

**STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF BROWN**

**The Brown County Commissioners Court convened in a Special meeting on September 25, 2023, at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioner's Courtroom, at the Brown County Courthouse, 200 South Broadway St., Brownwood, Texas.**

**I. DECLARE A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**The meeting is recorded and can be found on the Brown County Texas website.**

**Judge Britton declared a Quorum and called the meeting to order.**

**Members of the Court present were:**

<b>SHANE BRITTON</b>	<b>COUNTY JUDGE</b>
<b>GARY WORLEY</b>	<b>COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1</b>
<b>JOEL KELTON</b>	<b>COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 2</b>
<b>WAYNE SHAW</b>	<b>COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3</b>
<b>LARRY TRAWEEK</b>	<b>COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4</b>

**Also present:**

<b>SHARON FERGUSON</b>	<b>COUNTY CLERK</b>
<b>JENNIFER ROBISON</b>	<b>COUNTY AUDITOR</b>
<b>JENNIFER BROUGHTON</b>	<b>COUNTY ATTORNEY</b>

**II. PRAYER**

**Blu Tidwell, Pastor of Rocky Creek Baptist Church, led the Court in the invocation.**

### **III. CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

**All speakers will be required to adhere to the rules of procedure, conduct and decorum adopted by the Court on August 12, 2019. Any disruptive, abusive, obscene, or disrespectful behavior will be terminated immediately.) All Presentations are subject to a (5) minute time limit. Multiple person groups will be limited to one speaker.**

**There was one citizen comment, from James Dammann, concerning the Proposed Budget.**

### **IV. MINUTES OF MEETINGS:**

**A. Approval of the agenda minutes from the previous regular meeting held on 09-18-2023 and 09-21-2023.**

**Commissioner Shaw moved that the minutes of the September 18, 2023, Commissioners Court meeting be approved, as presented by County Clerk Sharon Ferguson. Commissioner Traweek seconded the motion and the Court voted 5-0 to approve. Commissioner Kelton moved that the minutes of the September 21, 2023, Public Budget Workshop meeting be approved, as presented by County Clerk Sharon Ferguson. Commissioner Worley seconded the motion and the Court voted 3-0 to approve.**

## **V. TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORT**

### **A. Acceptance of Treasurer's/Auditor's Report.**

**The September 25, 2023, Combined Statement Of Cash Position was presented by County Treasurer Ann Krpoun, for filing. [\(Exhibit #1\)](#)**

## **VI. BURN BAN:**

**No action. The burn ban remains lifted.**

## **VII. EMPLOYEE CHANGES:**

### **A. Sheriff's Department**

**Commissioner Worley moved that the Court authorize the following personnel change at the Sheriff's Department:**

**Michel Wilson/Deputy/transferred from jail  
effective 09-23-2023 [\(Exhibit #2\)](#)**

**Commissioner Shaw seconded the motion and the Court voted 5-0 to approve.**

**The Texas Commission On Jail Standards Jail Population Report was presented by the Sheriff's Department, for filing. [\(Exhibit #3\)](#)**

## **VII. RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

**None.**

**IX. BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED AND CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL:**

**A. Public Hearing on Proposed Budget.**

**Judge Britton opened the public hearing on the 2023-2024 Proposed Brown County Budget and asked for questions or comments. There was one comment, from James Dammann. After discussion, no action was taken. Judge Britton closed the public hearing on the 2023-2024 Proposed Brown County Budget.**

**B. Consideration and possible approval to adopt Proposed Budget.**

**Commissioner Worley moved that the Court adopt the Brown County Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The proposed budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$712,615.00, which is a 3.57 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$1,475,489.00. Commissioner Traweek seconded the motion and the Court voted to approve as follows:**

**Shane Britton, County Judge-aye**

**Gary Worley, Commissioner Precinct 1-aye**

**Joel Kelton, Commissioner Precinct 2-aye**

**Wayne Shaw, Commissioner Precinct 3-aye**

**Larry Traweek, Commissioner Precinct 4-aye**

**[\(Exhibit #4\)](#)**

**C. Vote to set salaries of Elected Officials.**

**Commissioner Worley stated that the Brown County Elected Officials will receive a 6% raise, across the board. Commissioner Worley moved that the Court approve the setting of salaries of the Brown County elected officials for 2023-2024 as set out in the 2023-2024 Adopted Budget. Commissioner Shaw seconded the motion and the Court voted as follows:**

**Shane Britton, County Judge-aye**

**Gary Worley, Commissioner Precinct 1-aye**

**Joel Kelton, Commissioner Precinct 2-aye**

**Wayne Shaw, Commissioner Precinct 3-aye**

**Larry Traweek, Commissioner Precinct 4-aye**

**Commissioner Worley reported that all Brown County employees received a salary increase. ([Exhibit #5](#))**

**D. Public hearing on Proposed Tax Rate.**

**Judge Britton opened the public hearing on the Brown County Proposed Tax Rate for 2023-2024. He asked for questions or comments. There was one comment, from James Dammann, concerning the proposed tax rate. Judge Britton closed the public hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate for 2023-2024.**

**E. Consideration and possible adoption of Proposed Tax Rate.**

**Commissioner Worley moved that the Court adopt, by Resolution, the tax rates for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 as proposed:**

<b>General Fund Rate</b>	<b>0.35806</b>
<b>Debt Service Rate</b>	<b>0.02578</b>
<b>Road and Flood Rate</b>	<b>0.06839</b>
<b>Total Tax Rate</b>	<b>0.45223</b>

**Commissioner Shaw seconded the motion and the Court voted as follows:**

**Shane Britton, County Judge-aye**

**Gary Worley, Commissioner Precinct 1-aye**

**Joel Kelton, Commissioner Precinct 2-aye**

**Wayne Shaw, Commissioner Precinct 3-aye**

**Larry Traweek, Commissioner Precinct 4-aye**

**This tax rate will effectively raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's rate by 3.57%. This year's levy to fund maintenance and operations expenditures exceeds last year's maintenance and operations tax levy. [\(Exhibit #6\)](#)**

**F. Consideration and possible adoption of Maintenance & Operations Rate.**

**Commissioner Worley moved that the Court adopt the Maintenance and Operations rate of 0.35806 per \$100.00 valuation. Commissioner Shaw seconded the motion and the Court voted as follows:**

**Shane Britton, County Judge-aye**

**Gary Worley, Commissioner Precinct 1-aye**

**Joel Kelton, Commissioner Precinct 2-aye**

**Wayne Shaw, Commissioner Precinct 3-aye**

**Larry Traweek, Commissioner Precinct 4-aye**

**G. Consideration and possible adoption of Debt Service Rate.**

**Commissioner Worley moved that the Court adopt the Debt Service Rate at 0.02578 per \$100.00 valuation. Commissioner Traweek seconded the motion and the Court voted as follows:**

**Shane Britton, County Judge-aye**

**Gary Worley, Commissioner Precinct 1-aye**

**Joel Kelton, Commissioner Precinct 2-aye**

**Wayne Shaw, Commissioner Precinct 3-aye**

**Larry Traweek, Commissioner Precinct 4-aye**

**H. Consideration and possible adoption of Road and Flood Rate.**

**Commissioner Worley moved that the Court adopt the Road and Flood Rate at 0.06839 per \$100.00 valuation. Commissioner Kelton seconded the motion and the Court voted as follows:**

**Shane Britton, County Judge-aye**

**Gary Worley, Commissioner Precinct 1-aye**

**Joel Kelton, Commissioner Precinct 2-aye**

**Wayne Shaw, Commissioner Precinct 3-aye**

**Larry Traweek, Commissioner Precinct 4-aye**

**I. Consideration and possible ratification of Tax Rate.**

**Commissioner Worley moved that the Court ratify the Proposed Tax Rate of 0.45223. Commissioner Shaw seconded the motion and the Court voted as follows:**

**Shane Britton, County Judge-aye**

**Gary Worley, Commissioner Precinct 1-aye**

**Joel Kelton, Commissioner Precinct 2-aye**

**Wayne Shaw, Commissioner Precinct 3-aye**

**Larry Traweek, Commissioner Precinct 4-aye**

**J. Consideration and possible approval of setting starting salary rate.**

**No action.**

**K. Consideration and possible approval of refinancing bank loans for the 2024 budget year. Presented by Jennifer Robison.**

**Commissioner Worley moved that the Court approve to refinance two existing loans with Texas Bank and one with Citizens National Bank pursuant to Section 271.005 of the Texas Local Government Code, that the obligations be payable from the Ad Valorem taxes, budgeted for payment for the obligations or any lawfully available funds, from the Brown County General Fund, Precinct 3 Fund and Precinct 4 Fund to pay the obligations in full at the end of the fiscal year as follows:**

<b>Note #52183</b>	<b>Precinct 2</b>	<b>\$251,332.23</b>
<b>Note #49032</b>	<b>Precinct 3</b>	<b>43,437.51</b>
<b>Note #57351</b>	<b>Precinct 4</b>	<b>55,649.04</b>

**Commissioner Kelton seconded the motion and the Court voted 5-0 to approve. ([Exhibit #7](#))**

**L. Consideration and possible approval of action regarding approval of the schedule Sheriff's service fees. Presented by Sheriff Vance Hill.**

**After discussion, with Sheriff Vance Hill, Commissioner Worley moved that the Court approve the schedule of Brown County Sheriff's Service Fees proposed for 2024 with one change, being the Housing inmates for other counties/agencies (per day/per head) fee to go from \$50.00 to \$65.00. Commissioner Traweek seconded the motion and the Court voted 5-0 to approve. ([Exhibit #8](#))**

**M. Consideration and possible approval of action regarding approval of the schedule Constable service fees. Presented by Sheriff Vance Hill.**

**After discussion, with Roy Parrack, Constable Precinct #3, Commissioner Shaw moved that the Court approve the schedule of Brown County Constable Service Fees proposed for 2024, with changes to the County and District Citations Service Fee. Citations will go from \$85.00 to \$100.00. Another change will be for the execution of a Writ of Retrieval or Forcible Detainer or Eviction that requires an Officer to remain on scene for more than thirty (30) minutes will be charged at the rate of \$50.00 per officer, per hour, or any portion of an hour instead of \$35.00 per hour. Commissioner Kelton seconded the motion and the Court voted 5-0 to approve. [\(Exhibit #9\)](#)**

**N. Consideration and possible approval of creating a Captain Position for Sheriff's Department. Presented by Sheriff Vance Hill.**

**After discussion, with Sheriff Vance Hill, Commissioner Shaw moved to approve a request, from Sheriff Hill, to create a new captain position at the Sheriff's Department. Since Chief Deputy Sheriff Becky Caffey retired, Sheriff Hill would like to make the Chief Deputy position a Captain position and use \$10,000.00 of Chief Deputy Becky Caffey's previous salary, to give a \$5,000.00 supplement for the new Captain position and a \$5,000.00 supplement to Les Karnes, the Jail**

**Administrator Captain. Commissioner Traweek seconded the motion and the Court voted 5-0 to approve.**

- O. Update on Indigent Defense schedule fees for Appointed Attorneys for Brown and Mills Counties. Presented by Judge Mike Smith.**

**After discussion, Commissioner Worley moved that the Court approve the Schedule Of Fees For Appointed Attorneys For Brown And Mills Counties. Commissioner Traweek seconded the motion and the Court voted 5-0 to approve. [\(Exhibit #10\)](#)**

## **X. FINANCIAL**

- A. Payment of bills.**

**Commissioner Traweek moved that the claims, as presented by County Auditor Jennifer Robison, be paid. Commissioner Shaw seconded the motion and the Court voted 5-0 to approve. [\(Exhibit #11\)](#)**

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Judge Britton adjourned the Brown County Commissioners Court at 10:20 a.m.**

**Agenda items may be considered, deliberated, and/or acted upon in a different order than set forth above. The Brown County Commissioners Court reserves the right to discuss any above items in executive (closed) session whenever permitted by the Texas Open Meetings Act.**

Submitted on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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**COUNTY JUDGE**

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**COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1**

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**COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 2**

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**COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3**

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**COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4**



I, Sharon Ferguson, Brown County Clerk, attest that the foregoing is a true and accurate accounting of the Commissioners Court's authorized proceedings for **September 25, 2023.**

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**SHARON FERGUSON, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Member  
Clerk of Commissioner's Court, Brown County, Texas**