will have the option to add family members at their own expense.

Commissioner Birdwell made a motion to accept the proposal and recommendation to approve the purchase of [MASA medical transportation](#) coverage for employees for FY2026-2027. Commissioner Fitzgerald seconded the motion, and it passed. (4-0)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE BRYSON ESTATES SUBDIVISION PLAT

Commissioner Birdwell made a motion to approve the Bryson Estates [Subdivision](#) plat. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Oliver, and it passed. (4-0)

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSIONER PRECINCT OPERATIONS

Discussion made, no action taken.

REPORTS, IF ANY, BY OTHER DEPARTMENT HEADS

Discussion made, no action taken.

BUDGET WORKSHOP FY2026

Discussion made, no action taken.

(Attachment from public comment)

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible burn ban ratification.
Public hearing on budget FY2027
Presentation from Capex Resources

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Birdwell moved to adjourn. Commissioner Fitzgerald seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (4-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Brian Keith Umphress, County Judge

Gary Oliver, Commissioner Pct. #1

Ronald Fitzgerald, Commissioner Pct. #2

Henry Birdwell, Jr., Commissioner Pct #3

Terry Ward, Commissioner Pct. #4

ATTEST:

Vanessa James, County Clerk