

Calhoun County Historical Commission
Minutes: June 10, 2025

Calhoun County Historical Commission met June 10, 2025, at the Calhoun County Library, 200 West Mahan, Port Lavaca, Texas. Chairman Larry Nichols presided. Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledges of Allegiance were led by Mr. Nichols. Members introduced themselves. Attendees included: Gary Ralston, Jesse Hubbell, Vicki Cox, Sheryl Cuellar, Eddie Tyler, Steve Koch, John Foester, Mary Belle Meitzen, Jesse Briseno Jr., Dana Nichols, and Larry Nichols. Quorum was met. Guests Stacy Meza and William Bozic were welcomed.

There was no action taken on the May 13, 2025, minutes. May 13 and June 10, 2025, will be read July 15, 2025. Treasurer Gary Ralston reported as of May 25, Total Accounts \$68,626.22, 2024 Budget \$5,089.26, Expenditures \$1,362.74, and Donation \$300.00. Motion to accept budget was made by Jesse Hubbell and seconded by Steve Koch. Motion carried. Chairman Larry Nichols will be presenting the 2026 Budget Department Worksheet to Calhoun County Judge Vern Lyssy. Commission recommendations included money for 2 Historical Markers, GPR Zimmerman Cemetery, Texas Camel Corps, 250th US Anniversary recognition, historical tours, signs. After Commission input, the motion was made by Jesse Hubbell and seconded by Steve Koch to submit the 2026 Budget Worksheet. Motion carried. There was no THC Correspondence.

Gary Ralston reported that Cemetery chair Kieth Hubbard recommended the continued use of D2 for stone cleaning. Ralston is obtaining quotes for Pedestals for unmarked grave slabs. Cemetery upkeep included: Eddie Tyler taking care of removing large broken tree limbs at Ranger Cemetery, Sheryl and Jay Cuellar weed-eating Little Mary's grave, and Gary Ralston spraying McCartney rose at Wyers-McGuire Cemetery. Marker Chair John Foester reported Clark Station Marker arriving soon. Guest William Botic presented "The 2nd Engineer Regiment, Corps d' Afriques in Calhoun County 1863-1864" and "The Great Drowning at McHenry Bayou" for members to review as marker stories. Additional work includes specific Page numbers for documentation.

2025 Goals (Signs, National Register, Unmarked Graves, Tours) were reviewed and members encouraged to register. Calhoun County brown TxDot Sign, Calhoun County 1846, was viewed by the Commission and

ready for installation on Hwy 87. Chairman Nichols received \$300.00 donation towards the \$600.00 cost. Nichols has already contacted the City of Port Lavaca and will be contacting Seadrift, Port O Connor, Point Comfort, and Olivia Community for interest in their own Historical Sign. The Lease Agreement between Calhoun County Independent School District and Calhoun County Historical Commission for Lots 1-12, Block 34, Port Lavaca Original Townsite, Calhoun County, Texas, for property storage was reviewed. Motion made by Steve Koch, seconded by Eddie Tyler to accept the Lease Agreement, was approved. Calhoun County Museum will pay \$50.00 monthly rent. Lease begins July 1, 2025, for two years.

Commission Input included hurricane readiness for Calhoun County Museum and off-site storage, LaSalle Landing Celebration 2026 consideration and United States 250 Year Celebration. Gary Ralston read a letter from Jason Hamelwright, Director of Ag&Mechanical Dept. at CHS that the Olivia flag panel is complete. The Aurora ship panel will be started next school year. Eddie Tyler reported 95% Landscape completed, Handicap assess will begin soon, and ceiling work still needs completion. Sheryl Cuellar is checking on anchor information with Rhodes. John Foester suggested the anchor may have been donated by Bauer Dredging.

Sheryl Cuellar reported on Tombstone Tuesday topics including Perry Haskins, Howard Hartzog, Pehr Swenson, and Arthur Barr. Museum Director Vicki Cox reported 71 May visitors, glass display cases being replaced with plexiglass, and Hartzog photographs installed in flip chart. The meeting to adjourn was by Jesse Briseno Jr. with second by John Foester. Motion carried. Chairman Larry Nichols adjourned the meeting. Next meeting will be July 15, 2025.