

(Agenda of meeting was posted outside of the Tulsa County Headquarters Building and on the Tulsa County website at www.tulsacounty.org on October 6, 2025, at 11:00 am)

MINUTES
Thursday, October 9, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Sims opened the meeting.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll was taken with the following members present: Commissioners Stan Sallee, Kelly Dunkerley, and Lonnie Sims. Others present: Chief Deputies Mark Vancuren, Michael Craddock and Darren Gantz; Tonja Carrigg, Community Relations River Parks; Alex Mills, Tulsa County Engineering Director; Ethan Hutchins, PIO Tulsa County; Gwen Freeman, Election Board Secretary; John Wright, Tulsa County Assessor; Deborah Medley; David Tackett; Miyuki Dwyer, Stephen Leonard; Matthew Hancock; Ronnie Walker; Robert Harmon; Megan Blackford; Amanda Adams; Alisha Cunha; Teresa Tosh; Amanda Coburn; and Alan Vanderburg.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. River Parks, Oktoberfest Update — Tonja Carrigg, Community Relations

River Parks invited Commissioner Sims to participate in the upcoming Oktoberfest Tulsa, recently named the nation's best by USA Today Readers' Choice. Sims expressed appreciation for the honor and confirmed participation in the opening ceremonies. Organizers highlighted the event's popular corporate night and official festival hat.

B. Highway Engineering Update – Alex Mills, County Engineer

Alex Mills provided a comprehensive update on ongoing projects and infrastructure initiatives. He reported on new state legislation, PAC funding for major collectors, and the board's approval of Garber for another two-year term to conduct federally required bridge inspections. Challenges in managing more than 200 bridges with limited staff were noted, along with progress on the REAP grant, the removal of 18 bridges from the network, and resolution of a related lawsuit. Updates on specific projects include the Osage Prairie Trail, the lake and recreational access grant program, and several road improvements. The Avery Drive slope repair is delayed but set to begin in October, while the Guardian Road project awaits FEMA approval for its second phase. Other highlights included the Safe Streets for all; expressway lighting upgrades, and turnpike projects. Commissioners inquired about this year's paving progress, with confirmation that the second lane mile of Harvard in District 3 has been completed. Discussion focused on the high cost of outsourcing. Mills expressed that the fees for outsourcing would be up to 40% more, and the need for improved planning and in-house work. Commissioner Sims requested a list of projects expected to be finished by year's end to ensure timely completion.

C. Public Information Update — Ethan Hutchins, Public Information Officer

Ethan Hutchins reported strong progress in outreach and media engagement over the past 60 days. He highlighted growing relationships with local news outlets, increased social media interaction, and the success of the News on Six monthly and Tulsa County Tuesdays segments. Plans for a permanent news conference room and live-streamed BOCC meetings were also discussed. Efforts to strengthen crisis communication include enhanced collaboration through the Tulsa Metro PIO group, after-action reviews, and upcoming media training for department heads. Ongoing projects such as the Commissioner's Corner video series and joint

district videos have improved public engagement, with discussions underway to expand video content through platforms like YouTube Shorts. Hutchins also emphasized celebrating county employees through initiatives like Inside Tulsa County, aimed at boosting pride and visibility. Future goals include exploring drone use, hiring a videographer, and securing a dedicated communications budget and social media management tools supporting continued growth.

D. Election Board Update — Gwen Freeman, Election Board Secretary

Gwen Freeman provided an update on early voting operations, outlining challenges in staffing, securing reliable networks, and ensuring adequate space for voters and equipment. She discussed the criteria for selecting early voting sites—such as accessibility, parking, and multi-day availability—noting the potential costs and logistical hurdles of adding a third location. Maintaining election integrity and reducing wait times remain top priorities. A map of possible early voting locations was presented, including current sites, the fairgrounds, and potential new options in South Tulsa County, with Tulsa Tech identified as a strong candidate. Discussions touched on state-level coordination, with Commissioner Sims explaining the challenges of using school facilities and the potential for future legislative solutions. The Commissioners stressed the importance of long-term planning, dedicated staffing, and strategic communication. Efforts to improve voter turnout and access were highlighted, including proposals to use Chandler Park or areas near the Turnpike to better serve Sand Springs residents. Commissioners supported exploring new sites. They stressed the need for a third location before the next Presidential election.

E. BOCC Appointee Report

An update was provided by Amy Smith on the BOCC Appointees for the Tulsa County Criminal Justice Authority Sales Tax Overview Committee, report that the committee is contacting appointing entities to verify and reappoint members as part of the ongoing appointment process.

V. NEW BUSINESS

In accordance with the Open Meeting Act, Title 25 O.S. § 311.A.10, new business is defined as any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting the agenda.

County officials offered heartfelt condolences to the family of Tabitha Felts, a dedicated employee in the Assessor's Office since 2012. Assessor Wright remembered Felts for her professionalism and positive attitude, acknowledging the difficult days following her passing and commending staff for their compassion and support. Commissioner Sallee extended additional assistance to the family. Assessor Wright thanked everyone for their prayers and support during this difficult time, the commissioners expressed their agreement and solidarity.

VI. ADJOURN

Motion made by Lonnie Sims, seconded by Stan Sallee, to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 am. Upon roll call, Yes - Kelly Dunkerley. No - None. Abstain - None. Motion carried.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Lonnie Sims, Chairman

ATTEST:

Michael Willis, Tulsa County Clerk

