

MINUTES

On this, the 28th day of September, 2026, the Commissioners Court of Jack County, Texas, met in Regular Session at 10:00 a.m., beginning with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and the 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
Terry Ward	Commissioner Precinct 4
Vanessa James	County Clerk
Lisa Perry	County Auditor
Brad Campsey	County Treasurer
Cara Smith	County Treasurer's Assistant
T-Bob Hauger	Jack County Sheriff
Doug Angell	SO Chief Deputy
David Vanderkaay	Deputy County Constable
Macaul Johnson	PIO / Administrative Assistant
Lynn Casteel	Elections Administrator
Taylor Chapa	Extension Agent
Missy Coufal	Extension Office Assistant

The following public members were in attendance: Maurine Dickey, John Barry IV, Vickie Bruce, Bobby Miles, Sioux Trombley, Gretta Owens, Michael J. Rhoades, Gary Lobdell, Mark Laird, Terry Beslie, Drew Williams, Taylor Chapa, Cutter Murray, Morgan Ellis, Jaci Robinson, Madison Brasket, Carter Erwin, Missy Coufal, Mike Smith, Ken Alles, Nichole Rose, Ashley Anderson, Chris Graham, Levi Easter, Julie Easter, Charlie Edmonson, Lisa Story, Kylee Stokey, Harva Kuykendall, Cassie Erwin and, Anna Fitzgerald.

PUBLIC FORUM (LIMITED TO 5 MINUTES PER PERSON)

A member 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. (4-0).

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- (a) Approval of Minutes of Meeting for September 14 and 18, 2026;
- (b) Review and Acceptance of Auditor's Monthly [Report](#);
- (c) Approval of designating the second and fourth Mondays of each month on which Commissioner's Court will convene regular meetings for remainder of FY 2026 and FY2027, unless those days fall on a designated holiday;
- (d) Appointment of Pro Tem County Judge for Commissioners Court for the calendar year 2027;
- (e) Approval of the National 4-H Week [Proclamation](#);

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

TIMED AGENDA ITEM: 10:00 AM

- (a) Public Hearing on Proposed County Budget and Tax Rate;
- (b) Adopt Budget for FY 2026-2027;
- (c) Adopt County Tax Rate for 2027;
-Review and Action on Bids to Purchase the following:
- (d) Gasoline and Diesel Fuel to be used by Jack County until September 30, 2027;
- (e) Crushed Rock and Road Building Material for use by the County Commissioners' for FY 2026-2027 (October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027);

ACTION BY COURT ON THE ABOVE ITEM 4(A)

Public hearing on the Proposed County Budget began at 10:13 a.m. Several members of the public spoke. The hearing concluded at 11:06 a.m.

Public Hearing for the setting of the Tax Rate, 11:06 a.m. Concluded at 11:16 a.m.

ACTION BY COURT ON THE ABOVE ITEM 4(B)

Motion was offered by Judge Brian Keith Umphress: I move we adopt the proposed County Budget with the changes made since its filing. Commissioner Birdwell seconded the motion, and it passed.

Commissioner Oliver – no
Commissioner Fitzgerald – yes
Commissioner Birdwell – yes
Commissioner Ward – no
Judge Umphress – yes

ACTION BY COURT ON THE ABOVE ITEM 4(C)

Commissioner Henry Birdwell, Jr. offered a motion: I move that the No-New-Revenue Rate be adopted by adopting a Maintenance & Operation Tax Rate of \$0.348538 per \$100 of evaluation for the 2026-2027 tax year. The motion was seconded by Judge Umphress, and it passed.

Commissioner Oliver – yes
Commissioner Fitzgerald – yes
Commissioner Birdwell – yes
Commissioner Ward – yes
Judge Umphress – yes

Commissioner Henry Birdwell, Jr. offered a motion: I move that the No-New-Revenue Rate be adopted at a Road & Bridge Tax Rate of \$0.081696 per \$100 of evaluation for the 2026-2027 tax year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ronald Fitzgerald, and it passed.

Commissioner Oliver – yes
Commissioner Fitzgerald – yes
Commissioner Birdwell – yes
Commissioner Ward – yes
Judge Umphress – yes

Motion was offered by Commissioner Gary Oliver: I move to allow the statutory exemptions in payment of our property taxes for homesteads and discounts for early payment under §11.13 and § 31.05 (b) of the Property Tax Code. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fitzgerald, and it passed.

Commissioner Oliver – yes
Commissioner Fitzgerald – yes
Commissioner Birdwell – yes
Commissioner Ward – yes
Judge Umphress – yes

ACTION BY COURT ON THE ABOVE ITEM 4(D)

Only one bid was received from Grable Oil. Grable Oil is a local business and local taxpayer, and the county prefers to do business with local businesses.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ward to accept the [bid](#) received from Grable Oil. Commissioner Birdwell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. (5-0)

ACTION BY COURT ON THE ABOVE ITEM 4(E)

The County received one valid bid from Zack Burkett Co.

Commissioner Birdwell made a motion to accept the [bid](#) from Zack Burkett Co. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fitzgerald, and it passed unanimously. (5-0)

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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;

Brief recess began at 12:20 p.m.; then Executive Session will begin.

OPEN SESSION: ACTION, IF THERE IS ANY, BY COURT ON THE ABOVE ITEM 10A AND ITEM 10B

Open Session 12:57 p.m.

Judge Umphress moved to receive an update on the County’s economic development. Commissioner Birdwell seconded the motion, and it passed. (4-0) Commissioner Ward is present; he is listening online in the next room.

Michelle Bohreer of Bohreer Law Firm provided an update on the County’s economic development. She informed the Court that CyrusOne has withdrawn its application for a tax abatement.

Judge Umphress moved to receive an update from Bohreer Law Firm regarding the County’s legal consultation. Commissioner Birdwell seconded the motion, and it passed. (4-0) Commissioner Ward is present, listening online in the next room.

Michelle Bohreer with Bohreer Law Firm gave an update on the County’s legal consultation.

APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE OF THE ORDER OF ELECTION OF GENERAL ELECTION FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2026-ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR

Judge Umphress made a motion to approve signing the [Order of Election](#) of the General Election for November 3, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ward and it passed. (5-0)

APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION FOR COUNTY JUDGE TO SIGN THE CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES BETWEEN JACK COUNTY, JACK COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT AND PERRIN-WHITT CISD FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2026 ELECTION

Judge Umphress made a motion to approve the signing of the Contract for Election Services between Jack County, [Jack County Hospital District](#), and [Perrin-Whitt CISD](#) for November 3, 2026. Commissioner Birdwell seconded the motion, and it passed. (5-0)

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF PAYROLL SCHEDULE FOR REMAINDER FY2026 AND FY2027

Judge Umphress made a motion to approve the presented payroll schedule for the remainder of FY2026 and FY2027. Commissioner Birdwell seconded the motion, and it passed. (4-0)

SET COUNTY HOLIDAYS FOR REMINDER FY2026 AND FY2027 AS FOLLOWS:

Columbus Day	October 12, 2026
General Election Day	November 3, 2026
Veteran’s Day	November 11, 2026
Thanksgiving	November 26 & 27, 2026
Christmas	December 24 & 25, 2026
New Year’s Day	January 1, 2027
Martin Luther King Day	January 18, 2027
President’s Day	February 15, 2027
Good Friday	March 26, 2027

Memorial Day	May 31, 2027
Juneteenth	June 18, 2027
Independence Day	July 5, 2027
Labor Day	September 6, 2027
Employee’s Birthday	Determined by Dept. Head

Commissioner Birdwell made a motion to approve setting the presented holidays for the remainder of FY2026 and FY2027. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fitzgerald 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.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

MOU for school resource officers.

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 1:26 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