



MINUTES

Aransas County Commissioners Court

9:00 AM – Tuesday, January 23, 2023

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on Tuesday, January 23, 2023, at 9:00 AM, in the Aransas County Courthouse, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, Texas.

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

Absent:

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

- Christopher Mace – Aquarium at Rockport Harbor

V. Presentations

1. Presentation to introduce Patrick Cruz, the Marine Agent for Aransas County, by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Megan Glidden and Virginia Easton-Smith

VI. Consent Agenda

2. Acknowledge receipt of, and record in the minutes of the Commissioners Court, a certificate from the County & District Clerk's Association of Texas certifying Pam Heard, District Clerk, has completed the required 20 hours of Continuing Education for 2022 as prescribed in Section 51.605 of the Texas Government Code - Pam Heard/Judge Garza
3. Acknowledge receipt of, and record in the minutes of the Commissioners Court, a certificate from the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Training certifying that Robert Dupnik has completed a course of training on the Texas Open Meetings Act that satisfies the legal requirements of Government Code, Section 551.005 – Commissioner Dupnik/Judge Garza

4. Acknowledge receipt of, and record in the minutes of the Commissioners Court, a certificate from the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Training certifying that Robert Dupnik has completed a course of training on the Texas Public Information Act that satisfies the legal requirements of Government Code, Section 552.012 – Commissioner Dupnik/Judge Garza
5. Acknowledge and accept a donation from Jane S. Rose in the amount of \$100.00 to the Aransas County Library – Iris Sanchez/Judge Garza

Motion: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline to accept the Consent agenda
Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

VII. County Reports

6. Discuss, approve or disapprove the 4th Quarter 2022 Aransas County Historical Commission Report – Dave Hattman/Judge Garza

Motion: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
Discussion followed – over budget on education outreach
Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

7. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the 2023 Appointees to, and Officers of, the Aransas County Historical Commission with each appointee and officer serving a 2 year term - Betty Stiles/Dave Hattman/Judge Garza

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

8. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the 4th Quarter 2022 Rockport Center for the Arts Report – Luis Purón/Judge Garza

Motion: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
Presentation and Discussion followed
Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

9. Discuss, approve or disapprove appointing Jerry Brown and Katherine Hayes for a four- year term to the Airport Advisory Board. They will be joining Travis McDavid as Chair, Betty Stiles as Vice Chair, and Jim Rester– Judge Garza

Motion: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
Note a corrections of spelling of name: Katherine Hayes should be spelled Kathryn Hayes
Discussion followed
Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

VIII. County Roads and Floodplain

10. Discuss the status of the Rattlesnake Point Road Project funded through a Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) that is administered through the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and included in the GLO Contract No. 20-065-098-C270 – David Reid/Judge Garza

Motion: by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
Discussion followed – maps provided for clarification
Vote: no vote

IX. Contracts and Grants

11. Discuss, approve, or disapprove releasing and returning One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) of Federal Fishery Disaster Assistance Grant Funds back to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) that were intended for the Cedar Bayou Dredging Project as the funds are no longer needed for the Project– John Strothman/Judge Garza

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

12. Discuss, approve, or disapprove Change Order #1, Change Order #2, and/or Change Order #3 to the Construction Contract for the Aransas County Downtown Anchor Project - Courthouse Construction between Aransas County and Teal Construction Company dated February 28, 2022, to \$232,557.25 which will result in a decrease in the total contract cost from Twenty Three Million Six Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$23,615,000.00) to Twenty Three Million Three Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Four Hundred Forty Two Dollars and 75 cents (\$23,382,442.75) - John Strothman/Judge Garza

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

13. Discuss, approve or disapprove accepting a grant award from the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Disaster Recovery DR-4332-0202 Sub-Grant Award in the amount of \$63,801.00 Dollars to engineer and install a generator for emergency backup power at Aransas County Road and Bridge located at 1931 FM 2165 in Rockport, Texas and authorizing the County Judge to sign awards letter - John Strothman/Judge Garza

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

14. Discuss, approve or disapprove Task Order ID: 4 for the GrantWorks Grant Administration Contract for Services related to the Post Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the Little Bay Drainage Project, which work is funded by a grant received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 404 Hazard Mitigation

Grant Program that is administered by the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) – John Strothman/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

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

15. Discuss, approve or disapprove Task Order ID: 5 for the GrantWorks Grant Administration Contract for Services related to the Post Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the Aransas County Airport Field Lighting Generator Project, which work is funded by a grant received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program that is administered by the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) - John Strothman/Judge Garza

Motion: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

Discussion followed

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

16. Discuss, approve or disapprove Task Order ID: 10 for the GrantWorks Grant Administration Contract for Services related to the Post Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the Aransas County Road & Bridge Generator Project, which work is funded by a grant received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program that is administered by the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM)- John Strothman/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

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

17. Discuss, approve or disapprove entering into a Contract for Professional Engineering Services between Aransas County, Texas and G & W Engineers, Inc. for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Standby Generator Projects located at the Aransas County Airport, Project No. DR-4332-0197 and at Aransas County Road and Bridge, Project No. DR-4332-0202, for \$54,800.00, which projects are funded by a grant received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program that is administered by the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) – John Strothman/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

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

18. Discuss, approve or disapprove Justice of the Peace 2 applying for grant funding under the Juvenile Justice & Truancy Prevention Grant Program for a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) for families to help identify and assist in self-improvement programs – Judge McGinnis/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

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

19. Discuss, approve or disapprove Justice of the Peace 2 applying for grant funding under the Juvenile & Truancy Prevention Grant Program for a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC) for Alcohol and Drug Abuse family counseling – Judge McGinnis/Judge Garza

Motion: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

Discussion followed

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

20. Discuss, approve or disapprove accepting and awarding bids for Mosquito Insecticide for 2023 – Valerie Gonzalez/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

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

21. Discuss, approve or disapprove authorizing the County Treasurer to apply for, receive, and accept the 2023 distribution of proceeds from the Tobacco Settlement Fund from the Texas Department of State Health Services, based on the County's unreimbursed health care expenditures for calendar year 2023 – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Motion: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

Discussion followed

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

22. Discuss, approve or disapprove entering into a Contract Labor Agreement Second Addendum with Randy Bingham, PA-C, for inmate health care services at the Aransas County Detention Center to establish that visits will occur at least two times per week and to increase the base pay from \$2,000 to \$3,000 – Sheriff Mills/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

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

X. Planning and Budget

23. Discuss, approve or disapprove Patrick Cruz for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Marine Agent for Aransas County – Donnie Montemayor/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

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

24. Discuss, approve, or disapprove creating a new job description and position for a Mechanic-Road Crew which will replace a current unfilled operator position – David Reid/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

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

25. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the payment of stipend for the Interim Emergency Management Coordinator, Mike Geer, in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) and a cellphone allowance in the amount of Thirty-Four Dollars and Sixty-Two Cents (\$34.62) per pay period, for the Ninety (90) days of his appointment, beginning on January 3, 2023, and ending on April 3, 2023. – Judge Garza

Motion: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
Amended Motion: \$ 5,000.00 for 90 day stipend, not to exceed \$ 5,000.00 for the 90 day interim appointment will be paid over 7 pay periods.
Discussion followed
Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

26. Discuss, approve, or disapprove Budget Line Item Transfers – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

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

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

Motion: by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
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

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

XIII. Closed Session – 10:29 AM

28. Consider convening into a Closed Session to consult with and receive advice from legal counsel about insurance matters related to Aransas County’s projects and insurance claims from Hurricane Harvey, 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 – Amanda Oster/Jennifer O’Steen/Commissioner Rousseau

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

XIV. Open Session - 11:28 AM

29. Reconvene into Open Session at 11:28 AM

Motion: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

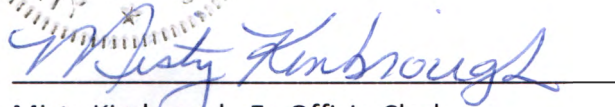
30. Discuss, approve or disapprove renewing the Aransas County Property and Casualty Insurance Policy with the Regional Pool Alliance for the year beginning March 1, 2023 and ending on February 29, 2024, for the annual premium listed in the renewal documents – Amanda Oster/Jennifer O’Steen/Judge Garza

Motion: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered

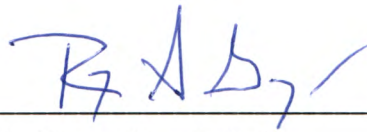
XV. Adjournment with Roll Call

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





Misty Kimbrough, Ex-Officio Clerk
of the Commissioners Court



Ray A. Garza, County Judge

