



MINUTES

Aransas County Commissioners Court

9:00 AM – Tuesday, January 9, 2023

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on Tuesday, January 9, 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

- Scott Hime – Drainage & Carbon Neutral Coalition

V. Presentations

1. Presentation by 4-H Youth, along with Ginger Easton-Smith and Megan Glidden, Aransas County Ag Extension Agents, to invite the Commissioners Court to the 2023 San Patricio/Aransas Agriculture and Homemaking Show – Ginger Easton Smith/Megan Glidden
2. Presentation by Lori Cesar regarding Aransas County Animal Control Operations – Lori_Cesar

VI. Consent Agenda

3. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Minutes from the December 27, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Commissioners Court – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
4. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the January 3, 2023 Special Meeting of Commissioners Court - Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza

5. Acknowledge receipt of, and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a 2022 Continuing Education Transcript of Completion and Compliance with Texas Property Tax Code, Section 6.23(d) for Anna Marshall, Tax Assessor-Collector – Anna Marshall/Judge Garza
6. Discuss and accept a donation of \$40 from Ron Hildreth in memory of Karolyn Hildreth for Aransas County Animal Control – Lori Cesar/Judge Garza
7. Discuss and accept a donation of \$800 from David Scott for Aransas County Animal Control – Lori Cesar/Judge Garza
8. Discuss and accept a donation from Les and Mary Puckett Children’s Foundation in the amount of \$1,500 to the Aransas County Library – Iris Sanchez/Judge Garza
9. Discuss, approve or disapprove the re-appointment of County Judge nominee Betty Stiles as a member of the Aransas County Tree Committee – 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 Roads and Floodplain

10. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Final Plat for The Islands of Rockport, Unit 2 Subdivision. This plat has already been preliminarily approved and are seeking approval for the Final Plat – Katherine Comeaux/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

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

11. Discuss, approve, or disapprove exercising the County’s priority option to purchase 1.6632 (+/-) acres of land, for \$55,000.00 plus costs, that TxDOT has determined to be surplus and authorizing County Judge to either sign statement of intent to purchase property OR execute a waiver of priority right. – David Reid/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed: with maps displayed for clarification

Vote: Motion failed 1-4; it was so ordered

12. Discuss, approve or disapprove exercising County Priority to purchase 6.2646 (+/-) acres of land that TxDOT has determined to be surplus and authorizing County Judge to either sign statement of intent to purchase property OR sign waiver of priority right. Cost of land is \$169,282.00 plus cost of survey, appraisal, closing costs and any additional costs incurred – David Reid/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed with maps displayed for clarification

Vote: Motion failed 0-5 it was so ordered

13. Discuss, approve or disapprove authorizing the County Judge to issue a variance to the 1/2 acre lot requirement and sign the Final Re-Plat of Lots 12-R & 16-R, Block 135, Manning Addition – Katherine Comeaux/Valerie Gonzalez/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0 it was so ordered

VIII. CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS AND LEASES

14. Discuss, approve or disapprove the list of projects and order of priority for the Community Development Block Grant Regional Council of Governments (COG) Method of Distribution (CDBG-MOD) and Mitigation (MIT) Grants administered through the Texas General Land Office (GLO) – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0 it was so ordered

15. Discuss and consider adopting Resolution No. R-01-2023 awarding a Grant Administration contract to GrantWorks, Inc. for the Community Development Block Grant Regional Council of Governments (COG) Method of Distribution (CDBG-COG MOD) and Mitigation (MIT) Grants administered through the

Texas General Land Office (GLO) for compensation in the amount of \$500,166.90 – Jacky Cockerham/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 authorizing County Judge to sign Change Order #1 for the Bahia Bay Drainage Improvement Project. The Change Order is a \$18,870.50 increase of the contract with Gerke Excavating Inc. for the relocation of an existing gas line – David Reid/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0 it was so ordered

IX. Planning & Budget Office

17. Discuss, approve, or disapprove renaming Aransas County Animal Control by replacing it with “Aransas County Animal Care,” to include renaming this department in the County’s 2023 Budget – Lori Cesar/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed: Effective January 9, 2023, there will be a transition period for web presence, forms and on the vehicles.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0 it was so ordered

18. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the December 2022 Indigent Health Care Report – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 5-0 it was so ordered

19. Discuss, approve or disapprove a one-time purchase of Vacation and Compensatory Time hours accrued by employees in any County department that are in excess of the maximum number of hours that can carry over to the next calendar year – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed:

Vote: Motion failed 2-3 it was so ordered

New Motion proposed by Commissioner Rousseau – not to consider compensatory time and allow that to be handled per policy. Allow purchase of vacation hours for the Jail Department only that has not been used by the first pay period in February, seconded by Commissioner Dupnik

Discussion followed:

Amend New Motion to: proposed by Commissioner Rousseau – not to consider compensatory time and allow that to be handled per policy. Allow purchase of vacation hours for the Jail Staff only that has not been used by the first pay period in February and delete any overage vacation time only for other departments that has not been used by the end of January, second Commissioner Dupnik

Vote: Motion carried 5-0 it was so ordered

20. Discuss, approve or disapprove salaries adjustments for the Community Development Director and the Environmental Health Director for Fiscal Year 2023 – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed:

Vote: Motion failed 1-4 it was so ordered

21. Discuss, approve or disapprove the payment of retroactive pay to Andrew Duncan, Investigator for the Aransas County Attorney's Office, to compensate him for the law enforcement stipends he has not received for the past two years for a total one-time payment of \$15,300.00 – Amanda Oster/Judge Garza

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

Discussion followed

Vote: Motion carried 4-1 it was so ordered

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

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

Vote: Motion carried 5-0 it was so ordered

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

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

Discussion followed:

Vote: Motion carried 5-0 it was so ordered

X. Reports from Commissioners, Elected Officials & Department Heads – NO action taken

XI. Reports about items of community interest – NO action taken

XII. Closed Session – 10:59 AM

24. 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/Judge Garza

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

Vote: Motions carried 5-0 it was so ordered

XIII. Open Session – 11:59 AM

25. Reconvene into Open Session- Judge Garza 11:59 AM

26. Discuss and consider taking action on any matter discussed during closed session - Amanda Oster

Motion: by Judge Garza, move to authorize the County Attorney's office and outside counsel from **Lloyd Goslink (sp?)** to initiate a suite in Aransas County District Court against the insurance adjustor and insurance carriers involved in the counties claim for losses from Hurricane Harvey and / or enter into negotiations for settlement of such claims and to authorize counsel and pursue legislation as may be appropriate related to claims from Hurricane Harvey. Second Commissioner Rousseau

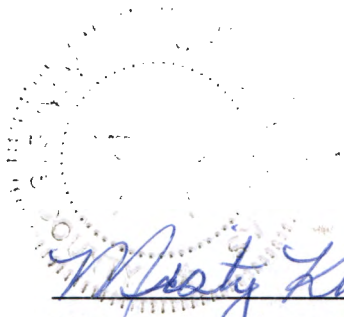
No Discussion

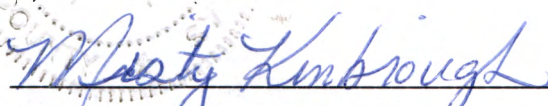
Vote: Motions carried 5-0 it was so ordered

XIII. Adjournment / Roll Call

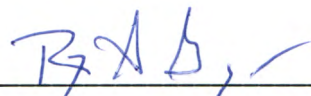
Motion: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

Vote: Motion carried 5-0 it was so ordered





Misty Kimbrough, Ex-Officio Clerk
of the Commissioners Court



Ray A. Garza, County Judge

