

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**

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 Regular Session, Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of Oct, 2022  
At 11:30 o'clock, AM  
MICHELLE B. URRABAZO  
County Clerk, Zavala County, Texas  
By M. Urrabazo

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michelle B. Urrabazo, County Clerk; Carlos Pereda, County Auditor; Sheriff Salinas; Elizabeth Tovar, County Treasurer; Leslie Dominguez, County Agent; Constable Flores; Rachel Ramirez, District Clerk and Cindy Rivera

1. **ESTABLISH QUORUM:**

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

2. **WELCOME THE PUBLIC:**

Judge Luna presiding over the meeting welcomes everyone present.

3. **PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023:**

Judge Luna announced to the audience if anyone would like address Commissioner's court in regards to the budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. Cindy Rivera asked why the car allowance and cell phone usage was removed from the Judge's budget. Judge Luna stated she can only make a comment about the budget and that Commissioner's court will not have answer to questions.

There were no other comments regarding the budget.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023:**

Judge Luna announce to the audience if anyone would like to address Commissioner's court in regards to the tax rate for fiscal year 2022-2023. There were no comments for the tax rate. Mrs. Cindy Rivera made a comment in the form of a question, "What's a tax rate?"

**DELIBERATE AND CONSIDER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

5. **CONSIDER APPROVING BILLS AND REQUISITIONS:**

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Gomez to approve bills and requisitions for JP Valerio to attend the Magistration workshop and annual education conference; Elizabeth Tovar to attend County Treasurer's Association of Texas Conference; Judge Luna to attend the criminal and civil law conference; Jose Contreras 5 vacation days; Ernesto Martinez 5 days without pay; Jesus Mata 5 vacation days and Carlos Becerra 10 vacation days.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

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**6. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

- A. Commissioner Joe Cruz, Pct. 1 and 1A gave his August monthly report with the distribution of commodities; picked up trash at parks; water trees at the park; picked up branches in Crystal City and worked on equipment.
- B. Commissioner Raul Gomez, Pct. 1 gave his August monthly report with the distribution of commodities; monthly distribution of CSFP boxes; mowed and weed eat at Zavala County Road & Bridge Department; mowed and weed eat at Crystal City Nutrition Center; picked up branches in precinct 2; cleaned Road Department warehouse and offices; continued picking up branches in precinct 2 and mowed and weed eat at the Crystal City Post Office.
- C. Commissioner Jesse Gonzales, Pct. 3 gave his August monthly report with the distribution of commodities; shredded Chula Vista Streets; distribution of CSFP boxes; cleaned Road Department warehouse; worked on all equipment, changed oil, changed oil filter; replaced a hydraulic hose on front loader; cut grass at Road Department; cleaned Popeye Lake restrooms; trimmed trees at Popeye Lake and installed ice maker machine at Zavala County warehouse.
- D. Commissioner Florencio Melendrez, Pct. 4 gave his August monthly report with the distribution of commodities; picked up branches in La Pryor; patched potholes; cut grass at the show barn; cut grass at the Post Office; service the equipment and cleaned the yard.
- E. Constable John Simpson, Precinct 1 submitted his August activity report assisting Sheriff's office; DPS and other assists.
- F. Constable Jesse Hernandez, Precinct 1 submitted his August activity report for patrolling residential areas, businesses and school zone areas in La Pryor and Crystal City; served civil process documents for precinct 4-4A; 3 vehicle impounds for traffic 40; took reports for community complaints 24/7; traffic control on US 83/US 57 to cross farm equipment at highway bridges; assist other agencies; organized active shooter training for local agencies with Texas Police Trainers, LLC; attended SBLE introductory training and donated park security for community fundraiser.
- G. County Treasurer, Elizabeth Tovar did not submit her August monthly report because she is still waiting on department reports.
- H. Utility Dept., Anselma Rocha submitted her August monthly report for utility revenue \$40,351.05 and landfill revenue \$2,100.00.
- I. Agrilife Extension Office, Leslie Dominguez submitted her August activity report.
- J. Nutrition Center, Janie Patching submitted her August monthly Middle Rio Grande \$849.60 and Title XX \$2,516.94.
- K. County Auditor, Carlos Pereda submitted his August monthly report for budget analysis and expenditures.
- L. Zavala County Judge Joe Luna submitted the August monthly report for ZCAD.

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

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

**7. CONSIDER APPROVING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023:**

Judge Luna is proposing to lower the life insurance from \$50,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Commissioner Gomez recommends to keep the life insurance at \$50,000.00. Commissioner Gonzales stated he feels that the salary for Judge salary should be reduced to \$60,000.00. Judge Luna stated on my proposed budget he reduced the

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cell phone stipend and car allowance. Judge Lunas stated the District Attorney is requesting a budget of \$210,000.00 instead of \$150,000.00 this is \$60,000.00 more for this year. Judge Luna stated the Adult Probation office is requesting \$35,000.00. Judge Luna is proposing the salary of \$2,000.00 increase across the board for everyone and \$2,000.00 from the American Relief Fund. Judge Luna also proposed starting pay for new employees at \$12.00 an hour.

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 including keeping the life insurance at \$50,000.00; County Judge's salary reduced to \$60,000.00; District Attorney additional budget \$60,000.00; Adult Probation office budget \$35,000.00; salary increase of \$2,000.00 across the board not include the increase to employees that are a going from \$22,500.00 to \$24,960.00; one-time payment of \$2,000.000 from American Relief Fund and starting pay at \$12.00 for new employees.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

8. CONSIDER APPROVING TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023:

Judge Luna stated the tax rate last year was .72 because of the property value increasing the tax rate is .69 this year which is equivalent to .72. Judge Luna proposed the tax rate the M&O 0.5495 and I&S 0.075 at .72 for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Gomez to approve the tax rate at .72 M&O 0.5495 and I&S 0.075 for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

9. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL RESCINDING THE BURN BAN FOR ZAVALA COUNTY:

Motion made by Commissioner Cruz Second by Commissioner Gomez to approve rescinding the burn ban for Zavala County.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

10. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ENTERING INTO CONTRACT WITH LA PRYOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2022:

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve entering into Contract with La Pryor Independent School District for the General Election November 8, 2022.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

11. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ADVERTISING FOR REPAIRS TO THE CAMINO REAL MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC BUILDING LOCATED AT 315 N 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS:

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Gonzales to approve advertising for repairs to the Camino Real Mental Health Clinic.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

12. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL REPAIRS TO THE WATER WELL IN CHULA VISTA:

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve repairs to the water well in Chula Vista.

Motion Carries. 5/0 vote

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- 13. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ADVERTISING TO REPAIR THE ROOF AT THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE BUILDING LOCATED IN PRECINCT 4:**  
Motion made by Commissioner Melendrez Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve advertising to repair the roof at the Justice of the Peace building located in precinct 4.  
Motion carries. 5/0 vote
- 14. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ADVERTISING TO REPAIR THE ROOF AT THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE BUILDING LOCATED IN PRECINCT 1:**  
Motion made by Commissioner Cruz Second Commissioner Gomez to approve advertising to repair the roof at the Justice of the Peace building located in precinct 1.  
Motion carries. 5/0 vote
- 15. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN REAL COUNTY AND THE COUNTY OF ZAVALA FOR HOUSING INMATES:**  
Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve the intergovernmental agreement by and between Real County and the County of Zavala for housing inmates.  
Motion carries. 5/0 vote
- 16. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A LEASE EXTENSION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AND THE COUNTY OF ZAVALA, RETROACTIVE MAY 1, 2022:**  
Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Melendrez to approve a lease extension between the United States Postal Service and the County of Zavala retroactive May 1, 2022.  
Motion carries. 5/0 vote
- 17. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE USE OF THE NUTRITION CENTER LOCATED IN CRYSTAL CITY BY THE WINTERGARDEN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR THE WINTERGARDEN Ag DAY:**  
Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve the use of the Nutrition Center in Crystal City by the Wintergarden Soil & Water Conservation District for Wintergarden Ag Day.  
Motion carries. 5/0 vote
- 18. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR BORDER PROSECUTION UNIT PROSECUTOR, 293<sup>RD</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, TO \$100,000.00 PER ANNUM PLUS FRINGE BENEFITS BEGINNING ON THE DAY AFTER APPROVAL BY THE ZAVALA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING TO BE PAID BY THE GRANT AND THUS, AT NO COST TO THE COUNTY OF ZAVALA:**  
Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Gomez to approve a salary adjustment for Border Prosecutor 293<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District attorney's office to \$100,000.00 per annum plus fringe benefits beginning on the day after approval by the Zavala County Commissioners court meeting to be paid by the grant and thus, at no cost to the County of Zavala.  
Motion carries. 5/0 vote

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**19. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR ELDERLY NUTRITION:**

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve a budget amendment for elderly nutrition.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

**20. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR COUNTY CLERK:**

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve a budget amendment for County Clerk.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

**21. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 1:**

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve a budget amendment for Constable, Pct. 1.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

**22. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:**

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Gonzales to approve a budget amendment for Sheriff's Department.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

**23. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR COUNTY JAIL:**

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Cruz to approve a budget amendment for County Jail.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

**24. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE, PRECINCT 1:**

Motion made by Commissioner Cruz Second by Commissioner Melendrez to approve a budget amendment for Road and Bridge, Precinct 1.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

**25. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE, PRECINCT 2:**

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Gonzales to approve a budget amendment for Road and Bridge, Precinct 2.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

**26. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE, PRECINCT 3:**

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Melendrez to approve a budget amendment for Road and Bridge, Precinct 3.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

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**27. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE, PRECINCT 4:**

Motion made by Commissioner Melendrez Second Commissioner Cruz to approve a budget amendment for Road and Bridge, Precinct 4.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

**28. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR OTHER COSTS:**

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzales Second by Commissioner Gomez to approve a budget amendment Other Costs.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote

**29. COMMISSIONER REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

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

No items requested at this time.

**ADDENDUM TO  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
ZAVALA COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2022  
AT 10:45 A.M.**

**1. ESTABLISH QUORUM:**

The County Clerk Michelle B. Urrabazo called roll. A legal quorum was established with 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:**

Mr. Pereda stated there no bills.

No action taken for this agenda item.

**4. CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL HIRING A SPRINKLER REPAIR COMPANY TO MAKE REPAIRS TO THE FIRE AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT IN THE ZAVALA COUNTY JAIL:**

Motion made by Commissioner Gomez Second by Commissioner Cruz approve authoring Sheriffs Salinas to look for someone and Judge Luna to sign off hiring a sprinkler repair company to make repairs to the fire and safety equipment in the Zavala County Jail.

Motion carries. 5/0 vote



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5. COMMISSIONERS REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:  
(No action or discussion may occur during this agenda item); and


30. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Court, Judge Luna adjourned the Regular Commissioners Court for September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 10:53 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.

Duly approved by vote of the Zavala County Commissioner's Court sitting in session in the county seat of Zavala County, Texas, on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Joe Luna, County Judge

Attest:



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle B. Urrabazo, County Clerk