

MINUTES – Regular Meeting

Aransas County Commissioners Court



9:00 AM – Monday, March 23, 2026

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on 23rd DAY of MARCH, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. AT THE ARANSAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 308 N. Live Oak, ROCKPORT, TEXAS, 78382. The meeting video recordings are available by following this link: [Commissioners Court Minutes and Agendas \(aransascourttx.gov\)](https://www.aransascourttx.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 5:06

II. INVOCATION

Video Time 5:27

III. PLEDGES

Video Time 6:50

IV. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Video Time 7:27

V. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Video Time 7:37

☼ There were none

VI. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Presentation update on transportation services from R.E.A.L. Inc., regarding its role in providing services to Aransas County and the surrounding area. Pam Hernandez, Manager of Mobility Management Services for R.E.A.L. will update the Court – Pam Hernandez/Commissioner Rousseau

☼ **Judge Garza skipped this item, no one was there to present**

Video Time 7:45

☼ Ms. Hernandez presented on R.E.A.L., Inc.

Video Time 9:31

☼ Judge Garza went back to this item when Ms. Hernandez arrived.

2. Discuss and approve Proclamation #P-01-2026, recognizing the month of April as Fair Housing Month – Judge Garza

Video Time 7:56

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

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

3. Discuss and approve Proclamation #P-02-2026 recognizing the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month – Judge Garza

Video Time 14:30

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

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

4. Discuss and approve Joint Proclamation #JP-03-2026 with the City of Rockport, the Town of Fulton and Aransas County, recognizing that investing in educators is an investment in children, families and our future, and proclaiming April 11 - 17, 2026 as the Week of the Young Child – Judge Garza

Video Time 31:42

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

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

5. Presentation by Texas A & M AgriLife Extension – Progress and Development presented by Ag Extension Agents, Patrick Cruz (Coastal Marine Resources) and Megan Glidden - Judge Garza

Video Time 34:05

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

6. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting - Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza

7. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court sixteen (16) continuing education hours for Commissioner Dupnik from the 68th Annual VG Young School for County Commissioners – Commissioner Dupnik/Judge Garza

8. Discuss and accept a donation check totaling \$1,000 from GrantWorks for the Aransas County Courthouse Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Judge Garza

Video Time 41:19

✪ **Motion to accept the consent agenda:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik

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

VIII. COUNTY REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

9. Discuss, approve or disapprove Resolution #R-05-2026, a Resolution designating Judge Garza as the Authorized Official for the FY 2027 Juvenile Justice & Youth Diversion Grant Program – Judge McGinnis/Judge Garza

Video Time 41:43

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

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

10. Discuss, approve or disapprove Resolution #R-06-2026, a Resolution selecting an engineering firm for the Bulk Fuel Farm Project – Mike Geer/Judge Garza

Video Time 42:27

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

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

11. Discuss, approve or disapprove Resolution #R-07-2026 designating County Judge, Ray Garza, as the Authorized Official for Aransas County's FY 2027 Homeland Security Operation Lone Star Grant, Grant Number 5048203, effective September 1, 2026 – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 43:33

- ⊛ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ⊛ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
12. Discuss, approve or disapprove accepting the 2025 Aransas County Library Annual Report for the Texas State Library and authorize the County Judge to sign – Iris Sanchez /Judge Garza
Video Time 44:21
- ⊛ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ⊛ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
13. Discuss, approve or disapprove Appointments for a two-year term to the Aransas Pathways Steering Committee’s Land Use Management Plan Sub-Committee of the following:
- Steve Ferguson, Master Naturalist – Mid Coast Chapter, Chair
 - Chad Kacir, US Dept of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Charlie Belaire, wildlife habitats/green infrastructure projects
 - Maureen Crocker, Aransas First, grant writing
 - Bill Burge, land use plans at Aransas Woods, Lamar Burton Wildlife Sanctuary and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept
 - Commissioner Rousseau
- Video Time 46:20
- ⊛ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ⊛ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- IX. COUNTY ROADS AND FLOODPLAIN - NONE**
- X. CONTRACTS AND GRANTS**
14. Discuss, approve or disapprove a contract renewal with GrantWorks Inc. for Grant Writing and Administrative Services for Future Capital Projects for one (1) year period beginning April 14, 2026 through April 13, 2027 – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
Video Time 47:29
- ⊛ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ⊛ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
15. Discuss, approve, or disapprove authorizing county staff and Hanson Professional Services to advertise for bids for the Fulton Street Improvements Project, through the Texas Community Development Block Grant Regional Mitigation Program’s Method of Distribution Development (CDBG-MIT-MOD) and administered by the General Land Office (GLO) Grant Contract No. 24-065-128-E986 – Darrell Seibert/Judge Garza
Video Time 48:01
- ⊛ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ⊛ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
16. Discuss, approve or disapprove Contract Amendment No. 1 with Kofile for the Digital Imaging and Preservation of Records, to provide additional time, through September 30, 2026, the extension period necessary to complete the project and authorize the County Judge to execute necessary documents – Zach Westlake/Judge Garza
Video Time 49:24

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

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

17. Discuss, approve or disapprove Aransas Pathways Steering Committee, Jim Farnsworth – Kayak Chair, to work with Facilities Director, Rene Butler, to formally submit paddling trails in Little Bay to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for inclusion in their website listing of Gulf Coast Paddling Trails – Jim Farnsworth/Rene Butler/Commissioner Rousseau

Video Time 51:12

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

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

XI. PLANNING AND BUDGET

18. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Treasurer’s Monthly Report for the Month of December 2025 – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Video Time 54:28

✪ **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 the Treasurer’s Investment Report for 4th Quarter 2025 – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Video Time 55:16

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

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

20. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Treasurer’s Monthly Report for the Month of January 2026 – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Video Time 57:07

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

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

21. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Treasurer’s Monthly Report for the Month of February 2026 – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Video Time 58:01

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

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

22. Discuss, approve or disapprove reappointing Mike Geer as Emergency Management Coordinator for one (1) year beginning March 23, 2026 at a stipend of \$20,000 – Judge Garza

Video Time 58:36

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

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

23. Discuss and take action regarding implementation of operational procedures relating to two employee grievance matters previously considered by the Court during its March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting – Marsha Perez/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:09:46

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

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

24. Discuss, approve or disapprove the retirement of K9 due to age and condition of hips; the K9 will be retired to his handler – Sheriff Mills/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:10:27

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

⊛ **Amended motion to state to “surplus and retire” due to age and condition:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

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

25. Discuss, approve or disapprove the January 2026 Auditor’s Monthly Report – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:13:52

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

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

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

Video Time 1:15:00

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

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

XII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND DEPARTMENT HEADS – NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

Video Time 1:17:58

⊛ **There were none**

XIII. REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST – NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

Video Time 1:18:10

⊛ **There were none**

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

PUBLIC NOTICE is given that the Commissioners Court may elect to go into an Executive Session anytime during the meeting to discuss matters listed anywhere on the agenda, when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. In the event the Commissioners Court elects to go into Executive Session regarding an agenda item, the section or sections of the Open Meetings Act authorizing the Executive Session will be publicly announced by the presiding officer. In accordance with the authority of the Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.075, 551.076, 551.086, 551.087, 551.089, the Commissioners Court will hold an Executive Session to consult with attorney(s), including outside legal counsel on matters related to litigation; and to deliberate regarding real property, contract negotiations, prospective gift(s), personnel matters, county advisory bodies, security devices and deployments, competitive utility matters, economic development negotiations including incentives, and/or security audits or network vulnerability assessments. Upon completion of the Executive Session, the Commissioners Court may, in an open session, take such action as appropriate on items discussed in an Executive Session.

27. Consult with counsel pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.071 regarding contemplated and pending litigation related to construction contracts for the Downtown Anchor Project, including evaluation of the County's legal rights, remedies and obligations under such contracts – Marsha Perez/Will Allensworth
28. Consult with counsel pursuant to §551.071 regarding legal issues and attorney-client matters related to the County's participation in TIRZ No. 1 and the proposed interlocal agreement – James Allison/Marsha Perez/Commissioner Rousseau

Video Time 1:18:19

- ⊛ **Motion to move into closed session:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
- ⊛ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

- ⊛ **Judge Garza called for a ten-minute break prior to resuming into Closed Session**

Video Time 1:21:04

XV. OPEN SESSION

29. Reconvene into Open Session

Video Time 1:34:20

- ⊛ **Motion to reconvene into open session:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
- ⊛ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

30. Discuss and take action as necessary as a result of executive session discussion

Video Time 1:34:23

- ⊛ **No action taken**

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Video Time 1:34:41

- ⊛ **Motion to adjourn:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
- ⊛ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- ⊛ **Meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM**

ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT



Misty Kimbrough
Misty Kimbrough,
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

4-13-26

Date signed and attestation.

Ray A. Garza
Ray A. Garza, County Judge

4/13/26
Date signed.