

MINUTES – REGULAR Meeting

Aransas County Commissioners Court



9:00 AM – Monday, April 28, 2025

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on 28th DAY of APRIL, 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 \(aransascountytx.gov\)](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 0:00](#)

II. INVOCATION

[Video Time 0:18](#)

III. PLEDGES

[Video Time 1:14](#)

IV. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

[Video Time 1:41](#)

V. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

[Video Time 1:56](#)

✪ Justin McCombs, Teal

VI. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Discuss, approve or disapprove [Proclamation P-07-2025](#) recognizing the month of April as Beach safety and Rip Current Awareness Month – Judge Garza
[Video Time 3:22](#)
✪ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
✪ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
2. Presentation [by Spring Perry on The Well Rockport](#), “Building a Safe Haven for Survivors of Domestic Violence” – Spring Perry/Judge Garza
[Video Time 5:19](#)
3. Presentation [by Ginger Easton-Smith with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension](#) with an update on programs and recognizing Master Gardeners for their Volunteer contributions – Ginger Easton-Smith
[Video Time 14:15](#)
4. Discuss, approve or disapprove [the April 1, 2025 Presentation for Pearl Point Rockport Phase I, LLC](#), as required by the Chapter 381 Economic Development Agreement and authorize payment of \$25,271.88 for the rebate on the 2024 taxes paid January 2025 – John Davis/Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
[Video Time 32:14](#)

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

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

5. Discuss, approve or disapprove the April 1, 2025 Presentation for Pearl Point Rockport Phase 2, LLC as required by the Chapter 381 Economic Development Agreement and authorize payment of \$27,535.08 for the rebate on the 2024 taxes paid in January 2025 – Mark Uhr/Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 39:02

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

✧ **Motion to table as there was no one to present** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

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

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

6. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the April 14, 2025 Regular Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza

Video Time 40:24

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

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

VIII. COUNTY REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

7. Discuss, approve or disapprove the appointment of Darrell Seibert as the Aransas County Floodplain Administrator – Darrell Seibert/Judge Garza

Video Time 40:44

✧ **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 the Rockport Center of the Arts Report for 1st Quarter 2025 - Karen Ernst/Judge Garza

Video Time 42:23

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

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

9. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Texas Maritime Museum Report for 1st Quarter 2025 – Ashley Pieprzyca/Judge Garza

Video Time 52:41

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

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

- ✧ Judge Garza called for a five-minute break

Video Time 1:00:10

- ✧ Judge Garza called the meeting back into session

Video Time 1:07:46

IX. COUNTY ROADS AND FLOODPLAIN

10. Discuss, approve, or disapprove request to relocate 10 foot-wide drainage easement on replat combining 44 and 153 Front Street. Legal Description: Lot 44, Neptune Harbor Addition and Lot 153, Neptune Harbor Addition, Phase 2, re-platted as Lot 45-R, Neptune Harbor Addition – Katherine Comeaux/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:07:48
 - ✪ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ✪ **Katherine Comeaux:** correction of agenda item error Lot 45 should have been Lot 44
 - ✪ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
11. Discuss, approve or disapprove request for a variance on County Minimum lot size requirements to replat 624 N. Hood Street from four lots into two. Legal Description: Lots 9, 10, 11, & 12, Block 141, Smith & Wood Division re-platted as Lot 9-R and Lot 12-R, Block 141, Smith & Wood Division – Katherine Comeaux/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:09:15
 - ✪ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ✪ **Katherine Comeaux:** revised agenda memo presented to the Commissioners prior to the start of the meeting to state that the lot has public sewer
 - ✪ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

X. CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

12. Discuss, approve, or disapprove authorizing the County Judge to sign the HUD (Housing and Urban Development), HMID (Most Impacted and Distressed), CDBG-MIT (Community Development Block Grant Mitigation), GLO (General Land Office) Contract #24-065-128-E986 in the amount of \$10,291,500.00. The approved projects consist of Radio Towner Communication Infrastructure for the Sheriff's office, a Master Drainage Plan for Aransas County (Countywide), the Lamar Drainage Project, and the Town of Fulton Street Improvements for Broadway, Cactus, Chaparral, Mesquite, Myrtle and Palmetto Streets – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:10:40
 - Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
 - Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
13. Discuss, approve or disapprove Hiring Resolution #R-09-2025 for Grant Works for Grant Writing and Grant Administration for future Aransas County Capital Projects – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:12:50
 - ✪ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
 - ✪ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
14. Discuss, approve or disapprove Hiring Resolution #R-10-2025 for the Pool for Engineering Services for Aransas County Capital Projects – Jacky Cockerham/Darrell Seibert/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:13:40

- ✧ **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 authorizing Aransas County Sheriff Bill Mills, Chief Deputy Michael Brooks, and Interdiction Officer Stephen Nanny to sign a License Plate Reader User Agreement between Aransas County and the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) establishing permissions and guidelines in order to gain access to the Texas Automated License Plate Reader Database – Sheriff Mills/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:19:44
 - ✧ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ✧ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 16. Discuss, approve or disapprove Awarding the Inmate Medical Provider for the Aransas County Detention Center Contract to Marpe by Ema with an initial term through December 31, 2025, with four (4) one-year optional renewals with the approval of the Aransas County Commissioners Court; and authorizing the County Judge to execute necessary documents – Sheriff Mills/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:21:25
 - ✧ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
 - ✧ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 17. Discuss, approve or disapprove Hiring Resolution #R-11-2025 for Marpe by Ema as the Inmate Medical Services Provider at the Aransas County Detention Center – Sheriff Mills/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:22:47
 - ✧ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
 - ✧ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 18. Discuss, approve or disapprove policy establishing fee for Retiring Officer to purchase Firearm per Local Gov't Code Section 614.051 – Sheriff Mills/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:23:17
 - ✧ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
 - ✧ The Commissioners agreed to set the cost/fee at \$100.00
 - ✧ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 19. Discuss, approve or disapprove authorizing the County Judge to sign an agreement with the Wood, Boyken, and Wolter Law Firm regarding the preparation of an airport ground lease between Aransas County and Weldon and Ashley Dietze – Mike Geer/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:27:39
 - ✧ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
 - ✧ **Motion to table item:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
 - ✧ **Vote:** Motion to table carried 4-1: Commissioner Rousseau voted nay, it was so ordered
- ✧ Judge Garza Struck Item # 25
Video Time 1:28:38

20. Discuss, approve or disapprove the donation of 65 acres of land from Tom Mikulastic to Aransas County for Aransas County Pathways Program and authorize County Attorney's Office to begin the property transfer process on the County's behalf – Adela C. Martinez/Commissioner Chaney, Precinct 1

Video Time 1:28:45

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

★ **Amend motion:** to exclude Aransas County Pathways Program from the motion and accept the offer on behalf of the County, amended motion by Commissioner Chaney, seconded by Commissioner Casterline

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

21. Discuss, approve or disapprove authorizing the County Attorney's Office to begin contract negotiations and draft a lease agreement for the available office unit at the Live Oak Plaza Shopping Center – Adela C Martinez/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:37:45

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

★ **Vote:** Motion carried 4-1: Commissioner Rousseau voted nay, it was so ordered

X. PLANNING AND BUDGET

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

Video Time 1:42:30

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

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

23. Discuss, approve or disapprove 1st Quarter Aransas County Treasurer's Investment Report – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:43:36

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

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

24. Discuss, approve or disapprove authorizing the County Treasurer to sign a Release of Pledged Collateral with Federal Home Loan (FHL) Bank, in regards to certain securities pledged by Prosperity Bank that cover funds held in Prosperity Bank by Aransas County - Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:46:33

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

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

25. Discuss, approve or disapprove authorizing the County Judge to sign the Service Fee Processing Agreement and the Merchant Processing Application and Agreement with IntelliPay, a credit card merchant processor, represented by PCBancard – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:47:47

★ **Judge Garza struck this item from the agenda**

26. Discuss, approve or disapprove authorizing the County Judge to sign the County Request for Capital Credits, and submit to the Texas Comptroller, Unclaimed Property Division,

and further authorize the County Treasurer to disburse any said funds received from the Texas Comptroller as follows: 50% to the Aransas County Library Literacy Program and 50% to the Children's Coalition of Aransas County – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:47:48

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

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

27. Discuss, approve or disapprove the updated billing policy with Texas Association of Counties (TAC) Health and Employee Benefits Pool and authorize the County Judge to execute necessary documents – Desiree Upton/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:49:18

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

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

28. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Budget Line Items - Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:50:03

✪ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, 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 1:50:22

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

✪ **Amended the motion to include:** LCR \$251,180 for 3 invoices was not listed in the packet by Commissioner Dupnik, 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 1:53:55

✪ Commissioner Rousseau

✪ Commissioner Dupnik

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

Video Time 1:56:30

✪ There were none

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

30. 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 D/E/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 County's permissible actions under its various contracts for the Downtown Anchor Project; and

vi. *Wendt Services, Inc.* Public Information Act Request

pursuant to Texas Government Code Section §551.071, also known as the Texas Open Meetings Act, authorizes Closed Session meetings to allow for a governmental body to consult with its attorneys 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 1:56:47](#)

✪ **Motion to move into closed session:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

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

✪ Judge Garza called for a eight-minute break

[Video Time 1:59:28](#)

✪ Moved into closed session

[Video Time 2:00:30](#)

XIV. OPEN SESSION

31. Reconvene into Open Session

[Video Time 3:46:01](#)

✪ **Motion to reconvene into open session:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

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

32. Discuss and take action on matters discussed in closed session – Amanda Oster/Adela C. Martinez/Judge Garza

NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN FROM CLOSED SESSION

[Video Time 3:46:19](#)

33. 1) Discuss various topics regarding the Downtown Anchor Project and the status of the construction projects for the new Aransas County Courthouse and the Aransas County Community Building – Adela C. Martinez/Judge Garza

2) Discuss, approve or disapprove taking action on any of the items identified and discussed regarding the Downtown Anchor Project, the new Aransas County Courthouse and/or the Aransas County Community Building – Adela C. Martinez/Judge Garza

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Video Time 3:46:22

- ⊛ **Motion to adjourn:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
- ⊛ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- ⊛ **Meeting adjourned at 12:47 PM**

ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT



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

5-27-25
Date signed and attestation.

Ray A. Garza
Ray A. Garza, County Judge
5/27/25
Date signed.

