

July 25, 2024
Regular Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the 25th day of July, A.D., 2024 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. Discussion and Approval on requests for Permission to use the Sebastian Community Center for the following events:
 - (A) July 27, 2024 from 8:30am-10:30am for the "Cafecito with Sheriff Joe Salazar Event" requested by Laura Montes
 - (B) July 27, 2024 from 10:30am-2:00pm for the "Community Outreach Event" requested by Laura Montes.
 - (C) August 4, 2024 from 4pm – 6pm for the "Our Community Our Kids Event" from Constable Albert Garza.
ACTION REQUIRED.
7. Discussion and Possible Action to award a construction contract to La Feria Excavation in the amount of \$620,676.50 for the Texas Water Development Board #40096 Lyford Trunkline project. POSSIBLE ACTION REQUIRED.
8. Discussion and Action to approve a proposal for services as Indigent Defense Director for Willacy County. ACTION REQUIRED.
9. Discussion and Approval for Willacy County District Attorney to apply for Senate Bill 22 Rural Law Enforcement Grant in the amount of \$175,000 for projected titled: Willacy County District Attorney SB 22 Grant, for the remainder of FY25. ACTION REQUIRED.
10. Approval and Action to obligate \$60,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund 114/ or LATCF Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund for Willacy County Technology infrastructure. ACTION REQUIRED.
11. Approval and Action to obligate \$45,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund 114/ or LATCF Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund to Precinct 5 Constable Office for a 2024-2025 Pick-Up Truck. ACTION REQUIRED.
12. Approval and Action to obligate \$45,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund 114/ or LATCF Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund for Hotel Motel Department for a 2024-2025 Pick-up Truck. ACTION REQUIRED.

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13. Discussion and Action to consider approving the creation of a Reinvestment Zone for Lyford Energy Storage LLC Project. ACTION REQUIRED.
14. Discussion and Action to consider the approval of Chapter 312 tax abatement agreement for Lyford Energy Storage LLC Project. ACTION REQUIRED.
15. Approval of Travel Request. ACTION REQUIRED.
16. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
 - (a) Confer with Commissioners Court legal counsel regarding pending or contemplated litigation and/or negotiations involving the county, its employees, or its interest, pursuant to VTCA Government Code, Section 551.071 (a) and (2).
 - (b) Deliberation regarding pending or contemplated litigation and/or negotiations involving the county, its employees, or its interests, pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code, Section 551.071 (a) and (2).
17. ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:
 - (a) Possible Action.
 - (b) Possible Action.
18. Adjourn.

THE COURT MET:
PRESENT:

Aurelio Guerra, Jr.,	County Judge,	
Eliberto Guerra,	Commissioner, Precinct 1,	arrives at 10:10 a.m.
Mario Tijerina,	Commissioner, Precinct 2,	arrives at 10:06 a.m.
Henry De La Paz,	Commissioner, Precinct 3,	
Ernesto Garcia,	Commissioner, Precinct 4,	
Annette Hinojosa,	County Attorney,	arrives at 10:02 a.m.
Maria Del Carmen Maldonado,	County Auditor,	
Elizabeth Rios,	County Chief Deputy Clerk,	

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

PERSONS VISITING THE COURT:

Mike Fry KE Andrews	Paul Anders
Cher Montalvo	Laura Montes

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

District Attorney, Annette Hinojosa arrives at the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Agenda # 5
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF CLAIMS

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

Commissioner Mario Tijerina arrives at the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Commissioner Eliberto Guerra arrives at the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

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Agenda # 6

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL ON
REQUESTS FOR PERMISSION TO
USE THE SEBASTIAN COMMUNITY
CENTER FOR THE FOLLOWING
EVENTS:

- (A) JULY 27, 2024 FROM
8:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
FOR THE “CAFECITO
WITH SHERIFF JOE
SALAZAR EVENT”
REQUESTED BY LAURA
MONTES
- (B) JULY 27, 2024 FROM
10:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
FOR THE “COMMUNITY
OUTREACH EVENT”
REQUESTED BY LAURA
MONTES
- (C) AUGUST 4, 2024 FROM
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
FOR THE “OUR
COMMUNITY OUR KIDS
EVENT” FROM CONSTABLE
ALBERT GARZA

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina for approval of permission to use the Sebastian Community Center for the following events: (A) July 27, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. for the “Cafecito with Sheriff Joe Salazar Event” requested by Laura Montes, (B) July 27, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for the “Community Outreach Event” requested by Laura Montes and (C) August 4, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. for the “Our Community Our Kids Event” from Constable Albert Garza. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Motion Amended: Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina for approval for August 3, 2024 as the Alternative Date. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 7
DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE
ACTION TO AWARD A
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
TO LA FERIA EXCAVATION IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$620,676.50
FOR THE TEXAS WATER
DEVELOPMENT BOARD NUMBER
40096 LYFORD TRUNKLINE
PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval to award a construction contract to La Feria Excavation in the amount of \$620,676.50 for the Texas Water Development Board Number 40096 Lyford Trunkline Project. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 8
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
APPROVE A PROPOSAL FOR
SERVICES AS INDIGENT DEFENSE
DIRECTOR FOR WILLACY COUNTY

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

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Agenda # 9
DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL
FOR WILLACY COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY TO APPLY FOR SENATE
BILL 22 RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$175,000.00 FOR PROJECTED TITLED:
WILLACY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
SB 22 GRANT, FOR THE REMAINDER
OF FY25

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerra, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina for approval for Willacy County District Attorney to apply for Senate Bill 22 Rural Law Enforcement Grant in the amount of \$175,000.00 for project titled: Willacy County District Attorney SB 22 Grant, for FY25. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 10
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
AND ACTION TO OBLIGATE
\$60,000.00 FROM THE AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUND
114/OR LATCF LOCAL ASSISTANCE
AND TRIBAL CONSISTENCY FUND
FOR WILLACY COUNTY TECHNOLOGY
INFRASTRUCTURE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina for approval to obligate \$60,000.00 from American Rescue Plan Fund 114 and/or Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF), depending on funding available for ARPA Project Number 2260 Willacy County Technology Infrastructure. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 11
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
AND ACTION TO OBLIGATE
\$45,000.00 FROM THE
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT
(ARPA) FUND 114/OR LATCF
LOCAL ASSISTANCE AND TRIBAL
CONSISTENCY FUND TO PRECINCT
5 CONSTABLE OFFICE FOR A
2024-2025 PICK-UP TRUCK

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerra, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval to obligate \$45,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Local Assistance and/or Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF), depending on funding available for a 2024-2025 Pick-Up Truck for Precinct 5 Constable Office. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 12
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
AND ACTION TO OBLIGATE
\$45,000.00 FROM THE
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT
(ARPA) FUND 114/OR LATCF
LOCAL ASSISTANCE AND TRIBAL
CONSISTENCY FUND FOR HOTEL
MOTEL DEPARTMENT FOR A
2024-2025 PICK-UP TRUCK

Motion was made by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Commissioner Garcia for approval to obligate \$45,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Local Assistance and/or Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF), depending on funding available for a 2024-2025 Pick-Up Truck for Hotel/Motel Department. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, Tijerina, 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 11:01 a.m. and returns back at 11:02 a.m.

Agenda # 13
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
CONSIDER APPROVING THE
CREATION OF A REINVESTMENT
ZONE FOR LYFORD ENERGY
STORAGE LLC PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Garcia to take no action on item numbers 13 and 14. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 14
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF
CHAPTER 312 TAX ABATEMENT
AGREEMENT FOR LYFORD
ENERGY STORAGE LLC PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Garcia to take no action on item numbers 13 and 14. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, Tijerina, 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 11:08 a.m., does not vote for item number 15.

Agenda # 15
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF TRAVEL REQUEST

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

1. District Attorney, Annette C. Hinojosa to Galveston, Texas on September 18-20, 2024. (To be funded by County General Fund and 1/2 from Grant Fund Number 56).
2. County Treasurer, Ruben Cavazos to Denton, Texas on September 15-19, 2024.

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

Commissioner Henry De La Paz returns back to the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

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Agenda # 16

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- (A) CONFER WITH COMMISSIONERS
COURT LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING
PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED
LITIGATION AND/OR NEGOTIATIONS
INVOLVING THE COUNTY, ITS EMPLOYEES,
OR ITS INTEREST, PURSUANT TO VTCA
GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.071 (A)
AND (2)

- (B) DELIBERATION REGARDING PENDING OR
CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION AND/OR
NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING THE COUNTY,
ITS EMPLOYEES, OR ITS INTERESTS,
PURSUANT TO V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT
CODE, SECTION 551.071 (A) AND (2)

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner De La Paz that Court Adjourn to Closed Executive Session at 11:10 a.m. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina that Court Reconvene into Open Session at 11:57 a.m. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 17

ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE
SESSION:

- (A) POSSIBLE ACTION
- (B) POSSIBLE ACTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Guerra for approval for the District Attorney to proceed as discussed in Closed Session. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Chairman Guerra, Commissioners Guerra, Tijerina, De La Paz and Garcia voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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

There being no further action,

Court Adjourned.