

MINUTES

Aransas County Commissioners Court



2:30 PM Thursday, February 29, 2024

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 2:30 PM, 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 \(aransascourttx.gov\)](https://aransascourtminutesandagendas.com), 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 - **ABSENT**
Leslie Casterline, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Pat Rousseau, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Robert Dupnik, Commissioner, Precinct 4-4A

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. DECLARE QUORUM, **Commissioner Chaney was absent from the meeting**
- IV. ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION

Judge Garza – I am striking Item # 2 from the agenda, due to trying to reduce costs.
Mark Williams – I recommend you reject this change order due to the cost.

1. Discuss, approve or disapprove Change Order #14 from Teal Construction for the following change: CPR 84 – Reduce Plaque Size – deduct to change the 5' diameter plaque to 3' diameter plaque; new plaque will be 3 feet in diameter in lieu of 5 feet – Deduct \$4,345.00 and Zero (0) impact days – Elle Morales/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
Discussion followed:
Mark Williams – I feel this is an adequate credit for the work, moving it from the floor to the wall and will be better so there is not a height variance in the floor
Commissioner Rousseau – This will this make it easier to maintain.
Judge Garza – I just want to verify that there are no additional fees to hang this or the change in the floor.
Mark Williams – No this covers all costs.
Vote: Motion carried 4-0: it was so ordered

2. Discuss, approve or disapprove Change Order #15 from Teal Construction for the following change: CPR 87 – PR #19 Window Coverings – provide and install 10 gypsum board window coverings to include all necessary modifications to: drywall, storefront systems film, painting, 2-inch polyisocyanurate board insulation, overhead and administration fees; work to include 7 window units on the first floor and 3 window units on the second floor – Add \$33,339.61 and add ten (10) impact days – Elle Morales/Judge Garza

This item was struck from the agenda by Judge Garza

3. Update the Commissioners on the progress of the new Courthouse – Judge Garza

Mark Williams – Attic installation issue: we were seeking 3 bids for that work, they have come in and are under review currently.

Judge Garza – are they less than what was quoted?

Mark Williams – much less.

Commissioner Casterline – Is it comparable to the credit for not putting it in there?

Mark Williams – The credit was \$44,500.

Commissioner Casterline – So is it in that neighborhood?

Mark Williams – It's not too far off but it's not that. It's a good number.

Elle Morales – We received email from Jail Standards. We have everything lined out, answered our questions. The doors are going to get ordered and we should be able to move forward.

Commissioner Rousseau – That was for 5 doors?

Elle Morales – 4 doors. They originally wanted the pistol lockers and key box outside, but they are being moved to the Sally Port.

Commissioner Rousseau – The cost?

Elle Morales – We don't have a final cost yet.

Commissioner Dupnik – You stated the doors were going to be ordered now?

Elle Morales – Yes.

Commissioner Dupnik – That'll be 12 – 16 weeks?

Elle Morales – That is what we are hearing. We are waiting to hear what locking mechanism to use.

Mark Williams – The architect's been in direct contact with the supplier and he stated he can beat that 16 week timeline.

Commissioner Casterline – Are there any updates on the elevator parts?

Mark Williams – I think they have everything they need to complete 1 elevator. The 2nd elevator may be in route as we speak.

Commissioner Casterline – Where is the warehouse?

Commissioner Rousseau – I think they said Houston.

Mark Williams – I think we have about 2 more weeks on the elevator they started on.

Commissioner Casterline – Do they have all of the controls and everything in Houston already?

Mark Williams – Yes, sir.

Commissioner Rousseau – They said the 2nd and 3rd are both there and ready to ship.

Mark Williams – The other delivery item was the generator. That has been installed.

Commissioner Casterline – Was it supposed to be taller than the walls around it?

Mark Williams – There is an enormous tank to hold the diesel. The other option was to use natural gas but then you have to worry about the city turning the gas off.

Elle Morales – the Time Capsule will be installed tomorrow.

Judge Garza – we do have an issue that the Clerks are waiting to hear about. I don't want to say "vault" but their storage area. There is supposed to be a vault in the District Clerk's office and I think the County Clerk's whole office is supposed to be a vault. We are still working on it. We are going to have a meeting with everybody involved to get on the same page. It looks like we are going to have some modifications to be in compliance with the statute on how to store our permanent records. That will be coming and to be honest it going to be expensive.

Mark Williams – We had a quote to install the dry type of fire suppression system for the District Clerk's vault and the County Clerk's Vital Records room only and just the system was going to cost \$100,000. That did not include sealing the room. For that system to work there cannot be any air movement. The ceiling tiles are not acceptable in a dry type system. All doors have to seal.

Judge Garza – it's something we are going to have to get on fast. The more time we take the more it's going to cost.

Mark Williams – Sealing a room is an additional cost.

Judge Garza – To the clerk’s “I know ya’ll are anxious but we’ll get there.”

Elle Morales – Yesterday we had a meeting with the District Judges. PGAL, Hoffman who did the mill work for the benches. They were there as a group and got to voice their opinions about the benches and how those can get re-fabricated/modified to be useful.

Mark Williams – we are working on pricing and timeline.

Elle Morales – A simple explanation: If I have my house painted and I pick purple and now I’ve changed my mind, it’s going to cost me money.

Commissioner Dupnik – Are you saying the courtroom is normally what would work but we don’t want it?

Elle Morales – The courtroom benches as they are were approved by the county. So changes now will be at the cost of the county.

Commissioner Rousseau – What are the nature of the changes?

Elle Morales – The bench is too high.

Commissioner Casterline – Or are the Judges too short?

Pam Heard – When the Judges sat down, their line of sight is cut off by the top of the “rail.”

Commissioner Casterline – Get them to change the qualifications for a judge.

Judge Garza – Showed the court what is the problem, see video. The Rail in front of the judge is about 24 inches too high.

Commissioner Casterline – I sat down and I didn’t have a problem with it.

Commissioner Rousseau – That’s more like a wall.

Pam Heard – the Judge’s Bench.

Commissioner Rousseau – So it’s not like all the seats and the jurors areas.

Elle Morales – It’s where the Judge sits, and the witness box.

Mark Williams – The Texas Jail Standards compliance - we came to an agreement to replace 4 doors.

Judge Garza – do you want to speak about the letter about the exterior light for the “Aransas County Courthouse” lettering?

Mark Williams – We got a proposed change order for that. It was exorbitant. It’s not the same price that City Hall is paying for the same type of modification.

Commissioner Dupnik – What are we talking about?

Judge Garza – The lighting for behind where it says “Aransas County Courthouse.”

Mark Williams – Exterior, it says “Aransas County Courthouse” on the tower. We want to make sure it is lit for the plans and specs that included behind the letter lighting. They are having trouble getting power through a concrete beam. There were no provisions in the plans for conduit or something to get wiring through there. It was meant to have wiring at each letter that would have been a lot of holes in the wall. An option is taking 1 row of brick out and putting a piece of metal in there. It’s like a trough with a cover plate that is the same color as the brick, it will have all the wires in it.

Judge Garza – It’s part of the original specs. We did a change order a few months ago to take that away and put a light shining on the lettering. When we approved that it was our understanding that the City was going to do the same thing, but they are not and we want to match. We got a small credit if we were going to light it from the front. Now, to light it from the back is going to be very expensive.

Mark Williams – We are not done fighting that battle. We’ve got some other options we are looking at.

Judge Garza – The cost is not going to be near the credit we were given, but since it was part of the original specs, nothing’s changed. It’s like they knew it was going to be expensive on their end so they proposed this and we fell for it and now we have to pay for it.

Mark Williams – Kind of like the insulation.

Judge Garza – I hate value engineering.

Commissioner Rousseau – I realize you are still working on it but, you said you could put in a metal panel with wiring. How is the power going to get to that plate, if there is concrete?

Mark Williams – They’re going to provide 1 hole to the channel. It’s a metal box with a cover plate. It will be the same color as the brick. It’s not going to completely go away, but it will recede, it won’t stand out. It is the only solution to light these letters. It doesn’t mean the battle is over. We are still looking at other options.

Commissioner Rousseau – That’s going to cost a lot more money?

Mark Williams – He wants \$100,000 to do that.

Judge Garza – for that kind of money we don’t need it lit.

Commissioner Rousseau – We could have some kind of a lighting option that isn’t like the City’s because the 2 buildings don’t look exactly alike, so we could do something a little different.

Mark Williams – I don’t think it will distasteful.

Judge Garza – It was part of the original specs.

Commissioner Dupnik – Do we remember what the original cost for lighting was?

Judge Garza – The credit, I don’t.

Commissioner Dupnik – What was it that they left out as part of the process having to drill holes?

Mark Williams – That’s the short version. I think it’s more complicated than that.

Commissioner Rousseau – Everything is complicated.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM

ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ COURT



Misty Kimbrough

Misty Kimbrough,
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

Ray A. Garza

Ray A. Garza, County Judge

