

MINUTES



Aransas County Commissioners Court

9:00 AM – Monday, September 9, 2024

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on Monday, September 9, 2024, 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 \(aransascountytexas.gov\)](https://aransascountytexas.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 4-4A

I. CALL TO ORDER

[Video Time 0:00](#)

II. INVOCATION

[Video Time 0:09](#)

III. PLEDES

[Video Time 1:41](#)

IV. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

[Video Time 2:05](#)

V. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

[Video Time 2:22](#)

There were none.

☛ *Judge Garza struck item number 11.*

[Video Time 2:33](#)

VI. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

There were none.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the August 26, 2024 Public Hearing on the proposed 2024 Tax Rate
2. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the August 26, 2024 Public Hearing on the proposed 2025 Budget
3. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the August 26, 2024 Regular Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
4. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the August 27, 2024 Special Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza

[Video Time 2:46](#)

☛ **Motion to accept the consent agenda:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

☛ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

VIII. COUNTY REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND RESOLUTIONS

There were none.

IX. COUNTY ROADS AND FLOODPLAIN

There were none.

X. CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

5. Discuss, approve or disapprove purchasing interpretive signs for downtown anchor (DTA) project authorizing the County Judge to sign necessary documents-Elle Moralez/Judge Garza

[Video Time 3:11](#)

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

✪ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

6. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the surplus of outdated Law Library books-Amanda Oster/Judge Garza

[Video Time 6:10](#)

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

✪ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

7. Discuss, approve or disapprove allowing the County Judge to sign an annual agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for the 2025 Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) Grant M2516RCKP which reimburses 90% of cost for eligible airport maintenance projects up to \$100,000.00-Mike Geer/Judge Garza

[Video Time 8:09](#)

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

✪ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

8. Discuss, approve or disapprove Order #O-19-2024, a new Order of General Election for the election to be held on November 5, 2024 for the purpose of electing county and precinct officers, and providing notice of the election-Kevin Stroud/Judge Garza

[Video Time 9:56](#)

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

✪ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

9. Discuss, approve or disapprove pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code Sec. 292.001, the Aransas County Commissioners Court Finding necessary and designating the Aransas County Public Library "Meeting Room" address 701 East Mimosa Rockport Texas 78382, which is within the city limits of (*Correction: Rockport, TX, in*) Aransas County, Texas an Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 Courtroom until further notice-Judge Dupnik/Judge Garza

[Video Time 11:53](#)

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

✪ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

10. Discuss, approve, or disapprove advertising Request for professional services to complete Shoreline Delineation survey and Category 1A Land Survey for GOMESA CMP PSM project – Copano Cove Ranch Acquisition Project GLO Contract No. 24-099-005-E79 – Katherine Comeaux/Judge Garza

[Video Time 13:10](#)

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

- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 11. Discuss, approve, or disapprove authorizing the County Judge to sign an updated Staffing Services Agreement with Sterling Personnel, Inc. – Judge Garza
 - ★ *This item was struck from the agenda by Judge Garza.*
- 12. Discuss Amendment #5 for the General Land Office Contract #20-065-098-C270 Extending the Contract terms, Revising Performance Statement Budget an Benchmarks and Revise the General Affirmations and Revised Nonexclusive List of Applicable Laws Rules, and Regulations ad Revisions will Result in no Additional Encumbrance of Contract Funds – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
 - [Video Time 14:57](#)
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 13. Discuss, approve , or disapprove DLF Two, Inc.’s Change Order no. 007 for the Aransas County Community Building/Plaza/Parking Lot General Land Office (GLO) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Contract #20-065-098-C270 – Adding 107 days for the additional proposed work including installation of Fiber Optic Conduit; the new project substantial completion date will be December 31, 2024 – Elle Moralez/Judge Garza
 - [Video Time 18:18](#)
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 14. Discuss, approve, or disapprove Change Order No. 5 of 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. Brizo Construction, LLC request an increase to the contract time by an additional 20 days-David Reid/Judge Garza
 - [Video Time 22:38](#)
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 15. Discuss, approve, or disapprove Change Order No 6 of 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. Brizo Construction, LLC request an increase in the contract amount by \$40,597.00 and increase in time by an additional 60 days-David Reid/Judge Garza
 - [Video Time 23:44](#)
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- II. **PLANNING AND BUDGET**
- 16. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Aransas County Indigent Health Care Report for August 2024 – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza
 - [Video Time 25:07](#)
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

17. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the 2023-2024 End of Year Report for the Aransas County Indigent Health Care Program-Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza
Video Time 26:17
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
18. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the July 2024 Treasurer's Report-Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza
Video Time 26:48
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
19. Discuss, approve, or disapprove proposed revision to Aransas County's Employee Handbook, Policy 2A-14 SALARY GRIEVANCES so that Aransas County's policy on Salary Grievances more closely follows the language of the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 152, Subchapter B-Commissioner Rousseau
Video Time 27:17
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
20. Approve or disapprove Transferring Salary Funds from County Attorney's Office to the County Judge's Office to fund the Governmental Affairs Position that will provide Legal Support to Commissioner Court and the County Auditor's Office to Fund the Contract/Procurement Specialist Position in the 2025 Budget-Commissioner Dupnik
Video Time 36:16
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
 - ★ **Vote:** Commissioner Chaney – Nay, Commissioner Casterline – Nay, Commissioner Rousseau – Yay, Commissioner Dupnik – Yay, Judge Garza, Nay; Motion failed 3-2: it was so ordered
 - ★ **Amend motion** to approve transfer the salary funds from the County Attorney's office to the Auditor's office for the Contract/Procurement Specialist Position in the 2025 Budget by Commissioner Dupnik and seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ **Vote:** Amended Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
21. Discuss, approve or disapprove Adopting the 2025 Budget – THIS BUDGET WILL RAISE MORE TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES THAN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BY AN AMOUNT OF \$1,688,569.00 WHICH IS A 9.80% INCREASE FROM LAST YEAR'S BUDGET, THE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE TO BE RAISED FROM NEW PROPERTY ADDED TO THE TAX ROLL THIS YEAR IS \$608,797.00 – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:07:07
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
22. Discuss, approve or disapprove 2025 Salaries, expenses and other allowances of elected officials – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:09:40

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
23. Discuss, approve or disapprove the adoption of Resolution #R-21-2024, a Resolution for the 2024 Tax Roll, Levy and Rate. The total tax rate to be levied for the County of Aransas for the tax year 2024, be and is hereby set at \$0.370000 per \$100.00 valuation with an assessment rate of 100 percent, to assessed and collected by the Tax Assessor-Collector for Aransas County as follows-Anna Marshall/Judge Garza
- a) \$0.284884 per \$100 valuation for the purpose of the County ad valorem maintenance and operations fund.
 - b) \$0.037548 per \$100 valuation for the purpose of the County ad valorem interest and sinking fund
 - c) \$0.041450 per \$100 valuation for the purpose of the County Farm to Market/Flood control maintenance and operations with the resulting levy being split on a percentage basis: 83% designated for the County's Road & Bridge maintenance and operations fund and 17% designated for the Flood Control maintenance and operations fund.
 - d) \$0.006118 per \$100 valuation for the purpose of the County Farm to Market/Flood Control FLOOD ONLY Interest and Sinking Fund.

[Video Time 1:10:03](#)

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
24. Discuss, approve or disapprove adopting the 2024 Tax Roll and Levy – Anna Marshall/Judge Garza

[Video Time 1:13:28](#)

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
25. Discuss, approve or disapprove Ratifying the Property Tax Increase reflected in the 2025 Budget – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

[Video Time 1:13:45](#)

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
26. Discuss, approve, or disapprove Designation of Courtrooms – Judge Garza
- i. Designate address 2718 HWY 35 N, Rockport, Texas 78382, which is within the city limits of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas as an Auxiliary Courtroom for the County and District Courts of Aransas County until further notice.
 - ii. Designate address 2740 HWY 35 N, Rockport, Texas 78382 which is within the city limits of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas as an Auxiliary Courtroom for the County and District Courts of Aransas County until further notice.
 - iii. Designated address 701 E. Mimosa Street, Rockport, Texas 78382 which is within the city limits of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas as an Auxiliary Courtroom for the County and District Courts of Aransas County until further notice.

- iv. Designate address 402 E. Laurel Street, Rockport, Texas 78382, which is within the city limits of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas as an Auxiliary Courtroom for the County and District Courts of Aransas County until further notice.
- v. Designated address 714 E. Concho Street, Rockport, Texas 78382, which is within the city limits of Rockport, Aransas County, Texas as an Auxiliary Courtroom for the County and District Courts of Aransas County until further notice.

Video Time 1:14:08

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
27. Discuss, approve or disapprove the July 2024 Auditor's Monthly Report – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:17:19

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
28. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Budget Line Items - Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:18:01

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
29. Discuss, approve, or disapprove Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:18:25

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- XI. **REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND DEPARTMENT HEADS – NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

Video Time 1:20:47

- ★ Commissioner Chaney
- XII. **REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST – NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

Video Time 1:22:02

- ★ Elle Moralez
- XIII. **CLOSED SESSION**

30. Convene into a Closed Session to 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:
- i. *Aransas County Texas v. Endurance American Specialty Insurance Company, et al*, Aransas County District Court Cause No. 23-0021; and
 - ii. *Northstar Recovery Service, Inc. v. Aransas County Independent School District and Aransas County*, Aransas County, District Court Cause No. 23-0066 consolidated with *Northstar Recovery Services, Inc. v. HR&R, LLC, et al*, Aransas County District Court Cause No. 20-0159; and

iii. *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 –Amanda Oster/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:23:10

★ There was no closed session

31. **OPEN SESSION**

Reconvene into Open Session

★ There was no closed session

32. Discuss and take action on matters discussed in closed session – Jennifer O’Steen/ Judge Garza

★ There was no closed session

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

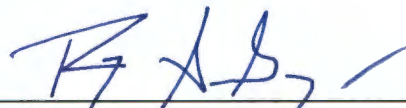
Video Time 1:23:17

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

★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

★ **Meeting adjourned at 10:23 AM**

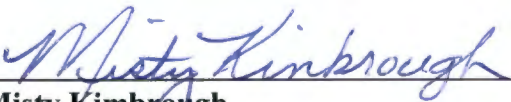
ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ COURT



Ray A. Garza, County Judge

9/23/24

Date signed.



Misty Kimbrough,
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

9/23/24

Date signed and attestation.

