

MINUTES – Regular Meeting

Aransas County Commissioners Court



9:00 AM – Monday, March 10, 2025

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on **10th DAY of MARCH 2025 at 9:00 A.M.** **AT THE AQUARIUM EDUCATION CENTER LOCATED AT 706 NAVIGATION CIRCLE, ROCKPORT, TEXAS, 78382.** The meeting video recordings are available by following this link: [Commissioners Court Minutes and Agendas \(aransascountytexas.com\)](https://aransascountytexas.com/Commissioners-Court-Minutes-and-Agendas), 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
Absent: **Robert Dupnik**, Commissioner, Precinct 4-4A

I. CALL TO ORDER at 9:04 AM

Video Time 0:08

II. INVOCATION

Video Time 0:31

III. PLEDGES

Video Time 1:24

IV. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Video Time 1:49

V. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Video Time 2:02

☼ There were none

VI. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Presentation – Agriculture and Natural Resources Program updates – Progress and Development presented by Virginia (Ginger) Easton Smith, Aransas County Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources – Judge Garza

Video Time 2:12

☼ Judge Garza struck this item from the agenda

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

2. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the February 13, 2025 Joint Workshop Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
3. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the February 21, 2025 Workshop Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
4. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the February 24, 2025 Regular Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
5. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the February 27, 2025 Special Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
6. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the March 3, 2025 Special Meeting - Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza

7. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas (CJCA) Certificate of Completion showing Commissioner Chaney has completed the continuing education requirements for 2024 – Commissioner Chaney
8. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas (CJCA) Certificate of Completion showing Commissioner Casterline has completed the continuing education requirements for 2024 – Commissioner Casterline
9. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas (CJCA) Certificate of Completion showing Commissioner Rousseau has completed the continuing education requirements for 2024 – Commissioner Rousseau
10. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court the VG Young Institute of County Government's Certificate of Completion to Commissioner Dupnik for successfully completing 16 hours of educational training - Commissioner Dupnik
11. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court the VG Young Institute of County Government's Certificate of Completion to Judge Garza for successfully completing 16 hours of educational training – Judge Garza
12. Acknowledge and accept a donation to the Aransas County Library in memory of James "Jim" Friebele in the amount of \$200 – Iris Sanchez/Judge Garza

Video Time 2:24

- ★ **Motion to accept the consent agenda:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0: it was so ordered

VIII. COUNTY REPORTS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

13. Discuss, approve or disapprove Order #O-02-2025, an Order of the County of Aransas, Texas, Prohibiting Outdoor Burning for a Period of up to Sixty (60) Days – Judge Garza
Video Time 3:10
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0: it was so ordered
14. Discuss, approve or disapprove Resolution #R-06-2025, a Resolution to support HB 1378 (House Bill), co-authored by Representatives Virdell and Troxclair and is a Bill relating to Municipal and County regulations of certain electric energy storage – Commissioner Dupnik
Video Time 4:06
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0: it was so ordered
15. Discuss, approve, or disapprove 4th Quarter 2024 Report for the Aransas County Historical Commission – Dave Hattman/Judge Garza
Video Time 6:50
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0: it was so ordered

IX. COUNTY ROADS AND FLOODPLAIN

16. Discuss, approve or disapprove the request for a reduction of the surety for the Marea Subdivision based on the submitted cost estimate and engineering report – Darrell Seibert/Kat Comeaux/Judge Garza

Video Time 11:20

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

X. CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

17. 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 transportation of paupers – Judge Garza

Video Time 12:51

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

18. Discuss, approve or disapprove retaining the law firm of Allison, Bass, and Magee, LLP, as legal counsel for assistance with the Aquarium Project and authorizing the County Judge to execute a retainer agreement for these services – Judge Garza

Video Time 13:59

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

19. Discuss, approve or disapprove bid received in response to the Invitation for Bids for Road Materials for Year 2025 – Road Culverts and Pipes – Darrell Seibert/Judge Garza

Video Time 14:40

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

20. Discuss, approve, or disapprove accepting a report from the dietitian for evaluation of menus, which are part of routine operations annually – Sheriff Mills/Judge Garza

Video Time 16:17

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

21. Discuss, approve or disapprove annual presentation of DPS (Department of Public Safety) Profile Report – Sheriff Mills/Judge Garza

Video Time 18:33

- ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

22. Discuss, approve or disapprove Aransas County applying for the Coastal Erosion Planning & Response Act (CERPA) Grant providing additional funding to assist the County with the match share for the FEMA/Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) #DR-4332-015 Lamar Beach Road Drainage Project – Elle Morales/Darrell Seibert/Judge Garza

Video Time 20:42

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

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

23. Discuss, approve or disapprove authorization to award Contract to Pape-Dawson for professional TSPS Category 1A Title Survey and Coastal Boundary Survey performed by certified LSLS for GOMESA CMP PSM Project – Copano Cove Ranch Acquisition Project, General Land Office (GLO) Contract No. #24-099-005-E379. Contract not to exceed \$103,600.00 – Kat Comeaux/Adela Martinez/Judge Garza

Video Time 25:21

- ★ **Motion to approve with one amendment:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

- ★ **Commissioner Rousseau withdrew her motion**

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

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

XI. PLANNING AND BUDGET

24. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Aransas County Indigent Health Care Report for February 2025 – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Video Time 40:11

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

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

25. Discuss, approve or disapprove updated job descriptions for Executive Assistant and Senior Mechanic. No new monies – Desiree Upton/Judge Garza

Video Time 40:39

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

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

26. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Budget Line Items for the Fiscal Year 2024 - Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 41:53

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

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

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

Video Time 43:23

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

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

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

Video Time 48:00

- ★ Commissioner Chaney

- ★ Desiree Upton, HR Director

- ★ Sheriff Mills

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

Video Time 50:22

⊕ Judge Garza

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

28. Convene into a Closed Session 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, 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. dba Graham Architectural Products v. Sharp Glass, LLC, et.al.*, Aransas County District Court Cause No. 24-0099; and
- v. *Permissible actions* under the County's contract with Teal Construction Company; and
- vi. *iWorQ System, Inc., a Utah Corporation v. Aransas County, Texas*, Case No. 240100226, in the District Court of the First Judicial District County of Cache, Utah; and
- vii. *Wendt Services, Inc.* Public Information Act request.

pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, which authorizes closed sessions to allow for a governmental body to consult with its attorney(s) and receive advice on legal matters pertaining to pending or contemplated litigation, 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/Adela Martinez/Judge Garza

Video Time 51:06

- ⊕ **Motion to move into closed session:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
- ⊕ **Judge Garza called for an eight minuet break**
- ⊕ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0: it was so ordered

XV. OPEN SESSION

29. Reconvene into Open Session

Video Time 58:11

- ⊕ **Motion to reconvene into open session:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
- ⊕ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0: it was so ordered

30. 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 58:30

- ⊛ No action to be taken

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Video Time 58:34

- ⊛ **Motion to adjourn:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
⊛ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-0: it was so ordered
⊛ **Meeting adjourned at 10:03 AM**

ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Ray A. Garza, County Judge

3/24/25
Date signed.

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

3/25/25
Date signed and attestation.

