



Minutes for the
Madison County Commissioners Court
Thursday, March 19, 2020
SPECIAL SESSION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MADISON

IN COMMISSIONERS COURT
OF MADISON COUNTY TEXAS

The Madison County Commissioners Court met in Special Session the 19th day of March 2020, 1:00 p.m., in the Courtroom of the Madison County Courthouse Annex, 103 West Trinity Street, Suite 106, Madisonville, Texas with the following members:

Tony Leago	County Judge	Present
Ricky Driskell	Precinct 1, Commissioner	Absent
Carl Wiseman	Precinct 2, Commissioner	Present
Carl Cannon	Precinct 3, Commissioner	Present
David Pohorelsky	Precinct 4, Commissioner	Present

ITEM 1. INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAGS

The invocation and pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags were led by Judge Leago.

ITEM 2. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order with a quorum present.

ITEM 3. Public Comment-Hear Comments in reference to the following Agenda Items Only-time limit three (3) minutes, one person at a time will be called from the Public Participation Forms submitted. Move to the front of the Court and stand at the podium. Judge Leago had received an email from Wyona Ballard, Precinct 4, stating her concern about COVID-19 pandemic and the Madison County Fair Association moving forward with its annual Madison County Fair. See attached.

Judge Leago said, a resident of our county wanted to make a statement (Agenda Item 4) and was not able to attend the meeting. It is somewhat dated but she wanted her statement read. He said it would read the statement and then clarify it. After reading it Judge said this request came in before the fact and situations that came in after the fact negates this whole thing. He called on Karl Radde, President of the Madison County Fair Association to talk about what the fair has done and lend information on the Fair Boards thought process through this. Pretty much everything in Ms. Ballard's letter the board agrees with, but at the time we made our decision we did not know Walker and Brazos counties had cancelled. The next day fair officers met in the Extension Office to discuss talking points for a limited fair.

But, after talking with Judge Leago the fair officers met again and came up with a contingency plan, a drive through fair. Fair Board members and committee members are the only ones allowed on the premises. Exhibitors are assigned a time to bring their animals to the fairgrounds, but no one's allowed to exit their vehicle. Board and committee members will handle and pen the animals. The animals will be judged that day and exhibitors will be assigned a time to come and get their animal. No animals will remain at the fairgrounds overnight. A video will be made as the judge talks about the animal and determines placement of the animal. Opening ceremonies are planned for Easter weekend, April 10-11, 2020, but it looks like that may be postponed to another date, Radde said.

ITEM 4. Discuss and consider Madison County's protocol concerning the rapidly changing events in our community concerning COVID-19. Where do we go from here asked Judge Leago, things are going to change dramatically and have an impact on our county. We have been listening to news releases and consulting trying to formulate a plan of action as a county. Governor Greg Abbott today announced a series of Executive Orders relating to COVID-19. Judge called on Shelly Butts, Emergency Management Coordinator to share this information with the court. She said we don't have the official document yet, but we have a news release, see copy recorded in these minutes. It is not a domestic travel plan or shelter in place. Judge Leago made a motion to accept the Governor's Executive Orders; Commissioner Wiseman gave a second to the motion; and Judge called for a vote.

VOTING:

Court	Aye	Nay	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Tony Leago, County Judge	X			
Ricky Driskell, Commissioner Pct. 1				
Carl Wiseman, Commissioner Pct. 2, Absent	X			
Carl Cannon, Commissioner Pct. 3	X			
David Pohorelsky, Commissioner Pct. 4	X			

All approved, motion carried.

Order Number 1 under Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency was adopted and signed by Madison County Commissioners' Court, Madison County, Texas this date. A copy of Order Number 1 is recorded in these minutes for review.

Another discussion about county protocol was having a Restricted Entry sign placed in every business in Madison County as discussed by Judge Leago. A copy of the sign is recorded in these minutes. He said it is very important that we do everything we can and hope and pray that what we do will bear fruit and maybe in a month the worst of this is past.

Another protocol discussion brought to their attention by Judge Leago was restricting entry into the county annex building and the courthouse. He suggested a key card lock system for employees and said we need to start looking at courthouse security.

Judi Delesandri, County Treasurer asked commissioners to consider an administrative leave for employees. Emergency Closing is addressed in County's Personnel Policies, but nothing concerning a pandemic leave of absence. Toni Joyner, Auditor said she had received several emails concerning a pandemic leave of absence. Judge Leago suggested they work together on preparing a policy.

Janet Boone, Elections Administrator said Secretary of State has called off all elections for May 2, 2020, they will be held November 3, 2020. It does not affect us because there are no county, city or school elections May 2, 2020. Our local run-off election May 26, 2020 is undetermined at this time, SOS may possibly let us know in the next two weeks.

Shelly Butts, Emergency Management Coordinator said the State is asking us to track costs associated with this COVID-19 disaster. She is requesting that each department prepare and send a worksheet, as provided by email, to her on a weekly basis. She will send those reports to The Texas Division of Emergency Management so they may track the cost COVID-19. Since we are under a local disaster declaration, we may be eligible for reimbursement through FEMA.

ITEM 5. Discuss and consider extending Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency signed by Judge Leago on March 16, 2020.

A copy of the March 16, 2020, Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency is recorded in these minutes.

Judge Leago read the extended Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency for thirty (30) days. Commissioner Cannon made a motion to extend the Declaration for thirty (30) days; Commissioner Wiseman seconded the motion; and Judge called for a vote.

VOTING:

Court	Aye	Nay	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Tony Leago, County Judge	X			
Ricky Driskell, Commissioner Pct. 1				
Carl Wiseman, Commissioner Pct. 2, Absent	X			
Carl Cannon, Commissioner Pct. 3	X			
David Pohorelsky, Commissioner Pct. 4	X			

All in favor, motion carried.

ITEM 6. Public Comment – No Discussion or Action will be taken at this time by the Court. A three (3) minute limit per speaker. One person at a time will be called from the Public Participation submitted. Move to the front of the Court and stand at the podium. Please address your comments to your Commissioners.

No one submitted a Public Participation form.

ITEM 7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Wiseman moved to adjourn; Commissioner Pohorelsky gave a second; and Judge called for a vote.

VOTING:

Court	Aye	Nay	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Tony Leago, County Judge	X			
Ricky Driskell, Commissioner Pct. 1				
Carl Wiseman, Commissioner Pct. 2, Absent	X			
Carl Cannon, Commissioner Pct. 3	X			
David Pohorelsky, Commissioner Pct. 4	X			

No one opposed, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 2:05 P.M.

I, Susanne Morris, Madison County Clerk, do hereby attest that the foregoing is a true and accurate accounting of the Commissioners Court's authorized proceedings for March 19, 2020.

Approved and signed this 23rd day of March 2020.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susanne Morris".

Susanne Morris, Clerk
Commissioners' Court
Madison County, Texas