


SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS COURT
Thursday, August 1, 2024
2nd FLOOR COURTROOM
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:

OPEN MEETING -Judge Eric Ramos opened the meeting at 9:08 AM 

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-was led by Judge Eric Ramos

ROLL CALL-Judge Eric Ramos called for roll call:

Present: Eric Ramos, County Judge,
Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2,
Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3,
Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4,
Elvaray B. Silvas, County & District Clerk (Not voting).

Absent: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1.

Staff Present: Missy A Saavedra, Deputy Clerk

AGENDA

1. Public Comments 

Nelda Barrera, Grantworks addressed the Court in reference to a Community Development Grant that is available with a deadline of December 1st.

ADDENDUM #2

Executive Session – at 9:12 AM the Court went into Executive Session to address Addendum #2

The Court returned to open session at 9:26 AM; present same as before.

1. Status of K-9 Echo


No decision was made in the back, was an informational item and that Echo has been decommissioned by the Sheriff and has been returned to his handler.

2. Approve of Bills and Claims 

Motion: to approve the bills and claims as presented, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Martin "Marty" Cabrera, 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 = 4).

Yes: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

3. Discuss, Consider and Act on approving 2023 audit. 

Raul Hernandez, CPA addressed the Court with a quick review of the 2023 audit, stating that there were no findings.

Motion: to approve 2023 audit, **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 = 4).

Yes: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

4. Discuss, Consider and Act on purchasing a patrol vehicle from Freer Police Department/City of Freer by utilizing the monies received from the insurance

company from the totaled Brooks County Sheriff's vehicles. (Submitted by
Commander Jorge Esparza)

Motion: to purchase a patrol vehicle, **Action:** Approve, Moved by Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2, **Seconded** by Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Yes: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

5. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$1,600.00 from 012-5-0512-5850 (Out of County Travel) to 012-5-0560-5135 Supplies- Other. (Submitted by Commander Jorge Esparza)

A Correction was made to the line item: 012-5-0512-5850 to 012-5-0512-5550

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

6. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$3,500.00 from 012-5-0512-5450 Prisoner Medical Expense: to 012-5-0512-5800 Repairs and Maint- Bld. (Submitted by Commander Jorge Esparza)

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, Moved by Martin "Marty" Cabrera, 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: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

7. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$2,500.00 from 012-5-0512-9502 GPS Technology to 012-5-0560-5820 Repairs and Maint- Vehicles (Submitted by Commander Jorge Esparza)

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, Moved by Martin "Marty" Cabrera, 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: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

8. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$2,000.00 from 012-5-0560-8129 Overtime to 012-5-0512-5820 Repairs and Maint-Vehicle (Submitted by Commander Jorge Esparza)

A Correction was made to the line item:012-5-0512-5820 to 012-5-0560-5820.

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, Moved by Martin "Marty" Cabrera, 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: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.


9. Discuss, Consider and Act transferring \$250.00 from 012-5-0560-9080 Registration to 012-5-0512-5820 Repairs and Maint- Vehicle. (Submitted by Commander Jorge Esparaza)

A Correction was made to the line item: 012-5-0512-5820 to 012-5-0560-5820

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, Moved by Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, **Seconded** by Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Yes: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

10. Discuss, Consider and Act on approving payment for lost or missing gas receipts to Valero for \$13,69. (Submitted by Sheriff's Office) 

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, **Seconded by** Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Yes: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

11. Discuss, Consider and Act on paying invoice # 00047160 to Falfurrias Publishing, in the amount of \$600.00 for Advertisement Bids for the TxDOT CTIF Road improvements. 

Motion: to pay invoice, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Martin "Marty" Cabrera, 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: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

12. Discuss, Consider and Act on paying Jaime's Air Conditioning invoice #5516 for AC repairs at the Community Action Center in the amount of \$488.00. 

Motion: to pay invoice, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, **Seconded by** Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4. Motion passed unanimously.

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


Yes: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

13. Discuss, Consider and Act on paying Invoice # 001886 for \$1,516.00 and invoice # 001827 for \$95.00 for electrical repairs at Ed Rachal Library. 

Motion: to pay invoice, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Martin "Marty" Cabrera, 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: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

14. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$646.00 from 101-5-0053-5865 Equipment Rental to 101-5-50053-9063 Trash Landfill Fee. (Submitted by Ruby Allen) 

A Correction was made to the line item: 101-5-50053-9063 to 101-5-0053-9063

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Martin "Marty" Cabrera, 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: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

15. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$1,137.00 from 101-5-0053-9088 Tire Disposal, \$344.00 from 101-5-0053-5000 Office Supplies, \$84.00 from 101-5-0053-5810 Repairs & Maintenance office equipment to 101-5-0053-5105 GAS & Oil Expense

(Submitted by Ruby Allen) 

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, **Seconded by** Eric Ramos, County Judge. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Yes: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

16. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$277.00 from 101-5-0053-5810 Repairs Maintenance office equipment, \$11.00 from 101-5-0053-5138 Operating Supplies \$22.00 from 101-5-0053-5550 out of town expense to 101-5-0053-5136 UNIFORMS

(Submitted by Rubby Allen) 

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 = 4).

Yes: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin “Marty” Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

17. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$167.00 from 101-5-0053-5812 Repairs Maintenance Yard, \$64.00 from 101-5-0053-5550 out of town expenses, to 101-5-0053-9070

Miscellaneous. (Submitted by Ruby Allen)

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Martin “Marty” Cabrera, 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: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin “Marty” Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

18. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$99.00 from 101-5-0053-5812 Repairs maintenance yard to 101-5-0053-5820 Repairs maintenance vehicles. (Submitted by Ruby

Allen)

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Martin “Marty” Cabrera, 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: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin “Marty” Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

19. Discuss, Consider and Act on transferring \$3,000.00 from 0313-5-0033-9066 Civil Defense to 013-5-0033-5515 Radio Maint. & Repairs (Submitted by David Guerra)

A Correction was made to the line item: 0313-5-0033-9066 to 013-5-0033-9066

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Martin “Marty” Cabrera, 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: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin “Marty” Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

ADDENDUM

1. Discuss, Consider, and Act on a 2024 Engagement Letter with Raul Hernandez &

Company PC

Motion: to approve 2024 Engagement Letter, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Martin “Marty” Cabrera, 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: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin “Marty” Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

2. Transfer \$12,000 from 012-5-0409-5417 (Grant Matching) to 012-5-0409-5410 (Prof Fees-ACCT & Auditing)

Motion: to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Martin “Marty” Cabrera, 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: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin “Marty” Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.


20. Budget Workshop

Honorable Judge Eric Ramos informed the Court that he was still waiting on some numbers and is asking the Court to recess until tomorrow to discuss the Budget.

Motion: to recess tomorrow August 2, 2024, at 9:00 AM, **Action:** Enter Recess, **Moved by** Martin “Marty” Cabrera, 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: Eric Ramos, County Judge, Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3, Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4, Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2.

The Court continued pursuant to recess on Friday, August 2, 2024.

OPEN MEETING -Judge Eric Ramos opened the meeting at 9:09 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,
Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2,
Elvaray B. Silvas, County & District Clerk (Not voting).

Absent: Horacio Villarreal III, Commissioner Precinct #3,
Martin "Marty" Cabrera, Commissioner Precinct #4.

Staff Present: Missy A Saavedra, Deputy Clerk

The Court continued to discuss line item #20

Honorable Judge Eric Ramos informed the Court that he has received what we were waiting for.

At 9:11 AM Commissioner Villarreal joined the meeting.

The Court discussed the following:

- Honorable Judge Eric Ramos informed the Court that taxes would need to be increased this budget year.
- County Auditor, August Patroelj addressed the Court with that due to the loss in valuation, that this is the only reason for the tax increase.
- Honorable Judge Eric Ramos informed the Court that if the increase is not done, then a 10% decrease across the board and the cutting of some positions would have to be done.
- A decrease in retirement rate will also have some savings in payroll
- The possibility of not doing the raise for elected officials this year
- The sell of the Blumer Building to the Ed Rachal Foundation, and that they would lease to the County once renovated; the Penly and Wilder Building was also discussed, to offer to sell it to the Ed Rachal Foundation as well.
- Code Enforcement officer is to be added to get more revenue.

21. Adjourn 

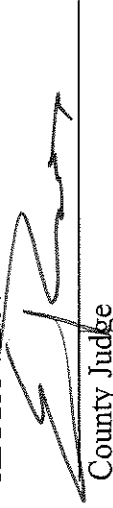
Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 AM, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, **Seconded by** Rolando Gutierrez, Commissioner Precinct #2. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Yes: Eduardo "Eddie" Garza, Commissioner Precinct #1, Eric Ramos, County Judge, 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 8th day of August, 2024, A.D.

APPROVED:


County Judge



ATTESTED:


County Clerk

