

COLORADO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: August 6, 2025 – 2:30 P.M.
BUILDING: Colorado County Courthouse, County Courtroom 106
STREET LOCATION: 400 Spring Street
CITY OF LOCATION: Columbus, Texas 78934

Pursuant to the authority granted under Government Code, Chapter 551, the Commissioners Court may convene in a closed meeting to discuss and deliberate agenda item(s) subject to the closed meeting exceptions. A final action, decision, or vote on a matter deliberated in a closed meeting shall only be made in an open meeting. Commissioners Court may use a telephone conference call, video conference call, or communications over the Internet to conduct a public consultation with its attorney in an open meeting of the governmental body or a private consultation with its attorney in a closed meeting of the governmental body. Immediately before any closed meeting, the specific section or sections of Government Code, Chapter 551, which provides statutory authority for closed meetings, will be announced.

**On this the 6th day of August 2025, the Commissioners Court of Colorado County,
Texas met in Special Session at 2:30 P.M., in their regular meeting place at
the Colorado County Courthouse, County Courtroom, 400 Spring Street, in the
City of Columbus, Texas.**

The Following Members were present to wit:

**Honorable Ty Prause
Honorable Shannon Owers
Honorable Ryan Brandt
Honorable Keith Neuendorff
Honorable Darrell Gertson
By: Michelle Kollmann**

**County Judge
Commissioner Precinct #1
Commissioner Precinct #2
Commissioner Precinct #3
Commissioner Precinct #4
Deputy Clerk**

The Honorable Kimberly Menke, County Clerk, was unable to attend.

The County Judge Ty Prause called the meeting to order at 2:34 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE COLORADO COUNTY
COMMISSIONER'S COURT SPECIAL MEETING
August 6, 2025**

DELIBERATE AND CONSIDER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

__1. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

Judge Prause led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

__2. Agenda as posted.

**Motion by Commissioner Brandt to approve the agenda as posted; seconded by
Commissioner Neuendorff; 5 ayes 0 nays; motion carried; it was so ordered.**

(See Attachment)

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August 6, 2025

FILED FOR RECORD
COLORADO COUNTY

2025 AUG -1 PM 1:33

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KIMBERLY L. LAM
COUNTY CLERK

MK

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DELIBERATE AND CONSIDER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- ☐ 1. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.
- ☐ 2. Agenda as posted.
- ☐ 3. Public comments.
- ☐ 4. Budget Workshop.
- ☐ 5. Adjourn.

CERTIFICATION

NAME: Ty Prause
TITLE: Colorado County Judge
SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL:
DATE: August 1, 2025
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (979) 732-2604
FAX NUMBER: (979) 732-9389



The Colorado County Courthouse is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available.

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__3. Public comments.

None at this time.

__4. Budget Workshop.

Michelle Lowrance provided a working draft of the 2026 Budget. She included what it takes to pay the bills with no cost-of-living adjustments or merit raises. She also decreased the retirement contribution as a starting point. The only department on this draft that has an increase is elections. Ms. Lowrance reminded the court that if grant money is available, it cannot be used for budgeted expenditures and the fund balance can be used to purchase big ticket items (anything not recurring).

Judge Prause suggested lowering the retirement contribution to 11%. Five hands were raised to the 11% contribution rate.

Sheriff Lindemann was present to discuss his budget request. His main ask was salary increases for his employees. He was hoping for 5% but would be happy just to get an increase. He said he would like to give higher raises to some of the lower paid employees and less of a raise for those with higher salaries. Ultimately, he would like to see a 3% - 5% raise and be able to determine who gets what. He enforced the fact that he needs to keep the pay up to be able to keep employees. Judge Prause praised Sheriff Lindemann for being fully staffed with deputies.

Chuck Rogers with the Office of Emergency Management is asking for an increase in his budget for the tower in Garwood to improve communications. He is also requesting a \$65,000 increase for his emergency vehicle truck. It needs electronic updates, and he would like to add a ham radio and a CB radio. Mr. Rogers suggested to the court that in the future sirens may be needed to alert when the river is rising.

Michael Furrh, EMS Director, addressed the court on his budget requests. He said the county is growing and getting larger and he would like to move forward and have better coverage in the more rural parts of the county. He suggested having a Tahoe and one person stationed in certain areas that could respond quickly and get things started while an ambulance is on the way. He understands this may not be feasible this year but would like to at least consider this for the future. Mr. Furrh is also requesting \$230,360 to cover salary increases (this includes benefits), stating this is more of a need to stay competitive and

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reduce the high turnover rate. Also seen as a need is therapy to be available for first responders. He explained it is hard to see and experience some things and having the option for therapy would be beneficial. He is asking for \$10,000 to cover this expense. Mr. Furrh is also asking for a minimal increase for vehicles, training and uniforms. He feels that whatever his budget is, he will be able to cover at least half of that with collections. Judge Prause feels the salary increases and making therapy available to first responders would be covered by revenue. Three hands were in agreement for this.

Judge Prause proposed a 4% increase for all employees across the board for the next draft budget. Five hands were in agreement.

The next draft budget it will also reflect a \$20,000 increase for the Sheriff and Public Defender.

The fire departments will be increased by \$50,000 and the grant writer will try to seek grants to assist each department.

Judge Prause excused himself to attend a Juvenile Hearing.

__5. Adjourn.

Motion by Commissioner Brandt to adjourn at 4:48 P.M.; seconded by Commissioner Neuendorff; 4 ayes 0 nays; motion carried; it was so ordered.

An audio recording of this meeting of August 6, 2025 is available in the County Clerk's Office.

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**Minutes were taken and prepared by Kimberly Menke, County Clerk on the
6th day of August 2025 with Judge Ty Prause presiding.**

**I, KIMBERLY MENKE, COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO OF THE
COMMISSIONERS COURT IN AND FOR COLORADO COUNTY, TEXAS do hereby
certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the
Commissioner Court in session on the 6th day of August 2025.**

Given under my hand and official seal of office this date August 6, 2025.



