

MINUTES – Regular Meeting

Aransas County Commissioners Court



9:00 AM – Monday, May 12, 2025

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on 12th DAY of May, 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 0:16

II. INVOCATION

Video Time 0:19

III. PLEDGES

Video Time 1:32

IV. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Video Time 1:59

V. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Video Time 2:12

- ★ Michalla Alston
- ★ Kim Hesley
- ★ Debra Stephens

VI. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Swearing-in of Zach Westlake as the Aransas County Interim District Clerk – Judge Garza
Video Time 10:21
2. Discuss and approve Proclamation #P-08-2025, recognizing the month of June 2025 as Elder Abuse Prevention Month in Aransas County – Judge Garza
Video Time 14:01
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
3. Discuss and approve Proclamation #P-09-2025, recognizing the month of May 2025 as History Preservation Month in Aransas County – Judge Garza
Video Time 16:20
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
4. Discuss and approve Proclamation #P-10-2025, recognizing the month of May 2025 as “Stop the Bleed” month – Patricia Arnold/Judge Garza
Video Time 19:40

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

★ **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 27:47

★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, 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 28, 2025 Regular Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza

★ **Item was struck from the agenda.**

7. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the May 5, 2025 Special Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza

8. Acknowledge and accept a donation from the Friends of the Aransas County Public Library in the form of three (3) Pod Carrels with plug set, for the Aransas County Public Library in the amount of \$18,087.71 – Iris Sanchez/Judge Garza

Video Time 36:39

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

★ **#6 was struck from the agenda**

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

VIII. COUNTY REPORTS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

9. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Rockport Cultural Arts District 1st Quarter Report for 2025 – Jennifer Day/Judge Garza

Video Time 37:30

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

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

10. Discuss, approve or disapprove the presentation and discussion of the 1st Quarter 2025 report and two Pathway site improvement proposals from the Aransas Pathways Steering Committee (APSC) by Richard Connell, APSC Chair – Commissioner Pat Rousseau

Video Time 49:31

★ **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. CONTRACT AND GRANTS

11. Discuss, approve or disapprove individually the two Pathways site improvement proposals, 1) Airport Kayak Site Improvements proposal and 2) Linda Castro Site Improvements proposal,

from the Aransas Pathways Steering Committee (APSC) by Rich Connell, APSC Chair. No money will be committed at this time – Commissioner Pat Rousseau

Video Time 52:50

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

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

12. 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 (Spelling error on the word leave should be read as lease)

Video Time 1:03:04

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

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

13. Discuss, approve, or disapprove DLF Two, Inc.'s Change Order No. 014 for the Aransas County Community Building/Plaza/Parking Lot, General Land Office (GLO) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Contract #20-065-098-C270. This change order will extend the contract time by 31 days to May 31, 2025 –

Elle Morales/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:04:10

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

★ **Motion to table as there** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

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

★ **Judge Garza Ordered a break**

Video Time 1:04:30

★ **Back from break**

Video Time 1:13:24

14. Discuss, approve or disapprove request to solicit Request for Qualifications for Licensed-Certified General Real Estate Appraiser – Eric Smith/Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:13:28

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

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

15. Discuss the County Attorney's Office Notice of Required Lease Terms for Lease of Public Property – Adela C. Martinez/Judge Garza

Video Time 1:18:16

XI. PLANNING AND BUDGET

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

Video Time 1:33:57

★ **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 authorizing the Aransas County Treasurer to sign a Promissory Note and Disbursement Request and Authorization, between Aransas County and Prosperity Bank for the automatic extension of the expiration date for one year, on the Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit #1973 from Prosperity Bank to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), said extension going through June 1, 2026. The Letter of Credit covers financial assurance of the Aransas County Transfer Station in the amount of \$10,200.00 – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:35:31
★ **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 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 PC Bancard {tabled 4/18/2025} – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:36:27
★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
19. Discuss the costs of the Time Keeping Software and determine whether to continue pursuit of this software – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:39:21
20. Discuss, approve or disapprove recognizing the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) Unemployment Refund of \$17,822.16 – Desiree Upton/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:46:47
★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
21. Discuss, approve or disapprove the option to add a Governmental Affairs position to the County Judge's Office to provide legal support to the Commissioners Court – Judge Garza
Video Time 1:48:44
★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
22. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Canine Handler Stipend of \$5,000 per year for handlers that are assigned a K-9 partner with the Aransas County Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Bill Mills/Chief Deputy Michael Brooks/HR Director Desiree Upton/Judge Ray Garza
Video Time 1:50:12
★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
23. Discuss, approve or disapprove the April 2025 Auditor's Monthly Report – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:53:26
★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

- ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 24. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Budget Line Items for the Fiscal Year 2024 - Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:54:45
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
 - ★ **Correction Year is 2025 (Judge Garza)**
 - ★ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- 25. Discuss, approve, or disapprove Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza
Video Time 1:55:26
 - ★ **Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Dupnik, 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 1:59:06

- ★ Sheriff Bill Mills
- ★ Amanda Oster
- ★ Elle Moralez
- ★ Judge Garza

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

Video Time 2:04:29

- ★ There were none

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

- 26. 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. The County's permissible actions under its various contracts for the Downtown Anchor Project;0
 - vi. Wendt Services, Inc. Public Information Act request.
 - vii. Hutt Public Information Act

Texas Government Code, §551.071, also known as the Texas Open Meetings Act, authorizes Closed Session meetings 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 C. Martinez/Judge Garza

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

[Video Time 2:04:37](#)

- ✪ **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 2:07:02](#)

- ✪ Moved into closed session

[Video Time 2:012:02](#)

XV. OPEN SESSION

[Video Time 3:23:42](#)

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

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

[Video Time 3:42:02](#)

- ✪ **Motion to approve taking action as discussed and approved in closed session:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
- ✪ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

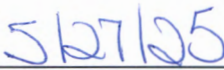
[Video Time 3:24:58](#)

- ✪ **Motion to adjourn:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rosseau
- ✪ **Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
- ✪ **Meeting adjourned at 12:25 P.M.**


ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

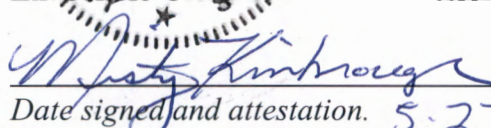


Ray A. Garza, County Judge



Date signed.



Misty Kimbrough
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court


Date signed and attestation. 5-27-25

