

MINUTES – Regular Meeting

Aransas County Commissioners Court



9:00 AM – Monday, August 18, 2025

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on **18th DAY of August, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. AT THE ARANSAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 2718 HWY. 35 NORTH, ROCKPORT, TEXAS, 78382**. The meeting video recordings are available by following this link: [Commissioners Court Minutes and Agendas \(aransascountytx.gov\)](https://aransascountytx.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 4:20](#)

II. INVOCATION

[Video Time 4:38](#)

III. PLEDGES

[Video Time 5:45](#)

IV. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

[Video Time 6:13](#)

V. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

[Video Time 6:25](#)

✪ There were none

VI. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS - NONE

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the August 11, 2025 Regular Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
2. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the August 11, 2025 Budget Workshop Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza

[Video Time 6:34](#)

✪ **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, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

3. Discuss, approve, or disapprove authorizing County Judge to submit to the Texas Department of Information Resources required electronic documents to certify Aransas County's compliance with Texas State Government Code 2054.5191, which mandates personnel to complete an annual State Certified Cyber Security Training Course – Collin Jackson/Judge Garza

[Video Time 6:49](#)

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

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

IX. COUNTY ROADS AND FLOODPLAIN - NONE

X. CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

4. Discuss, approve or disapprove authorizing an order under the Texas Department of Information Resources (TxDIR) TEX-AN 2021 Rate Contract #AT&T DIR-TELE-CTSA-002 to upgrade existing internet service to a 1 gigabit internet service, for a base rate of \$931.84/month for 24 months. The existing circuit base rate is \$998.75/month and will be replaced by the new rate. No new monies – Collin Jackson/Judge Garza

Video Time 7:49

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

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

5. Discuss, approve or disapprove Hiring Resolution #R-32-2025, to award the contract to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for United States Army Corp of Engineering (USACE) permit extension services for the Lamar Beach Road Drainage dated July 14, 2025, and previously approved at the July 28, 2025 Commissioners Court meeting, authorizing the County Judge to execute necessary documents, provide for severance of invalid provisions and confirm compliance with the Open Meetings Act – Federal Emergency Management Agency/Texas Division of Emergency Management – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (FEMA/TDEM/HMGP) Sub-Award grant agreement #DR-4332-0015 provides federal funding for grant management and construction of the project – Elle Morales/Darrell Seibert/Judge Garza

Video Time 9:07

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

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

6. Discuss, approve, or disapprove authorizing the County Judge to sign the Notice of Award between Aransas County and Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for the Lamar Beach Road Drainage project. Federal Emergency Management Agency/Texas Division of Emergency Management – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (FEMA/TDEM-HMGP) Sub-Award grant agreement #DR-4332-0015 provides federal funding for grant management and construction of the project. Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) funding may be utilized for the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) permit extension request – Elle Morales/Darrell Seibert/Judge Garza

Video Time 11:35

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

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

7. Discuss, approve or disapprove and authorize the County Judge to sign the Contract between Aransas County and Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for the Lamar Beach Road Drainage project. Aransas County's Federal Emergency Management Agency/Texas Division of Emergency Management – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (FEMA/TDEM/HMGP) Sub-Award grant agreement #DR-4332-0015 provides federal funding for grant management and construction of the project. Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) funding may be utilized for the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) permit extension request – Elle Morales/Darrell Seibert/Judge Garza

Video Time 12:31

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

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

8. Discuss, approve or disapprove authorizing the County Judge to enter into contract with Lowery Property Advisors for the Licensed-Certified General Real Estate Appraiser projects – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 13:29

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

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

XI. PLANNING AND BUDGET

9. Discuss, approve or disapprove changing the title of the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator to Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator in order to better reflect the duties and responsibilities associated with the position – Mike Geer/Judge Garza

Video Time 14:44

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

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

10. Discuss, approve or disapprove the purchase of a 2026 Mack MD742 Dump Truck in the amount of \$117,598.49, and authorize the County Judge to execute necessary documents – Road & Bridge/Judge Garza

Video Time 16:35

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

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

11. Discuss the 2026 Budget - Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 18:00

✧ **Motion to discuss:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

12. Discuss and propose a 2025 Tax Rate of \$0.378500/\$100. The Tax Rate Proposed is General Fund M&O of \$0.286743/\$100 and General Fund Debt Rate of \$0.046412/\$100. The Road and Bridge Proposed Tax Rate is \$.039100/\$100 and a Flood Control Debt Rate of \$0.006245/\$100, and schedule Public Hearing for Monday, September 8, 2025, at 8:30am and September 22, 2025 at 8:30am – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 20:00

✧ **Motion to discuss and propose:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

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

13. Discuss and receive information from the public concerning the 2026 Proposed Budget and schedule the 2026 Budget Public Hearings for September 8, 2025, at 8:45am and September 22, 2025 for 8:45am – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 22:33

✧ **Discussion only**

✧ **Judge Garza noted the dates and times of the Proposed Budget Public Hearings:** September 8 & September 22, 2025 at 8:45 AM

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

Video Time 24:30

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

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

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

Video Time 24:54

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

✧ **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 27:44

✧ Commissioner Rousseau

✧ Judge Garza

✧ Jacky Cockerham

✧ Darrell Seibert

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

Video Time 31:55

✧ Commissioner Dupnik

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

16. Convene into a Closed Session in accordance with Texas Government Code, §551.071 to consult with counsel and receive legal advice about pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or other attorney-client privileged matters, including, but not limited to, any items posted on this Agenda and the items listed below –

Amanda Oster/Adela Martinez/Judge Garza

i. *Aransas County Texas v. Endurance American Specialty Insurance Company, et al*, Aransas County District Court Cause No. 23-0021;

ii. *Northstar Recovery Services, 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;

iii. *Western Steel Company v. T2J Partners, LLC DIE/A FPS Recovery, LLC and Aransas County, Texas*; Cause No. 24-0072, in the 36th District Court of Aransas County, Texas;

iv. *Oldcastle Building Envelope, Inc., D/B/A Graham Architectural Products v. Sharp Glass, LLC, et al*, Aransas County District Court Cause No. 24-0099; and

v. The Downtown Anchor Project, including the County's permissible actions under its various contracts and reports on proposed mediations, insurance claims, and/or formal review

vi. Discuss personnel matter and update the Court on future plans involving this personnel matter, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, PERSONNEL MATTERS; CLOSED MEETING

a) This chapter does not require a governmental body to conduct an open meeting:

(1) To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee, or

(2) To hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee

b) Subsection (a) does not apply if the office or employee who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public meeting – Judge Garza

Video Time 33:47

- ⊛ **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 an eight-minute break then move into Closed Session**

Video Time 36:41

XV. OPEN SESSION

17. Reconvene into Open Session

Video Time Prior to audio starting 1:59

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

18. Discuss, approve or disapprove taking action or issuing instructions to the County Attorney's Office to act on the County's behalf regarding any of the pending matters identified for Closed Session and authorizing County Attorney's Office to act accordingly – Amanda Oster/Adela Martinez/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:59:46

- ⊛ **Motion to approve taking action as discussed and approved in closed session:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
- ⊛ **Action:** The Commissioners Court approved the Letter of Agreement with Chaves Obregon & Perales, L.L.P. for legal services for outside council and professional service on a contract basis.
- ⊛ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Video Time 2:00:18

- ⊛ **Motion to adjourn:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
- ⊛ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- ⊛ **Meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM**

ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT



Misty Kimbrough
Misty Kimbrough, Date signed and attestation.
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

8/25/25

Ray A. Garza
Ray A. Garza, County Judge
8/25/25
Date signed.