

REGULAR COMMISSIONERS COURT
June 8, 2021
10:00 A.M.
2nd FLOOR COURTROOM
BROOKS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this day, the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Brooks County, Texas met in Regular Term therein the City of Falfurrias in the 2nd floor Courtroom of the Brooks County Courthouse:

OPEN MEETING -Judge Eric Ramos opened the meeting at 10:06 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-was led by Judge Eric Ramos

ROLL CALL-Judge Eric Ramos called for roll call:

Present: Eric Ramos, County Judge,
Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1,
Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3,

Absent: Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2,
Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4,
Elvaray B. Silvas, County Clerk.

Staff Present: Missy A Saavedra, Deputy County Clerk

AGENDA

Honorable Judge Ramos made some corrections to the agenda due to a clerical error: Line item #18 (removing the extra zeros); Line item #23 (removing the extra zeros); Numbering issues on the bottom 30-34 being 29-33

1. Public Comments

Mr. Garcia addressed the Court in reference to his business to Brooks County.

At 10:12 AM the court went into recess, until tomorrow at 10:00 AM

On June 09, 2021 the Court came back from recess.

OPEN MEETING -Judge Eric Ramos opened the meeting at 10:14 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-was led by Judge Eric Ramos

The Court had a moment of silence

ROLL CALL-Judge Eric Ramos called for roll call:

Present: Eric Ramos, County Judge,
Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1,
Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3,
Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4,
Elvaray B. Silvas, County Clerk (Not voting).

Absent: Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

2. Approve of Regular and Special Commissioners' Court minutes.

Motion: to approve the minutes as presented by the County Clerk for 05-11-2021; 05-18-2021 and Emergency Meeting 03-09-2021, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

3. Approve of Bills and Claims 

Motion: to approve the bills and claims as presented also the additional bill for payment Attorney Pete De La Garza, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3. Motion passed unanimously. (on file)

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

4. Approve Monthly Reports 

- A. Treasurer's Monthly Report
- B. Auditor's Monthly Report
- C. Tax Assessor Collector Chief Deputy Monthly Report
- D. Approve Monthly Reports by Brooks County
 - i. (Submitted by County Foreman)
 - ii. (Submitted by Brooks County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1-4)
 - iii. (Submitted by Brooks County Library Supervisor)
 - iv. (Submitted by Ruby Allen, Landfill Supervisor)

Judge Ramos addressed the Treasurers's monthly report being emailed to the Court and asked for any questions or concerns; August Patroelj, County Auditor presented his report for May 2021, discussed in finding a new bank for CD purposes; monthly reports for i-iv were in the packets for review.

Motion: to approve the monthly reports as presented, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, **Seconded by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1. Motion passed unanimously. (on file)

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).


Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

5. **Agrilife Extension reports (reports for information only)**

For information purposes only.

6. **Brooks County Food Bank Presentation** 

Item being rescheduled


7. **Discussion on Progress Report on Delinquent Tax Collections and Progress Report on fees and Fine Collections (by Linebarger, Goggan Blair & Sampson)** 

Steven Saucedo addressed the Court on the above matter with a progress report on the Delinquent Tax Collections. Mr. Saucedo stated that on July 1st a delinquent tax report is turned in to Linebarger for the collection process. No action taken discussion only.

Went back to discuss Public comments.

Victor Real, Estate Developer addressed the Court in reference to property purchased in Brooks County.

Nora Salinas JP Precinct 3 in reference to Linebarger responses about sending a person to help and is needing an extra computer; will be having Courts coming up and that the air condition in the Court room has not been working for about 3 years and wanting it to get fixed.

8. **Discuss, Consider, and Act on renewing the Lease agreement with Pitney Bowes on the postage meter for Brooks County.** 

Motion: to renew lease agreement, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).


Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

9. **Discuss, Consider and Act on lifting the Burn Ban for Brooks County. (Submitted by Ruben Ramirez)** 

Motion: to lift burn ban, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, **Seconded by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

10. **Discuss, Consider and Act on Approving a Recovery of Service Cost Resolution for the Falfurrias Volunteer Fire Department. (Submitted by Ruben Ramirez)** 

Honorable Judge Eric Ramos in reference to above matter, stating that this will allow the Fire Department to send out bills for collection (businesses fires, residential fires or anyone who was burning during a burn ban). Judge Ramos read resolution in open Court.

Motion: to approve resolution, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1. Motion passed unanimously. (on file)

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 4).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.


At 11:00 AM the court recessed, in order for the Judge to conduct a Civil Hearing; back into open Court at 11:57 AM; Present same as before

11. **Discuss, Consider and Act on approving a plat for the Ray Saenz Subdivision. (Request by Eulalio Ramirez, PE)**

Motion: to table, **Action:** Table, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 4).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

12. **Discuss, Consider and Act on approving a Resolution to install an automated weather observing system at the Brooks County Airport. (Submitted by Bond Cosby)** 

Honorable Judge Eric Ramos stated that this is to be able to apply for a State grant, which would have a 10-20% match but of course we currently have a group that consists of ranchers that would cover that cost. Judge Ramos read the resolution in open Court.

Motion: to table Resolution to correct the wording, **Action:** Table, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion failed (summary: Yes = 2, No = 2, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

No: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4.

13. **Discuss, Consider and Act on approving an Inter Local Agreement with CBCOG, Brooks County and Duval County for the Regional Workforce Skills Resiliency Project.** 

It was discussed that this grant will have a 20% match, but that land could be used to cover that cost.

Motion: to approve Interlocal Agreement, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1. Motion passed unanimously. (on file)

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

14. Discuss, Consider and Act on lifting the Beer Ban for the 4th of July ranch Rodeo Celebration on July 3, 2021 to be held at the JM Alaniz Fairgrounds.
(Submitted by Arnold Mireles)

Motion: to lift the beer ban, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, **Seconded by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).


Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

15. Discuss, Consider and Act on accepting a \$1,000.00 donation from Listo Properties LTD, for Emergency Services (911) Submitted by Anna Garcia)

Motion: to approve of a \$1,000.00 donation, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, **Seconded by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).


Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

16. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$150.00 from 012-5-0500-5000 Office Supplies; to 012-5-0500-9040 Election Exp. (Submitted by Anna Garcia) 

Motion: to approve line-item transfers, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, **Seconded by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.


17. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$9,464.13 from 120-5-0082-9070; to 068-5-0055-8107 Brooks County Pre-Trial Fund (Submitted by BC Auditor August Patroelj) 

August Patroelj, County Auditor addressed the Court on the above matter.

Motion: to approve line-item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).


Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

18. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$3,5000.00 from 012-5-0560-5515 Radio Maintenance; to 012-5-0560-5820 Repairs and Maintenance – Vehicles (Submitted by Jorge Esparza) 

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, **Seconded by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

19. Discuss, Consider and Act on approving Brooks County Sheriff's Office request to pay comp time from salaries line item. (Submitted by Jorge Esparza) 

Commander Esparaza asked to table this item and Judge Ramos addressed the Court on the above matter. Commissioner Williams stated his thoughts on this item stating that if they worked they should get paid.

Motion: to table, **Action:** Table, **Moved by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, **Seconded by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4.

Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3, No = 1, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

No: Eric Ramos, County Judge.

20. Discuss, Consider and Act on approving payment to Exxon Mobil for missing gas receipts. (Submitted by Letty Davila) 


1. \$23.62 4/22/2021

2. \$45.00 5/26/2021

Motion: to approve payment, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, **Seconded by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.

21. Discuss, Consider and Act on Grant payments to employees who worked during the COVID -19 Pandemic. (Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos) 



Honorable Judge Eric Ramos addressed the Court in reference to the above matter stating that he and the committee have met and discussed brackets for employees who worked during the pandemic.

0-660 \$500
661- 1280 1500
1281-1921 2500
1921 above 3500


Judge Ramos stated that he suggested that anyone with salary over \$60,200 would not be eligible due to State guidelines and could be changed since it is local guidelines and that it was discussed not to spend more than \$300,000 and that by next week would have solid numbers but is looking for opinions.

It was discussed that if approved this won't happen until the end of July or Early August.

Motion: to continue moving forward and work with numbers, **Action:** Table, **Moved by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, **Seconded by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3.


22. **Discuss, Consider and Act on approving participation in TAC's Cybersecurity.**
(Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos) 

At 12:36 PM Commissioner Villarreal left the meeting.

Motion: to approve participation, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3).


Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4.

23. **Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$600.0 from 012-5-0510-5105 Oil & Gas, \$1,400.00 from 012-5-0510-5120 from Janitorial Supplies; to 012-5-0510-5508 Blumer & Hospital Annex IMP** 

Motion: to approve line-item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3).


Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4.

24. **Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$3,000.00 from 012-5-0409-5400 Prof- fees- legal; to 012-5-0409-5451 Autopsy** 

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, **Seconded by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4.


25. **Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$1,200 from 012-5-0409-5020 postal meter rental-to 012-5-0409-5600 Bidding & Notices.** 

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4.

26. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$3,000.00 from 012-5-0510-5830 A/C


Maintenance; to 012-5-0510-5200 BLDG Maintenance Supplies. 

Motion: to approve line-item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, **Seconded by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4.

27. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$1,500.00 from 012-5-0510-5201 BLDG

Repairs-Annex & Other; to 012-5-0510-5136 Uniforms. 

Motion: to approve line-item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4.

28. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$3,000.00 from 012-5-5-0510-5830 A/C

System- Maint; to 012-5-0510-5206 Elevator Maint. Expense 

Motion: to approve line-item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4.

[31] 32. Discussion of Cares Act Reimbursement Funds. 

It was discussed that the County Auditor will be setting aside \$30,000.00 to be used for civil defense. No action taken, discussion only.

[32] 33. Discussion of Money Provided by American Rescue Plan, 2021

It was discussed that the County will be receiving \$750,000 first part of the money and will be asking the employees what is needed. No action taken, discussion only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- At 12:49 PM the Court went into Executive Session; also, at this time Elvaray B. Silvas, County Clerk left the meeting.

[29]30. Discuss Employment/Resignations/Retirements and other Personnel Issues.

OPEN SESSION- The Court came back in open Session at 12:58 PM; Present same as before.

[30] 31. Discuss, consider and act on Employment/Resignations/Retirements.

No action taken, discussion only.

[33] 34. Adjourn

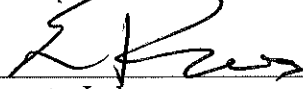
Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 12:58 PM, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, **Seconded by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct #4.

The preceding minutes beginning on page _____ and ending on page _____, of the Commissioners' Court Minutes Volume _____, read and approved in the Honorable Commissioners' Court this 14th day of July, 2022, A.D.

APPROVED:



County Judge

ATTESTED:



County Clerk