

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS COURT

August 13, 2021

1:30 P.M.

**2nd FLOOR COURTROOM/ VIA ZOOM
BROOKS COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

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

Meeting ID: 860 4578 0813

Password: 016141

OPEN MEETING -Judge Eric Ramos opened the meeting at

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,
Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2,
Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3,
Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4,
Elvaray B. Silvas, County Clerk (Not voting).

AGENDA

7. **Discussion of 2020 redistricting plan as per the 2020 U.S. Census.**

Item was passed until next Tuesdays meeting.

10. **Discuss, Consider and Act on the Brooks County Audit report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019 as Presented by Raul Hernandez, CPA**

Mr. Hernandez, CPA addressed the Court on the above matter reviewing some pages of the audit report. Mr. Hernandez stated that he did not find nothing to report, clean opinion (unmodified).

Motion: to approve the 2019 fiscal year, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2, **Seconded by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1. Motion passed unanimously. (on file)

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

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

11. Discuss, Consider and Act on Hiring Raul Hernandez & Company, P.C. to perform the Annual Audits for the fiscal years September 30, 2020 and September 30, 2021 with respective retainers.

Motion: to hire Raul Hernandez & Company P.C. to perform annual audits for the 2020-2021 and the 2021-2022 budget years, **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 = 5).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

6. Status on current your Health Insurance. (By Walker & Associates)

Laura Gwaltney, Walker & Associates addressed the Court on the above with a quick presentation on our current health insurance plan. Mrs. Gwaltney also presented to the Court a different insurance company (Health First CIGNA) with some savings to the County. Honorable Judge Eric Ramos stated that this was just a discussion item and will be putting it back on the agenda after the medical insurance boards meets. (**on file**)

9. Discuss, Consider and Act on allowing Lone Star Strategy Group LLC to apply for the EDA-2021 Arpatourism Fiscal Year 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Notice of Funding Opportunity. (Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos)

Marissa Utley-Trevino addressed the Court on the above matter. Mrs. Utley-Trevino stated that she has submitted the following Grants:

- To Ed Rachel for the fixing of the roof;
- To Parks and Wildlife for the outdoor recreation (80/20 grant)

Motion: to allow Lone Star Strategy Group, LLC to move forward, **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 = 5).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, 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, **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 = 5).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

3. Approve of Bills and Claims

Motion: to approve the bills and claims as presented, **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 = 5).

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

The Court reviewed the monthly report from the County Treasurer; August Patroelj, County Auditor presented his report for the months of May and June 2021; Teresa A. Silvas, Chief Deputy Tax Assessor collector presented her report for the month of June 2021.

Motion: to approve the reports as presented, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2, **Seconded by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4. Motion passed unanimously. **(on file)**

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

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

5. AgriLife Extension reports (reports for information only)

For information purposes only, no action taken.

The Court readdressed Line Item #7

Motion: table until next meeting, **Action:** Table, **Moved by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, **Seconded by** Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

8. Discuss, Consider and Act on Approving a Mutual Operating Agreement between the Refugio County Sheriff's Office and Brooks County Sheriff's Office. (Submitted by Jorge Esparza)

Motion: to approve mutual 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 = 5).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

12. Discuss, Consider and Act on approving the 2022/23 Interlocal Agreement with Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases. (Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos)

Motion: to approve Interlocal Agreement, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, **Seconded by** Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2. Motion passed unanimously. (**on file**)

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

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

13. Discuss, Consider and Act on approving the certification of 2020 excess debt collections and the 2021 anticipated collection rate. (Submitted by Terri Silvas)

Motion: to table line items 13, 14, and 15, **Action:** Table, **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 = 5).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

14. Discuss, Consider and Act on accepting certified total appraised, assessed and taxable values of all property and total taxable of new property in Brooks County as certified by the Brooks County Appraisal District, the Governing Body Summary #1A and #2A, and the 2021 Planning colander. (Submitted by Terri Sivas)

Item was in conjunction with Item #13.

15. Discuss, Consider and Act on tax rate; if proposed tax rate will exceed the voter approval rate or the no new revenue tax rate (whichever is lower), take record, vote and schedule public hearings. (Submitted by Terri Silvas)

Item was in conjunction with Item #13.

16. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$11,200.00 from 012-5-0650-8105 Office Clerks; to 012-5-0560-5105 Gas & Oil Exp.)

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 = 5).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

17. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$700.00 from 012-5-0560-8104 Deputies; to 012-5-0560-5135 Other 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 = 5).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

18. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$1,000.00 from 012-5-0512-5450 Prisoner Medical Expense, To 012-5-0512-5135 Other Supplies
(Submitted by Jorge Esparza)

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Horacio Villarreal III, 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: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

19. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$4,000.00 from 012-5-0435-9052 Petit Jury; to 012-5-0409-5451 Autopsy.

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, **Seconded by** Eric Ramos, County Judge. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

20. Discuss Consider and Act on transferring \$1,500.00 from 012-5-0510-5201 Building Repairs -Aneex; to 012-5-0510-5205 Lawn Maintenance.

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, **Seconded by** Eric Ramos, County Judge. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

21. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$920.00 from 012-5-0510-5508 Blumer Hospital Annex; to 012-5-0510-5200 Bldg Maintenance Supplies.

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **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 = 5).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

22. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$1,500.00 from 012-5-0409-9500 Technology; to 012-5-0409-5860 Copier Expense.

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, **Seconded by** Eric Ramos, County Judge. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

23. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$1,500.00 from 012-5-0409-9500 Technology; to 012-5-0409-5505 Internet Expense.

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Horacio Villarreal III, 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: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

27. Budget Workshop

A. ARPA. 2021

B. 2021-2022 Budget

The Court passed on 27. A: the Court went into discussing the Budget with possible cuts and also possible tax rate deductions. (**on file**)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

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

24. Discuss, Consider and Act on requiring County employees to get a COVID-19 vaccine or get tested twice a week. (Submitted by BC Judge Eric Ramos)

Motion: to approve testing of employees twice a week, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Horacio Villarreal III, 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: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

25. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$1,300.00 from 012-5-0475-9514 Capital Outlay to 012-5-0475-9070 Misc.

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 = 5).

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

26. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring
Item passed by the Court; agenda item was not completed.

28. Discuss, Consider and Act on ARPA, 2021 Expenditures.

Motion: to table, **Action:** Table, **Moved by** Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2, **Seconded by** Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

1. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

31. Adjourn

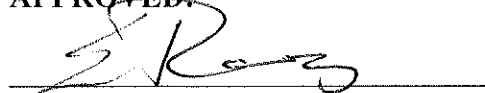
Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 3:22 PM, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, **Seconded by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, Ernesto "Pepe" Williams, Commissioner Precinct 4, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct 3, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct 2.

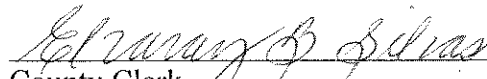
The preceding minutes beginning on page _____ and ending on page _____, of the Commissioners' Court Minutes Volume _____, read and approved in the Honorable Commissioners' Court this 19th day of October, 2021, A.D.

APPROVED:



County Judge

ATTESTED:



County Clerk