

Honorable County
Joe Cruz
Commissioner, Pct. 1



Honorable County
Commissioner Jesse Gonzales,
Pct. 3

Honorable County
Raul Gomez
Commissioner Pct. 2

Honorable County
Commissioner Florencio "Flo"
Melendrez, Pct. 4

Honorable County Judge Joe Luna

REGULAR MEETING

December 14th, 2022

Notice is hereby Given Pursuant to the requirement of Section 551.001 ET EQ., Texas Government Code that the Commissioner Court of Zavala County will meet in a Special Session, Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 at 10:00 A.M. at the Commissioners' Courtroom Zavala County Courthouse located at 200 E. Uvalde Street, Crystal City, Texas.

THE COURT MET AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Honorable County Judge Joe Luna
Honorable County Commissioner Joe Cruz Pct. 1
Honorable County Commissioner Raul Gomez Pct. 2
Honorable County Commissioner Jesse Gonzales Pct. 3
Honorable County Commissioner Florencio "Flo" Melendrez Pct. 4

APPROVED BY C.C.
This 28th day of Dec, 2022
At 11:45 o'clock, A M
MICHELLE B. URRABAZO
County Clerk, Zavala County, Texas
By M. Urrabazo

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle B. Urrabazo, County Clerk; Carlos Pereda, County Auditor; Anselma Rocha, Utility Department; Liz Tovar, County Treasurer; Sheriff Salinas; Will Bittick, IT, Cindy Rivera and Jody Cerda

1. ESTABLISH QUORUM:

The County Clerk Michelle B. Urrabazo called roll. A legal quorum was established with the County Judge and four County Commissioners present. (Pct.1, 2, 3 & 4)

2. WELCOME THE PUBLIC:

Judge Luna presiding over the meeting welcomes everyone present.

DELIBERATE AND CONSIDER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

3. CONSIDER APPROVING BILLS AND REQUISITIONS:

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Gonzales to approve the bills and requisitions for Julia Velasquez 7 vacation days; Mario Perez 10 vacation days and Arturo De Leon 10 vacation days; Michael Torralba (DA office) and Leslie Dominguez travel reimbursement
Motion carries. 5/0 vote

4. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- A. Commissioner Joe Cruz, Pct. 1 and 1A gave his November monthly report for the distribution of commodities; maintained roads; mowed Plaza and JP office and picked up branches in Batesville.
- B. Commissioner Raul Gomez, Pct. 2 gave his November monthly report for the distribution of commodities and CSFP boxes; branch and trash picked up in precinct 2; mowed and weed eat at the Road Department; attended Thanksgiving luncheon and helped city of Crystal City at the burn site.
- C. Commissioner Jesse Gonzales, Pct. 3 gave his November monthly report for the distribution of commodities and CSFP boxes; picked up branches in city limit and Chula Vista; cleaned warehouse and workshop; finished painting some boards and replacing damaged one on Zapata Park branches; repaired hose on oil distributor; took riding lawn mower to be fixed; trimmed trees along road in Chula Vista and shredded them with our shredder machine; assisted Pct. 2 with branch pick up and serviced Pct. 3 equipment and did repairs if needed.

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- D. Commissioner Florencio Melendrez, Pct. 4 gave his November monthly report for the distribution of commodities; mowed grass at the park, baseball fields and town; service equipment and cleaned shop; patched potholes in La Pryor and picked up branches in La Pryor and Crystal City.
- E. Constable John Simpson, Precinct 1 did not submit his November monthly report.
- F. Constable Jesse Hernandez, Precinct 4 submitted his November monthly report for patrolling residential areas, business and school zone areas in La Pryor and Crystal City; funeral escort from Uvalde County line to the La Pryor cemetery; traffic control for school parade; vehicle pursuit; served vehicle process documents; apprehended undocumented; arrested one female subject; took reports for community complaints by phone and physically; assisted other agencies Sheriff's, DPS and US Border Patrol as needed; issues citations and revenue report.
- G. County Treasurer, Elizabeth Tovar submitted her monthly report for total operating balance for October \$1,094,344.81; total operating balance for November \$319,491.36 and compensation time earned report.
- H. Utility Department, Anselma Rocha submitted her November monthly report for the Utility revenue \$33,894.21 and Landfill revenue \$0.
- I. Sheriff Eusevio Salinas submitted his November report for the citations; jail monthly billing; offense/incident reports; recovered stolen vehicles 9; undocumented persons turned to Border Patrol; Operation Lonestar total \$579,121.02; OPSG 2021 Balance \$123,896.08; LBSP 2023 Balance \$34,000.00 and activity report.
- J. AgriLife Extension office, Leslie Dominguez submitted her November activity report.
- K. Nutrition Center Janie Patching submitted her October monthly report for the Middle Rio Grande American Rescue Plan \$8,712.90 and Title XX \$11,012.13. (did not submit November report)
- L. County Auditor, Carlos Pereda submitted his November monthly report for expenditures and budget analysis.
- M. Zavala County Judge Joe Luna submitted the November ZCAD monthly report.
- N. Zavala County Child Welfare Board- Jose "Jody" Cerda presented the quarterly report and a brief report on Child Welfare Board activities.

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve the departmental reports submitted by each department.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

5. **CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL CHANGING THE ZAVALA COUNTY IN-SERVICE DATE FROM DECEMBER 23, 2022 TO DECEMBER 22, 2022:**

Judge Luna stated the in-service is before Christmas Eve and in the past we usually we are off the day before. He recommends to change in the in-service to December 22, 2022.

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Gonzales to approve changing the Zavala County in-service to December 22, 2022.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

6. **CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL AMENDING THE ZAVALA COUNTY HOLIDAYS FOR 2022:**

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Gonzales to approve amending the Zavala County Holidays for 2022.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

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7. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE ZAVALA COUNTY HOLIDAYS FOR 2023:

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Gomez to approve the Zavala County Holidays for 2023.
Motion carries. 5/0 vote

8. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL HIRING A CATERER FOR DESSERTS FOR IN-SERVICE:

Judge Luna stated there was one quote submitted from Linda Guerrero for desserts in the amount \$450.00 for the in-service.

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Melendrez to approve hiring Linda Guerrero for desserts in the amount of \$450.00.
Motion carries. 5/0 vote

9. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL PURCHASING A LARGE BRUSH TRUCK FOR THE ZAVALA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT LOCATED IN BATESVILLE:

Judge Luna stated the Commissioners court previously approved to purchase a large brush truck of 500 gallon but it's not enough and need a larger tank about 1,000.00 gallons.

Motion made by Commissioner Cruz Second by Commissioner Melendrez to approve purchasing a large brush truck for the Zavala County fire department located in Batesville.
Motion carries. 5/0 vote

10. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL PURCHASING A LARGE BRUSH TRUCK FOR THE ZAVALA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT LOCATED IN LA PRYOR:

Judge Luna stated the Commissioners court previously approved to purchase a large brush truck of 500 gallon but it's not enough and need a larger tank about 1,000.00 gallons.

Motion made by Commissioner Melendrez Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve purchasing a large brush truck for the Zavala County fire department located in La Pryor.
Motion carries. 5/0 vote

11. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR INSURANCE:

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Gomez to approve a budget amendment for insurance.
Motion carries. 5/0 vote

12. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL HIRING AN INVESTMENT BROKER FOR ZAVALA COUNTY:

Mr. Pereda the investments have been through the banks and are coming up with higher percentage. He recommends Ameriprise Financial and Financial Northeastern Companies (FNC).

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Gomez to approve Ameriprise Financial and Financial Northeastern Companies (FNC).
Motion carries. 5/0 vote

13. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE OFFICIAL OATH AND BONDS FOR ZAVALA COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR:

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve the official oath and bonds for Zavala County Tax Assessor-Collector.
Motion carries. 5/0 vote

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14. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH BICKERSTAFF HEATH DELGADO ACOSTA LLP:

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve the engagement letter with Bickerstaff Health Delgado Acosta LLP.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

15. CLOSED SESSION: THE COMMISSIONERS COURT WILL HOLD A CLOSED SESSION UNDER THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE LEGAL SECTION 551.071 REGARDING ENGAGEMENT WITH BICKERSTAFF HEALTH DELGADO ACOSTA LLP:

No action taken for this agenda item.

16. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL HIRING A TRANSPORT COMPANY TO EXTRADITE AN INMATE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA TO THE ZAVALA COUNTY JAIL:

Sheriff Salinas gave a brief report on the transport of the inmate from South Dakota to the Zavala County Jail. He was able to get three quotes for the transportation from U.S. Department of Justice \$3,417.00; Redi Transports and Prisoner Transportation Services \$8,157.00. Sheriff Salinas recommends the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$3,471.00.

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Melendrez to approve hiring U.S Department of Justice for transportation of inmate form South Dakota to the Zavala County Jail in the amount \$3,471.00.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

17. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, DISMISSAL AND REASSIGNMENT TO A SUPERVISOR OF A COUNTY OFFICER OR EMPLOYEES OR A MEMBER OF A COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD:

Judge Luna announced that Commissioners Court will go into closed session to discuss this item. Judge Luna resumed the Regular meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Gomez to approve selecting Commissioner Gonzales to be in charge of the Utility Department and Commissioner Melendrez to be in charge of the landfill department.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

18. CLOSED SESSION: THE COMMISSIONERS COURT WILL HOLD A CLOSED SESSION UNDER THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE LEGAL SECTION 551.074 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE OR DISMISSAL OF PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE, TO HEAR COMPLAINTS OR CHARGES AGAINST A PUBLIC OFFICER OF EMPLOYEE:

Closed session from 10:45 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.

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19. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL OPENING BIDS FOR TELEPHONE SERVICES FOR ZAVALA COUNTY:

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Gomez to approve opening bids for telephones services for Zavala County.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

- 1) Helifax Technologies
- 2) General Informatics
- 3) Vonage
- 4) Telesystem

20. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL AWARDING BIDS FOR TELEPHONE SERVICES FOR ZAVALA COUNTY:

Judge Luna stated Mr. Pereda and Will Bittick, IT will review the bids received for the telephone services.

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Cruz to TABLE this agenda item.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

21. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES TO WIT:

- a. October 3, 2022- Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve the Commissioner Court minutes.
Motion carries. 5/0 vote
- b. October 19, 2022- Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Commissioner Gomez.
Motion carries. 5/0 vote
- c. October 25, 2022- Motion made by Commissioner Cruz Second by Commissioner Gomez to approve the Commissioner Court minutes.
Motion carries. 5/0 vote
- d. November 2, 2022- Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Gonzales to approve the Commissioner Court minutes.
Commissioner Cruz abstained
Motion carries. 4/0 vote
- e. November 16, 2022- Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve Commissioner Court minutes. Judge Luna abstained
Motion carries. 4/0 vote

22. COMMISSIONER REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

(No action or discussion may occur during this agenda item)

No items requested at this time.

23. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Court, Judge Luna adjourned the Regular Commissioners Court for December 14th, 2022 at 11:05 A.M.

If during the course of meeting, discussing of any item on this Agenda be held to a closed meeting, the Court will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting Act, Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D and E, including consultation with counsel under section 551.071 and certain personnel matter under section 551.074. Before any closed meeting convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the Section or Sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes, action, or decisions to be taken in open meeting.

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Duly approved by vote of the Zavala County Commissioner's Court sitting in session in the county seat of Zavala County, Texas, on this 28th day of December, 2022.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 28th day of December, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Luna".

Hon. Joe Luna, County Judge

Attest:



Michelle B. Urrabazo
Michelle B. Urrabazo, County Clerk