

August 10, 2023

Regular Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the 10th day of August, A.D., 2023 there was held a Regular Meeting of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Willacy County, Texas at the County Judge's Office, 576 West Main, in the City of Raymondville, Texas for the purpose of transacting the following agenda:

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum.
3. Invocation / Pledge.
4. Public Comment (s).
5. Approval of Claims. ACTION REQUIRED
6. Approval of Previous Minutes as follows: July 13, 2023 Regular Meeting; July 18, 2023 Special Meeting; July 19, 2023 Insurance Committee Workshop; July 26, 2023 Public Workshop; July 26, 2023 Budget Workshop; July 27, 2023 Regular Meeting; August 1, 2023 Special Meeting; ACTION REQUIRED.
7. TxDOT to provide monthly updates.
8. Presentation and approval of Willacy County Fiscal Year 2022 Independent Audit. ACTION REQUIRED.
9. Discussion and Action to approve Proclamation recognizing August 2023 as National Minority Donor Awareness Month. ACTION REQUIRED.
10. Discussion and Action on Approval for additional cash increase to pay out jurors, amount of \$9,000.00. ACTION REQUIRED.
11. Discussion and Action on Request signing of Willacy County Border Security Disaster Declaration. ACTION REQUIRED
12. Permission to apply for, and if awarded, accept funding from FY2024 Operation Lone Star Grant Program (Grant #4919601) Resolution is attached. ACTION REQUIRED.
13. Discussion and Action in regards to moving Market Days to Courthouse Grounds for the month of September 2023. ACTION REQUIRED
14. Discussion and Action to advertise Request for Qualification(s) (RFQ) for any and all Willacy County Facility upgrades to be paid from Fund 114 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ACTION REQUIRED.
15. Approval and Action to obligate \$26,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) from Fund 114 for the Judge's Administration for a Pick-up Truck. ACTION REQUIRED.

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16. Approval and Action to select a vendor for the purchase of One (1) Zero Turn for the Sebastian Volunteer Fire Department to be funded by Fund 114 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), to be inventoried under Willacy County. ACTION REQUIRED.
17. Approval and Action to purchase one (1) Zero Turn for the Sebastian Volunteer Fire Department not to exceed \$10,000.00 to be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund 114, to be inventoried under Willacy County. ACTION REQUIRED.
18. Approval of Monthly Reports. ACTION REQUIRED
19. Approval of Travel Request. ACTION REQUIRED.
20. Approval of Treasurers Report. ACTION REQUIRED
21. Approval of Budget Amendments. ACTION REQUIRED
22. Approval of Tax Collector Report. ACTION REQUIRED
23. Review of Special Claims.
24. Review monthly reports on jail count.
25. Review of monthly employee overtime report.
26. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
 - (a) Confer with Commissioners Court legal counsel regarding pending or contemplated litigation and/or negotiations involving the county, its employees, or its interests, pursuant to VTCA Government Code, Section 551.071.
 - (b) Confer with Commissioners Court legal counsel on potential litigation regarding the planned subdivision of the Willacy County Navigation District.
27. ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:
 - (a) possible action.
 - (b) possible action.
28. Adjourn.

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THE COURT MET:
PRESENT:

Aurelio Guerra, Jr.,	County Judge,	
Eliberto Guerra,	Commissioner, Precinct 1,	
Mario Tijerina,	Commissioner, Precinct 2,	Absent
Henry De La Paz,	Commissioner, Precinct 3,	
Ernesto Garcia,	Commissioner, Precinct 4,	
Annette Hinojosa,	County Attorney,	
Rebeca Saenz,	County Auditor's First Assistant,	
Maria Del Carmen Maldonado,	County Auditor,	arrives at 11:10 a.m.
Elizabeth Rios,	County Chief Deputy Clerk,	

WHEREUPON, the Court was opened to the following proceedings were had to wit:

PERSONS VISITING THE COURT:

Rebeca Saenz	Sarah Salas
Elma Chavez	Paola Cepeda
Patty Garcia	Lucio Esparza
Viola Vasquez	Rene Davila
Laura Montes	Sergio Sustaita

1. Call to Order – Chairman Aurelio Guerra, Jr.
2. Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum – Commissioner Mario Tijerina – **Absent**
3. Pledge / Invocation – Commissioner Henry De La Paz
4. Public Comments – None

Agenda # 5
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF CLAIMS

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerra, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval of Claims, as presented. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 6
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AS
FOLLOWS: JULY 13, 2023
REGULAR MEETING, JULY 18,
2023 SPECIAL MEETING, JULY
19, 2023 INSURANCE COMMITTEE,
WORKSHOP, JULY 26, 2023 PUBLIC
WORKSHOP, JULY 26, 2023 BUDGET
WORKSHOP, JULY 27, 2023 REGULAR
MEETING AND AUGUST 1, 2023 SPECIAL
MEETING

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerra, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval of previous minutes as follows: July 13, 2023 Regular Meeting, July 18, 2023 Special Meeting, July 19, 2023 Insurance Committee Workshop, July 26, 2023 Public Workshop, July 26, 2023 Budget Workshop, July 27, 2023 Regular Meeting and August 1, 2023 Special Meeting. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 7
TXDOT TO PROVIDE
MONTHLY UPDATES

Presentation by Sergio Sustaita with TxDOT to provide monthly updates on SH 186, FM 1018 and County Road 180 Bridge Project.

Agenda # 8
PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL
OF WILLACY COUNTY FISCAL
YEAR 2022 INDEPENDENT AUDIT

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerra, seconded by Commissioner De La Paz for approval of Willacy County Fiscal Year 2022 Independent Audit. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 9
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
APPROVE PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING AUGUST 2023
AS NATIONAL MINORITY DONOR
AWARENESS MONTH

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerra, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval of Proclamation recognizing August 2023 as National Minority Donor Awareness Month. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 10
DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON
APPROVAL FOR ADDITIONAL
CASH INCREASE TO PAY OUT
JURORS, AMOUNT OF \$9,000.00

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval for additional cash increase to pay out jurors, amount of \$9,000.00. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 11
DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON
REQUEST SIGNING OF WILLACY
COUNTY BORDER SECURITY
DISASTER DECLARATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner De La Paz to table this item at this time; item needs to be further review. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Move to item number 12.

County Auditor, Maria Del Carmen Maldonado arrives at the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Agenda # 12
IN REGARDS FOR PERMISSION
TO APPLY FOR, AND IF AWARDED,
ACCEPT FUNDING FROM FY2024
OPERATION LONE STAR GRANT
PROGRAM (GRANT NUMBER
4919601) RESOLUTION IS
ATTACHED

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerra, seconded by Commissioner Garcia to table this item. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Return back to item number 11.

Commissioner Eliberto Guerra steps out of the meeting at 12:05 p.m. and returns back at 12:06 p.m.

Agenda # 13
DISCUSSION AND ACTION IN
REGARDS TO MOVING MARKET
DAYS TO COURTHOUSE GROUNDS
FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER
2023

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Guerra for approval in regards to moving Market Days to Courthouse Grounds for the month of September, 2023 will be held on September 9, 2023. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra and De La Paz voting AYE. Commissioner Garcia voting ABSTAINED. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 14
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
ADVERTISE REQUEST FOR
QUALIFICATION(S) (RFQ) FOR
ANY AND ALL WILLACY COUNTY
FACILITY UPGRADES TO BE PAID
FROM FUND 114 AMERICAN RESCUE
PLAN ACT (ARPA)

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval to advertise Request for Qualification(s) (RFQ) for Engineering Firms and all Willacy County Facility upgrades to be paid from Fund 114 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 15
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
AND ACTION TO OBLIGATE
\$26,000.00 FROM THE AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FROM
FUND 114 FOR THE JUDGE'S
ADMINISTRATION FOR A PICK-
UP TRUCK

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Guerra for approval to obligate \$26,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) from Fund 114 for the Judge's Administration for a Pick-Up Truck. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 16
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
AND ACTION TO SELECT A
VENDOR FOR THE PURCHASE
OF ONE (1) ZERO TURN FOR
THE SEBASTIAN VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT TO BE
FUNDED BY FUND 114 AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA), TO BE
INVENTORIED UNDER WILLACY COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerra, seconded by Commissioner Garcia to take no action. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 17
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
AND ACTION TO PURCHASE
ONE (1) ZERO TURN FOR THE
SEBASTIAN VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT NOT TO EXCEED
\$10,000.00 TO BE FUNDED BY
THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
ACT (ARPA) FUND 114, TO BE
INVENTORIED UNDER WILLACY
COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerra, seconded by Commissioner Garcia to take no action. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 18
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval of Monthly Reports, as presented. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Commissioner Henry De La Paz steps out of the meeting at 12:17 p.m., does not vote for agenda items 19 and 20.

Agenda # 19
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF TRAVEL REQUEST

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerra, seconded by Commissioner Garcia that the following travel requests be approved:

1. District Attorneys' Office, Gloria C. Cortez and Sheila Guajardo to Round Rock, Texas on September 20-22, 2023. This training is part of their VAU Grant Number 2106413.
2. County Treasurer, Ruben Cavazos to Austin, Texas on August 30 – September 1, 2023. TAC is providing hotel and registration, only need vehicle and meals.
3. County Treasurer, Ruben Cavazos to McAllen, Texas on September 18-21, 2023, need registration, meals, hotel and vehicle.

Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 20
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerra, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval of Treasurer's Report, as presented. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Commissioner Henry De La Paz returns back to the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

Commissioner Eliberto Guerra steps out of the meeting at 12:26 p.m. and returns back at 12:28 p.m.

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Agenda # 21
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner De La Paz for approval of Budget Amendments, as submitted; contingent upon Department Heads' signatures. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 22
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Guerra for approval of Tax Collector's Report, as presented. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 23
IN REGARDS TO REVIEW
OF SPECIAL CLAIMS

As per the Chairman, Review of Special Claims.

Agenda # 24
REVIEW OF MONTHLY REPORTS
ON JAIL COUNT

As per the Chairman, Review of Monthly Report on Jail Count. There was a total of 92 Inmates, Federal Inmates 0 and 5 Ice Hold.

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Agenda # 25
REVIEW OF MONTHLY EMPLOYEE
OVERTIME REPORT

As per the Chairman, Review of Monthly Employee Overtime Report.

Agenda # 26
EXECUTIVE SESSION:
(A) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS
COURT LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING
PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED
LITIGATION AND/OR NEGOTIATIONS
INVOLVING THE COUNTY, ITS EMPLOYEES,
OR ITS INTERESTS, PURSUANT TO VTCA
GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071

(B) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS COURT
LEGAL COUNSEL ON POTENTIAL LITIGATION
REGARDING THE PLANNED SUBDIVISION OF
THE WILLACY COUNTY NAVIGATION DISTRICT

Agenda # 27
ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE
SESSION:

(A) POSSIBLE ACTION
(B) POSSIBLE ACTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner De La Paz for no action taken on items 26 and 27. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner De La Paz that Court Adjourned. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

There being no further action,

Court Adjourned.

No CD was provided, the meeting was not recorded.