



MINUTES

Aransas County Commissioners Court

9:00 AM – Monday, May 8, 2023

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 9:00 AM, in the Aransas County Courthouse, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, Texas. Aransas County Commissioner's Court meeting video recordings are available by following this link: [Commissioners Court Minutes and Agendas \(aransascountytx.gov\)](https://www.aransascountytx.gov), then scroll to the bottom of the page and select the date you wish to view.

Present: **Ray A. Garza**, County Judge
Jack Chaney, Commissioner Precinct 1-1A
Leslie Casterline, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Pat Rousseau, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Robert Dupnik, Commissioner, Precinct 4

I. Call to Order & Pledges - The meeting convened at 9:00 AM.

II. Invocation

III. Roll Call was taken and Quorum was declared, and the following proceedings were had and done, to wit:

IV. Citizens to be heard – None

V. Presentations and Proclamations

1. Presentation by Linda Maiclassac, Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC) on Opioid Usage in Aransas County- Commissioner Rousseau

Discussion followed

2. Presentation and update of the Workforce Development Center – Judge Garza

Discussion followed

3. Presentation of the Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group (CBDRG) Harvey Response Final Report- Christopher Brandt/Judge Garza

Discussion followed: 111 homes provided or repaired in Aransas. Reported by Daniela Hale board member.

VI. Consent Agenda

4. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Minutes from the April 24th Regular Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
5. Acknowledge receipt of, and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certificate of Achievement to Patricia Randall from the County Investment Academy – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

6. Acknowledge receipt of, and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certificate of Completion from the Texas Association of Counties for successfully completing 32.50 hours of educational training for the 2023 Judicial Orientation for New County Judges – Judge Garza
7. Acknowledge and accept a donation of a Memorial Bench, valued at \$2,182.10, from Jim Ross and Family to Aransas Pathways - Jennifer Heard/Rene Butler/Judge Garza
8. Acknowledge and accept a donation of a pair of binoculars, valued at \$279.95, from Land, Sea and Sky to Aransas Pathways – Jennifer Heard/Rene Butler/Judge Garza
9. Acknowledge and approve allowing the Aransas County Public Library to declare Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five (955) used books surplus and authorize disposal by donating the books to the Friends of the Aransas County Public Library for its book sale- Iris Sanchez/Judge Garza
10. Consider authorizing a one (1) year renewal of the Contract for Disaster Debris Management, Debris Removal, and Debris Disposal Services between Aransas County, Texas, and Crowder Gulf, LLC beginning on June 13, 2023 and expiring on June 12, 2024, unless renewed - Mike Geer/Judge Garza
11. Consider authorizing a one (1) year renewal of the Contract for Disaster Emergency Response Services between Aransas County, Texas, and Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. beginning on July 1, 2023 and expiring on June 30, 2024, unless renewed – Mike Geer/Judge Garza
12. Consider authorizing one (1) year renewal of the Contract for Disaster Emergency Response Services between Aransas County, Texas, and Garner Environmental Services, Inc., beginning on July 1, 2023 and expiring on June 30, 2024, unless renewed – Mike Geer/Judge Garza
13. Consider authorizing a one (1) year renewal of the Contract for Monitoring Services related to Debris Removal and Disposal between Aransas County, Texas, and Thompson Consulting, LLC beginning on June 13, 2023, and expiring on June 12, 2024, unless renewed – Mike Geer/ Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
No discussion followed
Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

VII. County Reports

14. Review and discuss interim report received from the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries program entitled “Evaluating the Chemical Levels of Soil and Groundwater at Several Sites near the Tailing Ponds in Rockport (Aransas County)” – Commissioner Rousseau

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
No discussion followed
Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

15. Review, discuss, and consider acceptance of the CBDRG Harvey Response Final Report- Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
Discussion followed
Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

VIII. County Roads and Floodplain

16. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Final Plat of Lot 1, Block 1, Costa Palms Resort, Phase I, a manufactured home community at 519 Rattlesnake Point Road – Katherine Comeaux/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

IX. Contracts and Grants

17. Discuss, approve, or disapprove entering into a Memorandum of Understanding between Aransas County, Texas and Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group (CBDRG) to express the intention of the Parties to work collaboratively to coordinate aid and assistance in the event of disaster and establish terms and conditions- Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

18. Discuss approve, or disapprove authorizing County Judge to sign the AT&T Agreement for Limited Access to Local Control for FirstNet to allow the Aransas County IT Department to maintain the list of qualified personnel within Aransas County who are eligible to utilize FirstNet as their personal mobile device provider, which comes at no cost to the County, and speeds up the on-boarding process for qualified employees- Collin Jackson/ Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

19. Discuss, approve, an Amendment to the Contract for Professional Engineering Services between Aransas County, Texas and G & W Engineers, Inc. for the HMGP Standby Generator Projects to add additional project location, the Transfer Station, to the Contract for a total increase in cost of \$27,400.00 for a new total of \$82,200.00, which Contract is funded through a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant administered through the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) – John Strothman/ Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

20. Discuss, approve or disapprove Change Order # 6 for the Construction Contract between Teal Construction Company and Aransas County for the Construction of the New Aransas County Courthouse resulting in an increase in the Contract Cost of \$64,345.82 for a new total Contract Cost of \$23,449,949.73 and an increase in the length of the Contract by 156 days, and further consisting of the following changes: 1) Delete corridor wall in A105 and build a fourth wall to enclose the vital records room in the County Clerk’s office – cost increase of \$2,214.17; 2) Modifications to access control system including additional card readers – cost increase of \$71,185.76; 3) Increase in contract term by 156 days due to

supply change issues; and 4) Changes to plans for the Indigent Health Department including deleting walls, windows, a door, and changes to millwork – cost decrease of \$9,054.11 – John Strothman/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

Discussion followed – Mark Williams with Teal Construction

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

21. Discuss, approve or disapprove authorizing the County Judge to Sign a Rental Agreement with the Town of Fulton for the use of the Fulton Convention Center for May 23, 2023, to host a Joint Evacuation Transportation Triage (ETT) Training for Aransas and San Patricio Counties for a reduced cost of \$350.00 – Mike Geer/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

Discussion followed – Commissioner Dupnik was not present for vote

Vote: Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

22. Discuss, approve, or disapprove a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Marshal Service in which the Marshal Service agrees to reimburse Aransas County for up to \$15,000.00 in overtime expenses related to Aransas County Deputies serving warrants over a 30 day period – Sheriff Mills/Tana Taylor/ Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

23. Discuss, approve or disapprove adoption of a Citizens Participation Plan for the County of Aransas for the Texas General Land Office (GLO) Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Method of Distribution (CDBG-MIT-MOD) program and authorizing County Judge to sign all necessary documents – Jacky Cockerham/ Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

24. Discuss, approve or disapprove Mott MacDonald recommendation to award construction contract for Southeast Aransas County Drainage Improvements in the County's General Land Office Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) Contract #20-065-098-C270, to Brizo Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$5,542,866.32 and authorize the County Judge to sign contract- David Reid/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

X. Planning and Budget

25. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the April 2023 Indigent Health Care Report- Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

26. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the April 2023 Auditor's Monthly Report- Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

27. Discuss, approve or disapprove the distribution of \$114,186.00 of US Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Revenue Sharing Account Annual Payments to Local Governments for Lands under their Administration for Fiscal Year 2022, received in 2023- Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

28. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the creation of a new job description for Litter Abatement, Transfer Station Attendant, and Mosquito Control Supervisor to replace the existing Litter Abatement and Mosquito Control Supervisor position at the existing pay rate- Elle Morales/ Linda Doane/ Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

29. Discuss, approve, or disapprove job description for Emergency Management Coordinator with no change to rate of pay- Linda Doane/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0, it was so ordered

30. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Budget Line Item- Transfer for the 2023 Budget- Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

No discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

31. Discuss, approve, or disapprove Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities- Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

XI. Reports from Commissioners, Elected Officials, and Department Heads
– NO action will be taken

1. Treasure spoke about Patricia Randall receiving her Certification for an Investment Office

XII. Reports about items of community interest – NO action will be taken

XIII. Closed Session - Judge Garza reported NO need for CLOSED SESSION

32. Consult with counsel and receive legal advice about insurance matters related to Aransas County's projects and insurance claims from Hurricane Harvey, including the following pending litigation:

- a. Aransas County Texas v. Endurance American Specialty Insurance Company, et al., Aransas County District Court Cause No. 23-0021; and,
- b. Northstar Recovery Services, Inc. v. Aransas County Independent School District and Aransas County, Aransas County, District Court Cause No. 23-0066; and,
- c. Aransas County v. Kathleen Hicks, in her official capacity as Director of the Regional Pool Alliance, Aransas County District Court Cause No. 23-0069,

pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, which authorizes closed sessions for a governmental body to consult with its attorney(s) regarding advice on legal matters pertaining to "Pending or Contemplated Litigation; or a Settlement Offer; or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with" the Open Meetings Act –Jennifer O'Steen/Judge Garza

XIV. Open Session - Judge Garza reported NO need for CLOSED SESSION

33. Reconvene into Open Session – No closed session
34. Discuss and take action on matters discussed in closed session – Amanda Oster/Jennifer O'Steen/ Judge Garza – No closed session

XV. Adjournment with Roll Call 11:25 AM

Motion to adjourn: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered



Misty Kimbrough, Ex-Officio Clerk
of the Commissioners Court



Ray A. Garza, County Judge

