

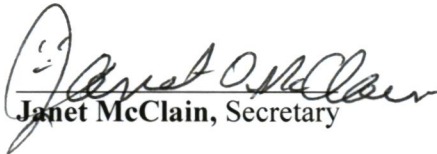
FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 7

Minutes for the regular Meeting of October 14, 2025

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER.** The meeting was called to order at 11:31 AM by Commissioner **Lopez** at the District Fire Station, 1834 W. Sycamore, Fresno, TX. The Commissioners in attendance were **Freddy Lopez, Janet McClain, Ferrel Bonner** and **Ruston Hughes**. **Commissioner Barbara Hamilton** was absent. Also, present were Fire Chief Anthony Bates, and other staff from Fresno Fire Department, District General Counsel John Peeler of Coveler & Peeler, P.C., Jessica Adkins of Coveler & Peeler, P.C., and Justin Waggoner of Touchstone.
2. **TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT.** The Board opened the floor to public comment. No public comment was received.
3. **TO REVIEW AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS.** A motion was made by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Bonner, to approve September 9, 2025, and September 17, 2025, minutes as presented. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.
4. **TO ACT ON FINANCIAL MATTERS, INCLUDING FINANCIAL REPORT, INVOICES/BILLS, INVESTMENTS, INVESTMENT POLICY, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, CREDIT CARDS, REQUIRED REPORTS, AND REVISIONS TO BUDGET(S).** Mark Miller presented the monthly report noting: 98.25% of the 2024 ad valorem taxes had been collected as of September. Chief Bates noted that the District had received \$150,000 from TIFMAS as reimbursement from their deployment to the Texas Panhandle area. A motion was made by **Commissioner Hughes**, seconded by **Commissioner McClain**, to approve the reports and pay District bills as presented. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.
5. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON DISTRICT WEBSITE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH MATTERS.** Justin Waggoner presented updates regarding website and community outreach. He noted that there were 957 active users and 925 new users to the District's website. He also noted that there had been 37,000 views on Facebook in the last month.
6. **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF, COMMAND STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REGARDING FRESNO FIRE AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES, TO REVIEW REQUESTS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ON OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.** Chief Anthony Bates presented updates noting 247 calls for service, Booster 51 had arrived, all apparatus is in service except L51, U51 is having the bed replaced, and BAT51 is being picked up on October 15th. Chief Thomas gave some training updates and noted that he had developed an annual training plan for the department. Chief Bates also noted that the 5-year strategic plan and 10-year financial plan are almost done, and we would like to possibly schedule a special meeting in December to review it with the Board. The possible need for more land on FM 521, and status of the firearm policy, was also discussed. There was no action on this item.

7. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON MATTERS RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS TO DISTRICT FACILITIES AND REAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING ENGAGEMENT OF DESIGN PROFESSIONALS OR ENGINEERING SERVICES, SELECTION OF BUILDERS/CONTRACTORS AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTY ENTITIES REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATIONS, INCLUDING ACTION ON CONSTRUCTION FINANCING.** Chief Bates noted that the new Administration Building is going out for permits and once they are in place, they will go out for bid.
8. **TO ACT ON REAL ESTATE, INCLUDING SALES, PURCHASES, LEASES, PERMITS, ENCUMBRANCES, PLATTING, SURVEYING, UTILITIES AND ACQUISITION FINANCING.** There was no discussion on this agenda item.
9. **REVIEW AND ACT UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 552.234 TO DESIGNATE EMAIL AND MAILING ADDRESS FOR RECEIPT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS AND NOTIFY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE SAME.** District Counsel Peeler discussed this item. A motion was made by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Bonner, to approve to delegate this task to Chief Bates for completion. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.
10. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES, INCLUDING APPROVAL OF ACQUISITION FINANCING FOR SAME AND TO DISCUSS AND ACT ON DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS OR SALVAGE PROPERTY PURSUANT TO TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE §775.0735.** Chief Bates noted that L51 has required a lot of work recently, mostly warranty work, but once it's repaired, the Department plans to ask to sell it as surplus and then buy more small duty and fleet vehicles. It was also noted that they are finalizing the specifics to order the new Ladder truck and ask the Board to buy it soon. There was no action on this item.
11. **TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE §551.071 TO CONSULT WITH LEGAL COUNSEL ON LITIGATION, SETTLEMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS UNDER TEXAS BAR RULES.** No Closed Session was held under Section 551.071.
12. **TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE §551.072 REGARDING REAL ESTATE MATTERS.** No Closed Session was held under Section 551.072.
13. **TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE §551.074 REGARDING REAL ESTATE MATTERS.** No Closed Session was held under Section 551.074.

14. **TO REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION ON PERSONNEL MATTERS, INCLUDING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, FIRE SUPPRESSION STAFF, COMMAND STAFF AND FIRE CHIEF, INCLUDING COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, JOB DUTIES, SCHEDULING, HIRING AND RETENTION.** Chief Bates noted some higher-level position postings would be posted soon. One for a Chief Financial Officer and one for a Battalion Chief.
15. **TO REVIEW AND ACT REGARDING ACTUARIAL REVIEW OF DISTRICT RETIREMENT PLAN AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO OPT OUT OF SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR DISTRICT EMPLOYEES.** Chief Bates summarized the process and policy considerations. District Counsel John Peeler explained some of the concerns. Commissioner Hughes inquired what the motivation was to opt out of social security. Chief Bates noted that they were looking at additional retirement options to shore up the numbers if they opt out of social security. In 2026 the plan is to do a benefits and salary survey and review it. There was no action on this item.
16. **TO REVIEW AND ACT TO REVISE THE DISTRICT PURCHASING POLICY.** There was some discussion on the updates to legislation. Chief Bates asked District Counsel to review the policy and help revise it as needed. There was no action on this item.
17. **TO DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SET FUTURE MEETING DATES.** The next regular meeting will be held on November 11, 2025. Commissioner Hughes noted he would be out of town and unavailable for this meeting.
18. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business brought before the Board; the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 PM.


Janet McClain, Secretary