



Minutes: April 22, 2021
Executive Committee Meeting
Central Texas Council of Governments
2180 North Main Street Belton, Texas 76513
(WebEx Conference Call Due to COVID-19)

The April 2021 Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee Meeting was called to Order by The Honorable Byron Theodosis, President at 12:00 p.m.

Executive Committee Officers in Attendance:

President	Judge Byron Theodosis	San Saba County
1 st Vice President	Commissioner Darren Moore	Coryell County
2 nd Vice President	Judge David Blackburn	Bell County
Secretary/Treasurer	Mayor Jose Segarra	City of Killeen
Parliamentarian	Judge Steve Young	Milam County
Parliamentarian	Commissioner Bill Schumann	Bell County

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Commissioner John Driver, Bell County	Judge Roger Miller, Coryell County	Commissioner Llyod Huggins, Hamilton County
Commissioner Jeff Muegge, Milam County	Mayor Bill Harris, City of Cameron	Judge Ed Smith, Mills County
Mayor Bradi Diaz, City of Copperas Cove	Mayor Spencer Smith, City of Harker Heights	Councilmember Jody Nicholas, City of Harker Heights
Mr. Otis Evans, City of Killeen	Councilmember Mellisa Brown, City of Killeen	Mayor Mike Coggins, City of Salado

CTCOG Staff Members and Guests in Attendance:

George Losoya, CTCOG	Carmen Lim, CTCOG	Uryan Nelson, CTCOG
Louis LeDoux, Workforce	Michael Irvine, CTCOG	Jim Reed, CTCOG
Anna Olvera, CTCOG	Jwana Sartor, CTCOG	Sue Jordan, CTCOG
Anna Barge, CTCOG	Jesse Hennage, CTCOG	Keith Sledd
Diana Rodriguez, CTCOG	Michael Harmon	Patricia Mix
Commissioner Dickie Clary		

Invocation was led by Jim Reed, Executive Director, CTCOG.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Judge David Blackburn of Bell County to accept the minutes of February 25, 2021 meeting, the February and March 2021 Expenditure Reports, the following Proclamations: Ratification of the Proclamation 03-21-PRS02V2 declaring Telecommunicators Week as April 11-17, 2021, Approval of Proclamation 04-21-PRS01 declaring April 2021 as Fair Housing Month, Approval of Proclamation 04-21-PRS02 declaring April 2021 Sustainable Environment Month in the Central Texas Region, Approval of Proclamation 04-21-PRS03 declaring Peace Officers Memorial Day, Approval of Proclamation 04-21-PRS04 declaring May 2021 as National Bike Month, Approval of Proclamation 04-21-PRS05 declaring May 2021 as Clean Air Month, Approval of Proclamation 04-21-AAA01 declaring May 2021 as Older Americans Month, the following Appointments: Discuss and take appropriate action on nomination of Councilmember Mellisa Brown to CTCOG Executive Committee to fill City of Killeen Alternate Board Seat, and Discuss and take appropriate action on nomination of Mayor Bill Harris to CTCOG Executive Committee to fill Milam County Alternate Board Seat. Mayor Jose Segarra of City of Killeen second the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Action Items

A motion was made by Judge Steve Young of Milam County to approve the Resolution 04-21-PRS06 authorizing FY22 Homeland Security Planning Grant. Judge David Blackburn of Bell County second the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Reports

Area Agency on Aging

George Losoya, Director of Area Agency on Aging gave a brief update on AACT Program Updates regarding Ombudsman Program Monitoring, Older Americans Month Proclamation, Silver Haired Legislature Candidates, and the Veterans Agencies had a discussion to assist the homeless into permanent supportive housing. Utility assistance increased limits to help those effected by the winter freeze. In our region, many senior centers are having soft openings since the COVID closure. Mr. Losoya briefed on the Save Our Seniors Initiative. This initiative will be taking the vaccine to homebound seniors that need to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Planning & Regional Services

Uryan Nelson, Director of Planning and Regional Services gave a briefing on Emergency Services. The homeland security propagation study is underway in Bell County and HSGD had a total of \$450,960 in applications. The CTCOG region has been awarded \$1.1 million for projects through the SERI Grant. 9-1-1 is developing a public service announcement with Belton High School and will be visible on billboards within the next several months. In March 2021, 9-1-1 received 25,289 calls and 147 text. GIS added a total of 159 new addresses to the region in March 2021. Planning is accepting applications for Leadership Central Texas and 2021 Rural Internship Program until June 1, 2021, and a few of the counties have done a broadband study with Connected Nation Texas. The American Rescue Act had given all counties and cities an estimated allocation and other federal agencies are to receive allocations as well.

Housing

Carmen Lim, Director of Housing Division gave a briefing on March 2021 Activities. In March, Previous Lease Up had 2,241, New Lease Up had 24, and 428 in Vouchers Issued Looking. Mrs. Lim stated the Waitlist Check Software is to be implemented when the waitlist opens sometime between August or September. Mrs. Lim recognized Lease Up team for meeting the goal of issuing 50 vouchers in April, since the Lease Up process began. The division is also working on becoming paperless by January 2022.

Workforce Development Board and Workforce Center

Louis LeDoux, Workforce Chief Operating Officer gave a briefing on unemployment rates in Central Texas Region and an overall unemployment rate in the State of Texas. Central Texas was 7.0 percent and 7.2 percent compared to the state. Unemployment claims during the month of March 2021 was significantly less than the prior year. Mr. LeDoux stated the Workforce Center held a virtual hiring event in March 2021 that offered 1,817 job openings from 36 different employers to 334 job seekers. Mr. LeDoux also shared a letter from a veteran that attended the Spring Virtual Career Fair. This gentleman wanted to thank the Workforce for the services they offer and for helping him start his civilian job from transitioning out of the military.

Executive Director

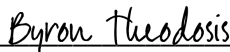
Jim Reed, Executive Director of CTCOG gave a briefing on the legislative update. 9-1-1 appropriations from 2021 were 62 million and the 2022 appropriation are between 40-50 million which is a 20 percent cut. This will lead to possible changes to become our own 9-1-1 district in this biennium if the pending bills pass. Air Quality program will be getting a rider so each Council of Governments entity will be treated as equal and will be getting an equal amount. This will be a legislative fix. Currently, Senate Bill 10 & 1879 is limiting the amount of lobbying that local governments can do. If House Bill 2683 is passed, it will require infrastructure to be put in for the public to be able to speak from wherever they are and will need to archive the audio and visual on website for public distribution within 24 hours. If House Bill 2911 is passed, it will allow 9-1-1 to increase fees from .50 cents to .75 cents to implement NexGen 9-1-1 deployment and allow funds to assist towards radio communications. Purchasing Co-op has been signed and RFP funding is already available if there are potential purchases that are within the 791 Purchasing Co-op Program. In conclusion, if House Bill 1869 is passed, it will modify the definition of debt for the purposes of setting your tax rate calculations. Judge Blackburn emphasized the importance the track Bill 1869 because if it passes in its current form, it will remove the ability for cities to issue Certificates of Obligation.

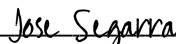
Guest Speaker

EDA Representative, Robert Peche gave a brief statement regarding the American Rescue Act the President proposed, and Congress passed. The American Rescue Act was passed in hopes to help the country to recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic. In conclusion, ARA is included in EDA funding, these funding opportunities are now being drafted and must be approved by DoC and OMB and will be like the CARES Act NOFO, but I was not finalized yet.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by The Honorable Byron Theodosis at 1:47 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

The Honorable Byron Theodosis, President

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The Honorable Jose Segarra, Secretary/Treasurer