


REGULAR COMMISSIONERS COURT
January 14, 2020
1:30 P.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 called the meeting to order at 1:44 PM 

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-was led by Judge Eric Ramos

ROLL CALL-Judge Eric Ramos called for roll call:

Present: Eric Ramos, County Judge,
Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1,
Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2,
Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3,
Elvaray B. Silvas, County Clerk (Not voting).

Absent: Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4.

Staff Present: Missy A Saavedra, Deputy County Clerk

Others Present: August Patroelj, County Auditor

2. Approve of Regular and Special Commissioners' Court minutes. 12/10/2019 

To make a correction to the minutes on the discussion of salaries for the District Clerk and Mrs. Johnson.

Motion: to approve the minutes as corrected, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, **Seconded by** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3.

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

Yes: Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1.

No: Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

3. Approve of Bills and Claims 

Motion: to approve the bills and claims as presented, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, **Seconded by** Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1. Motion passed unanimously. (**On file**)

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

Yes: Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

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
(Submitted by County Foreman)
(Submitted by Brooks County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1-4)
(Submitted by Brooks County Library Supervisor, Angelica Regalado)
(Submitted by Ruby Allen, Landfill Supervisor)

August Patroelj, County Auditor presented his monthly report for the months of August-December 2019 and a Pooled Cash Report; Teresa A. Silvas, Chief Deputy Tax Assessor Collector presented her Motor Vehicle Report for the month of December 2019,

Motion: to approve the reports as presented, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, **Seconded by** Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2. Motion passed unanimously. **(On file)**

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

At 1:57 PM Commissioner Williams joined the meeting.

5. Agrilife Extension reports (reports for information only)

For information only, no action taken.

6. Information Items for discussion: 

- A. Status of GEO Contract for 2019-2020.
- B. Discussion of Brooks County Employee Policies:
 - 1. Comp time
 - 2. Vacation
 - 3. Travel Time
- C. Information on Insurance Claim on mold at Brooks County Court House

The Court discussed the following:

- A. -skipped
- B.
 - 1. Addressed comp-time is mainly for law enforcement and important to stay under the hours recommended
 - 2. Vacation time at the time of anniversary time must take them or lose them, can only carry over 5 days
 - 3. A Travel time request has been made, asks to be placed on the agenda
- C.

Discussed the mold issue and will be getting with the insurance people and see how much our insurance coverage

7. Discuss, consider and act on adding water lines to Fairgrounds for vendor events.

(Requested by Niko Guerra Texas A&M Agrilife Agent) 


Nikolo Guerra, Ag Ext. addressed the Court on the above matter.

Motion: to approve the adding of water lines to fairgrounds, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Gloria 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: Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

Absent: Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1.

8. Discuss, consider and act on accepting a \$2,000.00 donation to Falfurrias Volunteer Fire Department from The GEO Group Foundation. (Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos) 

Motion: to accept \$2,000.00 donation, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, **Seconded by** Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

9. Discuss, consider and act on a 90 day burn ban for Brooks County.

(Submitted by Ruben Ramirez) 

Ruben Ramirez, Fire Chief addressed the Court on the above matter.


Motion: to approve a 90 day burn ban, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, **None seconded.**

Item was passed by the Court.

10. Discuss, consider and act on approval of the County Tax Assessor Collector's continuing education certificate of completion for the 2019 year.

(Submitted by Chief Deputy Terri A. Silvas)

In conjunction with line item #4

11 Discuss, consider and act Discuss, on purchasing a 12 X 12 Storage Unit for HWY 281 Weigh Station (Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos) 

Item was passed by the Court.


12 Discuss, consider and act on awarding bid for the Weigh Station Pit.

(Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos) 

Judge Ramos informed the Court that the vendors were present at a meeting in the conference room and bids were opened and based on a point system but together by the Architect. There were three bids presented.

Discussed the mold issue and will be getting with the insurance people and see how much our insurance coverage

7. Discuss, consider and act on adding water lines to Fairgrounds for vendor events.

(Requested by Niko Guerra Texas A&M Agrilife Agent) 


Nikolo Guerra, Ag Ext. addressed the Court on the above matter.

Motion: to approve the adding of water lines to fairgrounds, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Gloria 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: Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

Absent: Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1.

8. Discuss, consider and act on accepting a \$2,000.00 donation to Falfurrias Volunteer Fire Department from The GEO Group Foundation. (Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos) 

Motion: to accept \$2,000.00 donation, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, **Seconded by** Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

9. Discuss, consider and act on a 90 day burn ban for Brooks County.

(Submitted by Ruben Ramirez) 

Ruben Ramirez, Fire Chief addressed the Court on the above matter.


Motion: to approve a 90 day burn ban, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, **None seconded.**

Item was passed by the Court.

10. Discuss, consider and act on approval of the County Tax Assessor Collector's continuing education certificate of completion for the 2019 year.

(Submitted by Chief Deputy Terri A. Silvas)

In conjunction with line item #4

11 Discuss, consider and act Discuss, on purchasing a 12 X 12 Storage Unit for HWY 281 Weigh Station (Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos) 

Item was passed by the Court.

12 Discuss, consider and act on awarding bid for the Weigh Station Pit.

(Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos) 

Judge Ramos informed the Court that the vendors were present at a meeting in the conference room and bids were opened and based on a point system but together by the Architect. There were three bids presented.

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

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

13. Discuss, consider and act on vacating the Blumer Building.

(Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos) 

Judge Ramos stated that the county was about to enter a contract for the Blumer Building and decided not to, due to the extent of work needed it would be a waste of money. Discussed several buildings in possibly renting or buying.

Motion: to look into alternative in vacating the building, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, **Seconded by** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

14. Discuss, consider and act on submitting an Ed Rachal Grant for the Roof and Foundation repairs at the Ed Rachal Foundation (Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos)



Motion: to approve the submitting of an Ed Rachal Grant, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, **Seconded by** Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.


EXECUTIVE SESSION-At 2:40 PM the Court went into Executive Session

15. Discuss Employment/Resignations/Retirements and other Personnel Issues.

OPEN SESSION

16. Discuss, consider and act on Employment/Resignations/Retirements. 

At 3:04 PM the Court came back into open session, present all with the exception of Commissioner Garza who left during executive session at 2:55 PM. The resignation of Constable Longoria was discussed and that an item would be put on the agenda for a replacement.

The Court went back to discuss line item 6-6A. 
Would take a 4 \$250,000.00 cut and would discuss at a special meeting.

1. Public Comments 

August Patroelj addressed the Court about getting a parking spot here at the courthouse and about knocking down a wall in his office.

18. Adjourn.

Motion: to adjourn 3:09 pm, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, **Seconded by** Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2. Motion passed unanimously.


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

Yes: Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

Absent: Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1.

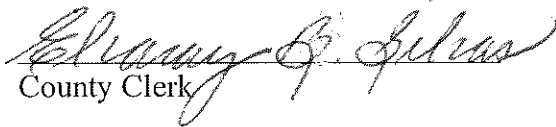
The preceding minutes beginning on page _____ and ending on page _____, of the Commissioners' Court Minutes Volume _____, read and approved in the Honorable Commissioners' Court this 11th day of February, 2020, A.D.

APPROVED:



County Judge

ATTESTED:



County Clerk