

**MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF DE WITT COUNTY, TEXAS
SPECIAL MEETING – MAY 1, 2025**

De Witt County Commissioners Court met in special session May 1, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the County Courtroom at the De Witt County Courthouse in Cuero, Texas, with the following members present:

County Judge Daryl L. Fowler
Commissioner Ryan Varela, Precinct No. 1
Commissioner James B. Pilchick Jr., Precinct No. 2
Commissioner James Kaiser, Precinct No. 3
Commissioner Brian Carson, Precinct No. 4

Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Judge Fowler called the meeting to order and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Carson gave the invocation.

New Business:

Executive/Closed Session (No. 1)

Judge Fowler announced that a closed session will be held pursuant to §551.074 of the Texas Government Code for the Commissioners Court to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to enter into an executive session for the purpose of interviewing persons for the position of Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 1 and authorize the judge to be the record keeper of the said agenda and Judge McBride was asked to be present. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Judge Fowler announced that the executive session has ended and court will return to open session at 6:40 p.m.

Discussion and Potential Action (No. 2)

Mr. Kaiser stated that no action is to be taken today.

Adjourn (No. 3)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to adjourn. [Adjourned at 6:41 p.m.]

**MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF DE WITT COUNTY, TEXAS
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 12, 2025**

De Witt County Commissioners Court met in regular session May 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom at the De Witt County Courthouse in Cuero, Texas, with the following members present:

County Judge Daryl L. Fowler
Commissioner Ryan Varela, Precinct No. 1
Commissioner James B. Pilchick Jr., Precinct No. 2
Commissioner James Kaiser, Precinct No. 3
Commissioner Brian Carson, Precinct No. 4

Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Judge Fowler called the meeting to order and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Carson gave the invocation.

New Business:

Delinquent Property Tax and Fees and Fines Collection Report (No. 3)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchick made a motion to receive the annual delinquent property tax and fees and fines collection report for De Witt County presented by attorney Nicole J. Borchard with the Law Firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Order Rescinding Burn Ban (No. 4)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to ratify Court Order No. 2025-019 rescinding burn ban in De Witt County. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Public Announcements/Comments Executive/Closed Session (No. 37)

Southwest Engineering CEO John Littlefield introduced himself to the court and what services the company could offer to the county.

Certificate of Completion (No. 5)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive Certificate of Completion for De Witt County Emergency Management Coordinator Billy Jordan Jr. from the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service for the successful completion of the Crowd Management for Sport and Special Events training course. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Certificate of Completion (No. 6)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive Certificate of Completion for De Witt County Constable Pct. 1 Roy Kuester from the Victoria County Sheriff's Office for the successful completion of the Civil Process Writ Training course. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Certificate of Completion (No. 7)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive Certificate of Completion for De Witt County Constable Pct. 1 Roy Kuester from the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center for the successful completion of the Principles of Enforcement and Abatement training course. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Certificate of Completion (No. 8)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive Certificate of Completion for De Witt County Constable Pct. 1 Roy Kuester from the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center for the successful completion of the Enforcing Public Nuisance and Illegal Dumping Laws training course. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

HB 2521 Division Order (No. 9)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive division order from Devon Energy Production Company LP (HB 2521) for the P Frisbie A-Kolodziejczyk SA 1 1H Unit. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

HB 2521 Division Order (No. 10)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive division order from Devon Energy Production Company LP (HB 2521) for the P Frisbie A- Kolodziejczyk SA 2 2H Unit. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

HB 2521 Division Order (No. 11)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive division order from Devon Energy Production Company LP (HB 2521) for the P Frisbie A- Kolodziejczyk SA 3 3H Unit. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

HB 2521 Division Order (No. 12)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive division order from Devon Energy Production Company LP (HB 2521) for the P Frisbie A- Kolodziejczyk SA 4 4H Unit. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 13)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchick made a motion for approval of permit application from Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP for installation of a temporary water line along Steen Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 2. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 14)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve temporary right of way agreement with Select Water Solutions LLC for installation of a temporary water line along Davy Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 3. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 15)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve temporary right of way agreement with Select Water Solutions LLC for installation of a temporary water line along Davy Road, Czaja Brothers Road, Salt Creek Cemetery Road, and Gruenau Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 3. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Deposit Receipt Audit for April 2025 (No. 16)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive De Witt County Auditor's Deposit Receipt Audit Report for April 2025, pursuant to Local Government Code, Chapter 115. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Payroll Audit Report April 2025 (No. 17)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive De Witt County Auditor's Payroll Audit Report, pursuant to Local Government Code, Chapter 115. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Positive Pay Audit Report April 2025 (No. 18)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive De Witt County Auditor's Positive Pay Audit Report, pursuant to Local Government Code, Chapter 115. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Local Government Solutions (LGS) License Agreement Addendum 3 (No. 19)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve the Non-Exclusive License and Service Agreement Addendum 3 (LGS17-0071-03) between De Witt County and Local Government Solutions (LGS) for use in the County Auditor's Office. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Request for Qualifications (No. 20)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to authorize the County Auditor to advertise for requests for qualifications (RFQ) for professional engineering services, including but not limited to road and bridge design and construction and floodplain development permitting. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Consensus of the court to use the evaluation criteria for selecting an engineering firm form created by County Auditor Neomi Williams.

Receive and Award Proposals (No. 21)

Court passed on this agenda item.

Authorize Auditor to Advertise for Bids (No. 22)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to authorize the County Auditor to advertise for bids for bulk hydrated lime. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Receive and Award Bid (No. 23)

MOTION: Mr. Carson made a motion to receive the re-bid and award it to Henna Chevrolet for the 2025 3500 diesel one ton truck in the amount of \$58,500.00 plus dealer fees and authorize the auditor to sign the paperwork and pay for the truck. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Monthly Report of Officials (No. 24)

County Auditor reported that the auditor's office had received monthly reports from all officials.

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve monthly report of officials. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Semi-Monthly Reports – April 25-30, 2025 (No. 25)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive De Witt County Auditor's Reports, pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 114 for the dates of April 25th through April 30th, 2025. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Semi-Monthly Reports – May 1-8, 2025 (No. 26)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive De Witt County Auditor's Reports, pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 114 for May 1st through May 8th, 2025. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Treasurer's Monthly Report (No. 27)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive and approve Order Approving Treasurer's Monthly Report, Court Order No. 2025-020. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Minutes (No. 28)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive and approve minutes of the previous term of court. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Accounts Payable (No. 29)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve accounts payable. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Ratified Accounts Payable (No. 30)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve ratified accounts payable. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Budget Amendment Requests (No. 31)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve budget amendment requests. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Payroll Reports (No. 32)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive and ratify payroll reports. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Jury Report (No. 33)

None

Courthouse/Annex/Museum Expenditures/Maintenance/Improvements (No 34)

Judge Fowler reported on the following:

1. Company has started pressure washing the outside of the courthouse building.
2. Air conditioning unit in the Weber Building necessary for IT mechanisms has failed and Judge Fowler is having to consider a requisition for a new mini-split unit.
3. After the washing of the courthouse, the front door is scraping the threshold. The door will likely need to come off and have a small portion shaved off of the bottom.

Legislative Update (No. 35)

No Legislative update.

Discussion of Commissioner Precinct Operations (No. 36)

Commissioner Precinct No. 1 reported normal precinct operations – blading, patching roads and getting ready to mow and spray at the end of the month to give the wildflowers a chance to bloom with the recent rain.

Commissioner Precinct No. 2 reported normal precinct operations.

Commissioner Precinct No. 3 reported normal precinct operations.

Commissioner Precinct No. 4 reported normal precinct operations.

Executive/Closed Session (No. 1)

Judge Fowler announced the need for an executive/closed session will be held pursuant to § 551.074 of the Texas Government Code for the Commissioners Court to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to go into executive session and authorize the judge to be the keeper of the minutes. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Judge Fowler made the statement that the executive session of the Commissioner Court will begin this morning at 10:12 a.m.

Judge Fowler announced that the executive session ended at 11:55 a.m. and court returned to open session on this day, May 12th.

Discussion and Potential Action (No. 2)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchick made a motion to adopt Commissioners Court Order No. 2025-021 nominating and appointing Lindsay Renee Ruppert as Justice of the Peace for Precinct One of which upon acquisition and approval of a bond. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 3-2 with Mr. Carson and Mr. Varela voting against.

Adjourn (No. 38)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to adjourn. [Adjourned at 12:04 p.m.]

**MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF DE WITT COUNTY, TEXAS
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 27, 2025**

De Witt County Commissioners Court met in regular session May 27, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom at the De Witt County Courthouse in Cuero, Texas, with the following members present:

County Judge Daryl L. Fowler
Commissioner Ryan Varela, Precinct No. 1
Commissioner James B. Pilchick Jr., Precinct No. 2
Commissioner James Kaiser, Precinct No. 3
Commissioner Brian Carson, Precinct No. 4

Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Judge Fowler called the meeting to order and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Carson gave the invocation.

New Business:

Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission- General Assembly and Board of Directors Representatives (No. 1)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchick made a motion to appointment and/or reappointment of two representatives to the General Assembly for a two year term beginning September 1, 2025; and to consider appointment of one of the General Assembly representatives to sit on the Board of Directors for a one year term beginning September 1, 2025, that being Ryan Varela and Brian Carson. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Interlocal Agreement (No. 2)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve an Interlocal agreement between the County of De Witt and the County of Hall for the purposes of performing functions of law enforcement through Hall County Sheriff's Office, which has an authorized access terminal providing access to the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS). Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 3)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit applications from EOG Resources for installation of a temporary water line along Hahn Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 4)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchick made a motion for approval of permit applications from AJ's Logistics for installation of a temporary water line along Wild Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 2. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 5)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit applications from AJ's Logistics for installation of a temporary water line along Kozielski Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 6)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit applications from Select Water Solutions for installation of a temporary water line along Schlenstedt Road, Boldt Road, and Lakey Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Semi-Monthly Reports – May 9-22, 2025 (No. 7)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Semi-Monthly Reports from May 9th through May 22nd, 2025, pursuant to Local Government Code, Chapter 114. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Tax Assessor Statutory Compliance Audit FY2024 Q3-Q4 (No. 8)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive Tax Assessor Statutory Compliance Audit FY2024 Quarters 3 through Quarters 4, pursuant to Local Government Code, Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Child Welfare Board Audit for FY2025 Q2 (No. 9)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Child Welfare Board Audit for FY2025 Quarter 2, pursuant to Local Government Code, Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Inventory Audit of Fixed Assets Report for County Clerk (No. 10)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive De Witt County Auditor's Inventory of Fixed Assets Audit Report, pursuant to Local Government Code, Section 262.011(i). Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Receive and Award Proposals (No. 11)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive evaluations and award Joe R. Jones Construction Inc. Weatherford, Texas awarding proposal for the Bates-Sheppard House, De Witt County Historical Museum Exterior Repairs & Restoration Project; and authorize the County Judge to negotiate a contract with the highest-ranking firm. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Certification of Funds (No. 12)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive letter from County Auditor certifying funds for the De Witt County Juvenile Probation Department from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department in the amount of \$4,348.00. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Bonds (No. 13)

Bond of Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 1 Lindsay Ruppert.

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve the bond of Lindsay Ruppert for Precinct 1 JP. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Accounts Payable (No. 14)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve accounts payable. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Ratified Accounts Payable (No. 15)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve ratified accounts payable. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Budget Amendment Requests (No. 16)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve the following items in accordance with the orders presented including the budget amendment requests for interdepartmental transfers for the County Auditor, Commissioner Precinct 3, Juvenile Probation and the Juvenile Probation State Aid Grant. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Payroll Reports (No. 17)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive and ratify approval of payroll reports. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Jury Report (No. 18)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive and ratify jury report. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Courthouse/Annex/Museum Expenditures/Maintenance/Improvements (No. 19)

Judge Fowler reported on the following items:

1. Courthouse front door has been repaired and repainted on the exterior side and refinished on the inside; the same has been done on the south entrance doors.
2. Courthouse chillers are still in need of some mechanical changes.
3. Weber Annex building roof top mini-split unit was failing; have a vendor selected to fix the issue; the vendor's name is Air on Demand; and the quote was \$4,626.00, which was included in the late bills approved today.

Mr. Varela reported that everything is on hold at the Historical Museum to get the construction going.

Mr. Varela reported on the courthouse parking lot that needs repairs. He received a quote from H & C, one of the awarded vendors for asphalt maintenance, and since the parking lot is asphalt maintenance the county will need to use one of the awarded vendors. H & C has advised that the pricing in which it will take to do the asphalt work is too less of a cost for them to use the codes to make any kind of profit. Mr. Varela has reached out to another vendor to get a confirmation that it is too small of a job. If it turns out that no of the awarded vendors wants to do the job, then we will have to come back and discuss the next course of action.

Mr. Carson reported that the Precinct 4 building work started last Monday and put the insulation and roof on Friday. The 2 walk in doors are installed and just waiting on the overhead doors.

Legislative Update (No. 20)

Judge Fowler reported that the \$250 million request that was asked for in the road grant program is still hung up in the Conference Committee and likely to not be acted on.

Discussion of Commissioner Precinct Operations (No. 21)

Commissioner Precinct No. 1 reported on normal precinct operations.

Commissioner Precinct No. 2 reported on normal precinct operations.

Commissioner Precinct No. 3 reported on normal precinct operations.

Commissioner Precinct No. 4 reported on that the log jam in Thomaston someone decided to set it on fire but it didn't burn down. Plans are to start mowing this week depending on the weather. The one ton dually truck is here.

Public Announcements/Comments (No. 22)

None

Adjourn (No. 23)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to adjourn. [Adjourned at 9:43 a.m.]

THE FOREGOING MINUTES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY A.D. 2025 WERE READ AND APPROVED IN REGULAR SESSION OF COURT ON THIS THE 9TH DAY OF JUNE, A.D. 2025.



DARYL L. FOWLER, COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: 

NATALIE CARSON, COUNTY CLERK

