

**MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF DE WITT COUNTY, TEXAS
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 20, 2026**

DeWitt County Commissioners Court met in regular session April 20, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom at the DeWitt 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 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:

Public Announcements/Comments on Non-Agenda Items (No. 1)

None

DeWitt County Historical Commission Appointment (No. 2)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to appoint Rebekah Lincke to the DeWitt County Historical Commission for the 2025-2027 term of service. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Soil & Water Stewardship Week Proclamation (No. 3)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve the adoption of a proclamation that designates the week of April 26, 2026 through May 3, 2026 as the 2026 Texas Soil & Water Stewardship Week. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Every Kid Healthy Week Proclamation (No. 4)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve the adoption of a proclamation that designates the week of April 20 through 24, 2026 as Every Kid Healthy Week in DeWitt County. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Joint Election Agreement (No. 5)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve the Joint Election Agreement Contract for elections services for Cuero ISD and Yorktown ISD for the May 2, 2026 Joint General Election. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Economic Development Grant (No. 6)

Nelson Prince, Assistant Fire Chief for Thomaston Volunteer Fire Department, addressed the court.

MOTION: Judge Fowler made a motion to authorize the County Judge to work with the attorney firm of Bickerstaff Delgado Heath and Acosta to develop an economic development agreement for a short term loan of \$222,000.00 between DeWitt County (as lender) and Thomaston Volunteer Fire Department (as borrower) for public purposes allowed under Chapter 381 of the Local Government Code and more specifically, the advance funding of a new brush truck and water tank awarded to Thomaston Volunteer Fire Department by a Texas Forest Service Grant. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

HVAC Maintenance Agreement (No. 9)

Court did not take any action.

Motorola Service Agreement (No. 26)

MOTION: Mr. Carson made a motion to renew the one-year service agreement for maintenance to Motorola towers. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Schedule Public Hearing Date (No. 7)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchick made a motion to set a public hearing date on No Thru Truck Traffic road sign on McGehee Road on May 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Retainer Agreement (No. 8)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve an agreement to retain the law firm of Allison, Bass and Magee, LLP, as legal counsel for assistance in legal issues pertaining to county land titles and right-of-way matters; and authorize the County Judge to execute a retainer agreement for these services. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Governor's Proclamation for Serious Drought Conditions (No. 10)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive an extension of the Governor's Proclamation declaring a state of disaster due to the serious drought conditions in DeWitt County. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0

Health Department Manager - Time Entry Designee (No. 11)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve Court Order No. 2026-016, an order designating the County Judge as the Time Entry Designee for the Health Department Manager. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Elections Administrator - Time Entry Designee (No. 12)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve Court Order No. 2026-017, an order designating the County Judge as the Time Entry Designee for the Elections Administrator. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer - Time Entry Designee (No. 13)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve Court Order No. 2026-018, an order designating the County Judge as the Time Entry Designee for the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Amendment to Salary Order (No. 14)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve Court Order No. 2026-019, an order to amend the DeWitt County Salary Order to increase the funding for the executive secretary in the county attorney's office from the Rural Prosecutor's Salary Grant Assistance. No second made. Motion died for lack of second.

Commissioners Court Procedures (No. 15)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve the standard procedures for DeWitt County Commissioners Court meetings. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Commissioners Court Meeting Schedule (No. 16)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to change the regularly scheduled Commissioners Court Meeting from May 25, 2026 to May 26, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom due to the Memorial holiday. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Awarded Asphalt Oils Bid No: 2026-0005 (No. 24)

MOTION: Mr. Carson made a motion to clarify and correct the action taken by Commissioners Court on March 9, 2026, for the Asphalt Oils contract to reflect the correct Bid No. 2026-0005, consistent with the bid documents and original intent of the Court, with all other terms and conditions of the award remaining unchanged. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Awarded Fuel Bid No: 2026-0007 (No. 25)

MOTION: Mr. Carson made a motion to clarify and correct the action taken by Commissioners Court on March 9, 2026, for the Fuel contract to reflect the correct contract term of April 14, 2026 through April 13, 2027, consistent with the bid documents and original intent of the Court, with all other terms and conditions of the award remaining unchanged. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 17)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit application from Select Water Solutions for installation of a temporary water line along Kubala Store Road and Lincke Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 18)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion for approval of the permit application from Select Water Solutions for installation of a temporary water line along A. Metting Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 3. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 19)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchick made a motion for approval of the permit application from Select Water Solutions for installation of a temporary water line along H. Koopman Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 3. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 20)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchick made a motion for approval of the permit application from Select Water Solutions for installation of a temporary water line along Gruenau Road and Salt Creek Cemetery Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 3. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 21)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit application from Select Water Solutions for installation of a temporary water line along Schlenstedt Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 22)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit application from Select Water Solutions for installation of a temporary water line along Boldt Road and Lackey Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 23)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchick made a motion for approval of the permit application from Select Water Solutions for installation of a temporary water line along Cotton Patch Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 3. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

County Auditor's Semi-Monthly Reports – March 18-31, 2026 (No. 27)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Semi-Monthly Report for March 18th through 31st, 2026 and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 114. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Monthly Revenue Reports from County Officials and Department Heads (No. 28)

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

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve Monthly Revenue Reports from County Officials and Department Heads. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

County Auditor's Purchasing Audit Report FY 2026 2nd Quarter (No. 29)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Purchasing Audit Report for FY2026 2nd Quarter and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

County Auditor's Cash Count Report FY 2026 2nd Quarter (No. 30)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Cash Count Report for FY 2026 2nd Quarter and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

County Auditor's Accounts Payable Audit Report FY 2026 2nd Quarter (No. 31)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Accounts Payable Audit Report for FY2026 2nd Quarter and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

County Auditor's Deposit Receipt Audit for March 2026 (No. 32)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Deposit Receipt Audit for March 2026 and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

County Auditor's Payroll Audit Report March 2026 (No. 33)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Payroll Audit Report for March 2026 and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

County Auditor's Positive Pay Audit Report March 2026 (No. 34)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive DeWitt County Auditor's Positive Pay Audit Report for March 2026 and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Declare Fixed Assets as Salvage (No. 35)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve certain inventory items as worn, damaged or obsolete and pursuant to Local Government Code 263.152. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

County Treasurer's Monthly Report (No. 36)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Treasurer's Monthly Report and approve Court Order No. 2026-015. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

County Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report (No. 37)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Minutes (No. 38)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchick made a motion to receive and approve minutes. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Accounts Payable (No. 39)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve accounts payable. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Ratified Accounts Payable (No. 40)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve ratified accounts payable. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Payroll Reports (No. 41)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive and ratify payroll reports. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Courthouse/Annex/Museum Expenditures/Maintenance/Improvements (No. 42)

Judge Fowler gave an update on the courthouse floors, monument and flags replaced outside of the courthouse.

DeWitt County Historical Museum: Mr. Varela reported that Danny Tyl has completed electrical work on the outside of museum. Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) prisoners begun painting the inside of the museum.

Legislative Update (No. 43)

Judge Fowler gave a report on the lunch that he and Mr. Carson attended with the Texas Oil & Gas Association.

Discussion of Commissioner Precinct Operations (No. 44)

Commissioner Precinct No. 1 reported that Dunn Service has finished subgrade rehabilitation on Lane Street in Westhoff and Oliver Road. Paving will take place after the rain dries up. The precinct is blading and patching roads, cleaning ditches and clearing debris.

Commissioner Precinct No. 2 reported on normal precinct operations.

Commissioner Precinct No. 3 was absent.

Commissioner Precinct No. 4 reported on normal precinct operations.

Adjourn (No. 45)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchick made a motion to adjourn. [Adjourned at 11:36 a.m.]

**MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF DE WITT COUNTY, TEXAS
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 27, 2026**

DeWitt County Commissioners Court met in regular session April 27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom at the DeWitt 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.

Public Announcements/Comments on Non-Agenda Items (No. 1)

None

Child Welfare Board Membership (No. 2)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve the appointments of Kendall Klimitchek and Katelin Womack to the DeWitt County Child Welfare Board. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

2025 Safety Achievement Award (No. 3)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive the 2025 Safety Achievement Award from Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool (TAC RMP) for its commitment to workplace safety. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

2025 Making a Difference Award (No. 4)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive the 2025 Making a Difference Award for Ashley Hunt from the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool (TAC RMP). Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

GCRPC Interlocal Agreement (No. 5)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve renewal of interlocal agreement between DeWitt County and other local counties for the Golden Crescent Regional Adult Sexual Assault Response Team. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Ribbon Cutting Celebration (No. 6)

Court heard announcement from Commissioner Varela regarding the Guadalupe Valley Paddling Trail Ribbon Cutting Celebration on April 30th.

Order Rescinding Burn Ban (No. 7)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to ratify Court Order No. 2026-019 rescinding burn ban in DeWitt County. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

State Antiquities Landmarks Permit (No. 8)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive permit from the State Antiquities Landmarks Department and authorize Commissioner Varela to engage a concrete mason for demolition and

construction of the pad for the Alamo Letter granite monument. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Exhibit Loan Agreement (No. 9)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve loan agreement with the Bullock Texas State History Museum for exhibition of historical county courthouse artifact. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Economic Development Grant (No. 10)

MOTION: Judge Fowler made a motion to offer a secure promissory note to Thomaston Volunteer Fire Department Inc., as the borrower, and DeWitt County, as the lender, for the acquisition of firefighting apparatus in the amount of \$222,000.00 with an annual interest rate of 3.8%, a default interest rate of 3.8% and a final maturity date of April 26, 2027. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Certificate of Completion (No. 11)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive Certificate of Completion for Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 Lindsay Ruppert from the Texas State University Texas Justice Court Training Center for the successful completion of 80 hours of new Justice of the Peace training requirement courses. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Unclaimed Rural Electric Cooperative Capital Credits (No. 12)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to authorize a written request to Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Pursuant to §74.602 of the Texas Property Code for allocation of a portion of unclaimed capital credits received from electric cooperatives back to counties in cooperatives' service area and certify the purpose of the funds is in compliance with the provisions of §381.004 of the Local Government Code for 2026 reporting years. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Payment (No. 13)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive 2026 Texas Department of State Health Services payment from tobacco settlement proceeds in the amount of \$15,333.99. Mr. Pilchick seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 14)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit application from NexGen Water Solutions LLC for installation of two (2) temporary water lines along Hartman Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 15)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit application from NexGen Water Solutions LLC for installation of two (2) temporary water lines along Bellevue Cemetery Road and Chaddock Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 16)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit application from NexGen Water Solutions LLC for installation of two (2) temporary water lines along Bellevue Cemetery Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Pipeline Crossing Permits (No. 17)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit applications for three (3) pipelines from Burlington Oil & Gas Company LP to cross Hartman Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Semi-Monthly Reports – April 1-22, 2026 (No. 18)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Semi-Monthly Report for April 1st through 22nd, 2026 and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 114. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Authorize Auditor to Dispose of Salvage or Surplus Property (No. 19)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to authorize auditor to dispose of salvage or surplus property, pursuant to Local Government Code 263 Subchapter D by means of an online auction. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Declare Fixed Assets as Salvage (No. 20)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to declare certain inventory items as worn, damaged or obsolete and pursuant to Local Government Code 263.152. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Accounts Payable (No. 21)

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. 22)

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 Amendments (No. 23)

MOTION: Mr. Carson made a motion to approve the following items in accordance with the orders presented, including: the budget amendment requests to appropriate fund balance for the return of unspent Rural Sheriff's Salary Assistance Grant (SB 22) funds and accrued interest, as requested by the Comptroller; and the budget amendment requests for interdepartmental transfers for District Court, JP #1, Commissioner Pct. #4, and the GLO MIT-MOD CDBG Grant for the Atzenhoffer Road Improvement projects. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Payroll Reports (No. 24)

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. 25)

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. 26)

Judge Fowler reported on the courthouse chillers knocking themselves out.

DeWitt County Historical Museum: Mr. Varela gave an update on a couple of imperfections and the contractors are sending a crew to do touch ups.

Legislative Update (No. 27)

Judge Fowler gave an update on a zoom meeting he had with Craig Holzheuser and Judge Teal.

Discussion of Commissioner Precinct Operations (No. 28)

Commissioner Precinct No. 1 reported on normal operations.

Commissioner Precinct No. 2 reported on normal operations.

Commissioner Precinct No. 3 reported on normal operations.

Commissioner Precinct No. 4 reported on normal operations.

Adjourn (No. 29)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to adjourn. [Adjourned at 10:50 a.m.]

THE FOREGOING MINUTES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL A.D. 2026 WERE READ AND APPROVED IN REGULAR SESSION OF COURT ON THIS THE 11TH DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2026.


DARYL L. FOWLER, COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: 
NATALIE CARSON, COUNTY CLERK

