

MINUTES – Regular Meeting

Aransas County Commissioners Court



9:00 AM – Monday, September 22, 2025

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on 22nd DAY of SEPTEMBER, 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 \(aransascourttx.gov\)](https://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 35:19](#)

II. INVOCATION

[Video Time 35:38](#)

III. PLEDGES

[Video Time 36:32](#)

IV. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

[Video Time 36:58](#)

V. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

[Video Time 37:09](#)

★ Misty Kimbrough to speak on item # 12

VI. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Presentation by Matt Ocker and Ray Pressley regarding the Aransas County Appraisal District [*Tabled 09/08/2025*]- Judge Garza
[Video Time 37:17](#)

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

2. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the September 8, 2025 Public Hearing Meeting for the 2025 Tax Rate – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
3. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the September 8, 2025 Public Hearing Meeting for the 2026 Budget – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
4. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the September 8, 2025 Regular Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
5. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas' Continuing Education Transcript for Commissioner Rousseau with 49 hours earned – Commissioner Rousseau
[Video Time 54:30](#)

★ **Motion to accept the consent agenda:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

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

VIII. COUNTY REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

6. Discuss, approve or disapprove adopting Resolution #R-35-2025 which adds one new member to the Aransas County Appraisal District Board of Directors (ACAD BOD) to represent the City of Rockport. The new number of voting members on the ACAD BOD will total six plus the Aransas County Tax Assessor-Collector (non-voting position) – Commissioner Rousseau

Video Time 54:48

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, 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

7. Discuss, approve or disapprove a contract renewal with Charlie Marshall Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Inc., for the transportation of bodies to autopsies and cremations and the transportation of paupers – Judge Garza

Video Time 1:01:48

- ★ Judge Garza – cover letter with the wrong dates, we can pass the agreement and get the cover letter corrected.
- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

XI. PLANNING AND BUDGET

8. Discuss, approve or disapprove the August 2025 Treasurer's Report – Alma Cartwright /Judge Garza

Video Time 1:02:42

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

9. Discuss, approve or disapprove the formation of the Assistant Director position for the Information Technology Department. No new monies – Collin Jackson/Desiree Upton /Judge Garza

Video Time 1:05:59

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
- ★ **Motion table due to missing job description** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

10. Discuss, approve or disapprove and authorize the County Judge to sign the HEB Pharmacy Agreement to Administer Immunizations at the Annual Aransas County Employee Health Fair – Desiree Upton/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:08:58

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

11. Discuss, approve or disapprove paying for immunizations at the Annual Aransas County Employee Health Fair for employees not covered by health insurance, at an estimated cost of \$1,500 already budgeted for from the Health Care Sales Tax – Desiree Upton/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:10:03

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

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

12. Discuss, approve or disapprove replacing the Government Affairs position with the Commissioners Court Legal Liaison position to provide legal support to the Commissioner's Court and to the County - Desiree Upton/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:10:45

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

★ Misty Kimbrough

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

- ★ Judge Garza called to move into closed session

- Convene into a Closed Session to consult with counsel Marsha Perez, Chaves, Obregon & Perales, LLP, 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:

- 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; and
- 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

Video Time 1:16:54

★ **Motion to move into closed session:** by Judge Garza, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik

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

- ★ Judge Garza stated to take a ten-minute break

Video Time 1:18:34

- ★ Judge Garza called the meeting back into order

Video Time 1:56:07

13. Discuss, approve or disapprove Order #O-14-2025, authorizing the issuance of Aransas County, Texas Tax Notes, Series 2025; Levying a continuing direct annual Ad Valorem Tax on all taxable property within the County to pay the Principal of and Interest on said notes and to create a Sinking Fund for the redemption thereof and the Assessment and Collection of such taxes; Authorizing the sale thereof; and enacting provisions incident and related to the issuance of said notes – Jacky Cockerham/ Judge Garza

Video Time 1:56:13

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ Robert Henderson, Managing Director of RBC Capital Markets recommend Huntington Bank at 3.69%
 - ★ Gregory Miller, Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, Acosta, of Austin, Bond Council
 - ★ **Amend motion to include awarding the contract to Huntington Bank according to the recommendation of Robert Henderson, RBC Capital Markets:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
14. Discuss, approve or disapprove 2026 Salaries, Expenses and other allowances of Elected Officials – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
Video Time 2:03:37
- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
15. Discuss, approve or disapprove adopting the 2026 Budget – This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year’s budget by an amount of \$1,732,330.00, which is a 9.15% increase from last year’s budget; the property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$533,604.00 – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
Video Time 2:04:04
- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ **Motion amended to remove the allocation to the CVB (Convention Visitors Bureau) line item:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ **Vote on the amendment:** Motion carried 4-1: Judge Garza voted nay, it was so ordered
 - ★ **Motion on the floor is to adopt the budget as amended on the prior motion,** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ **Vote on amended budget:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
16. Discuss, approve or disapprove the adoption of Resolution #R-34-2025, a Resolution for the 2025 Tax Roll, Levy and Rate. The total tax rate to be levied for the County of Aransas for the tax year 2025, be and is hereby set at \$0.378500 per \$100.00 valuation with an assessment rate of 100 percent, to be assessed and collected by the Tax Assessor-Collector for Aransas County as follows: – Anna Marshall/Judge Garza
- a) \$0.286743 per \$100 valuation for the purpose of the County ad valorem maintenance and operations fund.
 - b) \$0.046412 per \$100 valuation for the purpose of the County ad valorem interest and sinking fund.
 - c) \$0.039100 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 and Bridge maintenance and operations fund and 17% designated for the Flood Control maintenance and operations fund.
 - d) \$0.006245 per \$100 valuation for the purpose of the County Farm to Market/Flood Control FLOOD ONLY Interest and Sinking fund

Video Time 2:08:39

- ✧ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner
- ✧ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 17. Discuss and approve or disapprove adopting the 2025 Tax Roll and Levy – Anna Marshall /Judge Garza
[Video Time 2:11:11](#)
 - ✧ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
 - ✧ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 18. Discuss, approve or disapprove Ratifying the Property Tax Increase reflected in the 2026 Budget – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
[Video Time 2:11:56](#)
 - ✧ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
 - ✧ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 19. Discuss, approve or disapprove to declare Auditor's list of items as surplus, including vehicles, equipment, and items located in the surplus trailers, and allow Public Facilities to dispose of scrap metal to be salvaged and sold as recyclable, with the remaining being sold in auction - Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
[Video Time 2:12:54](#)
 - ✧ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ✧ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 20. Discuss, approve or disapprove the retirement of a K9 due to age health issues, declare the K9 as surplus and remove from County inventory – Sheriff Mills/Judge Garza
[Video Time 2:15:12](#)
 - ✧ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ✧ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 21. Discuss, approve or disapprove the August 2025 Auditor's Monthly Report – Jacky Cockerham / Judge Garza
[Video Time 2:16:45](#)
 - ✧ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ✧ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 22. Discuss, approve, or disapprove Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
[Video Time 2:18:07](#)
 - ✧ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ✧ **Amended motion to add payment for Teal Construction for \$322,314.59:** by Commissioner Dupnik, 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 2:21:41](#)

- ✧ Misty Kimbrough

- ★ Commissioner Chaney
- ★ Commissioner Rousseau
- ★ Darrell Siebert
- ★ Commissioner Dupnik

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

Video Time 2:32:15

- ★ There were none.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

23. Convene into a Closed Session in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.071 to consult with counsel Marsha Perez, Chaves, Obregon & Perales, LLP, 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:

- 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. *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; and
- 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; and
- 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 of 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 officer or employee who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public meeting – Judge Garza

Video Time 2:32:23

- ★ Closed session was earlier in the meeting video time 1:16:54.

XV. OPEN SESSION

24. Reconvene into Open Session

- ★ None

25. Discuss and take action on matters discussed in closed session – Marsha Perez/Judge Garza
⊗ None

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Video Time 2:32:23

- ⊗ **Motion to adjourn:** by Commissioner, motion was seconded by Commissioner
- ⊗ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- ⊗ **Meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM**



ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Ray A. Garza, County Judge

10/13/2025

Date signed.

Misty Kimbrough

Misty Kimbrough,
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

10/13/25

Date signed and attestation.
XVII.

