

COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES, SPECIAL SESSION, JANUARY 2, 2024

The Terrell County Commissioners Court met on Tuesday, the 2nd day of January 2024, at 10:00 A.M. in the commissioner's courtroom of the county courthouse in Sanderson, Texas. Notices of the meeting place were timely posted at a site readily accessible to the general public at all times. They remained posted for at least seventy-two hours preceding the scheduled time of this meeting, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

The Hon. Dale Carruthers, County Judge, called the meeting to order. The following members of this Court and Officers of the County were present:

Hon. Adam Johnson	Commissioner Pct. 1
Hon. Lupe Garza	Commissioner Pct. 2
Hon. Arnulfo Serna	Commissioner Pct. 3
Absent	Commissioner Pct. 4

Hon. Raeline Thompson	County and District Clerk
Absent	County Deputy Treasurer
Hon. Kenneth Bellah - Zoom	County Attorney
Hon. Thaddeus Cleveland	County Sheriff

Commissioner Serna gave the Invocation and led the commissioner's court in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Republic of Texas Flag.

Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

Change Dispatcher/Jailer Position to Law Enforcement Position – Commissioner Johnson motioned to change the position name Dispatcher/Jailer to the position name Law Enforcement. Commissioner Serna seconded the motion calling for a vote; all members answered “aye,” and the motion carried.

Change Dispatcher/Jailer Positions to Law Enforcement Position

The first item is to change our Dispatcher/Jailer positions to a Law Enforcement position. This will allow us to save the county on overtime/comp time. This will also increase their comp time bank from 240 to 480. We will see comp time claimed decrease and once fully staffed, we will be able to allow employees to use their comp time. We will also be seeking overtime for the Jailers through Operation Stonegarden.

Overtime policy for Law Enforcement positions – Commissioner Johnson motioned to approve changing the overtime policy for Law Enforcement positions in the employee handbook. Commissioner Serna seconded the motion calling for a vote; all members answered “aye,” and the motion carried.

Bolster Terrell County Sheriff's Office Overtime Policy

Terrell County Commissioners Court is adopting the following language for the Law Enforcement Employees and will remain consistent with the language, as described below, the following: Section 7(k) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207(k). This section provides a partial overtime pay exemption for public agency employees employed in law enforcement activities (Deputies and Detention officers).

Under this provision Jailer work periods will be of 14 consecutive days for the purpose of paying overtime compensation to employees employed in law enforcement activities. The maximum hours standard for Detention Officers are 86 hours in a 14-day work period.

Under this provision Law Enforcement Officers work periods will be of 7 consecutive days for the purpose of paying overtime compensation to employees employed in law enforcement activities. The maximum hours standard for Law Enforcement Officers are 43 hours in a 7-day work period.

Terrell County, Texas has declared a local state of disaster due to the significant increase in illegal alien crossings along the U.S./Mexico Border. Because of this, the Department of Homeland Security and the State of Texas have issued grant funding to Terrell County for both salary positions as well as overtime working towards Border Security.

County funded and grant funded Law Enforcement Officers work periods will be of 7 consecutive days for the purpose of paying overtime compensation to employees employed in law enforcement activities. The maximum hours standard for Law Enforcement Officers are 43 hours in a 7-day work period. Upon completion of these hours and upon availability of funding from grants, Law Enforcement Officers will be eligible to work grant funded overtime.

Any funded part-time grant positions for Border Security purposes will require part-time Law Enforcement Officers to work periods will be of 7 consecutive days for the purpose of paying overtime compensation to employees employed in law enforcement activities. The maximum hours standard for Law Enforcement Officers are 43 hours in a 7-day work period.

Accepting Bond for new OLS Deputy starting January 5, 2024 – Commissioner Serna motioned to accept the bond for the new OLS Deputy Omar Chavez starting January 5, 2024. Commissioner Garza seconded the motion calling for a vote; all members answered “aye,” and the motion carried.

The Commissioners met in a closed meeting starting at 10:52 a.m. and ended at 11:37 a.m.

Adjourn - Commissioner Serna made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion calling for a vote; all members answered “aye,” and the motion carried.

/s/ Raeline Thompson

Raeline Thompson, County Clerk, and Ex-officio Clerk
Terrell County Commissioners Court

ORDER TO APPROVE MINUTES OF SPECIAL SESSION

The above and preceding minutes of the meeting held on January 2nd, 2024, are now approved (as amended this _____ day of _____ 2024) as presented IN OPEN COURT this 8TH day of January AD, 2024.

Dale Carruthers Presiding Officer

Attest: Raeline Thompson County Clerk

