

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF ORANGE

BE IT REMEMBERED that a Regular Court Session was held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Courtroom of the Orange County Administration Building with the following in attendance:

John H. Gothia,	County Judge
Johnny A. Trahan,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Chris Sowell,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Kirk F. Roccaforte,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Robert Viator Jr.,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M., Chaplain Mike Eaves, gave the invocation, John Gothia led in the Pledge of Allegiance and the following business was transacted, to-wit:

The Agenda Items are in the order they were taken in the meeting.

1. COMMENTS

Johnny Trahan spoke about the flooding in Hill Country. He also reminded everyone it is hurricane season and we all need to be ready.
Chris Sowell expressed his gratitude to Chief Howard and the Sheriff's Office and trustees for the clean up at Jett Cemetery. It looks really good out there.
Kirk Roccaforte says he is still in shock with the Texas floods.
John Gothia stated the flooding is sad. They have a long recovery ahead and we can keep them in prayer.
19. ACCEPT DONATION

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to acknowledge and accept Golden Triangle Polymers donation of \$5,000.00 to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for the purchase of an additional warning sign to be placed on FM 1006.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
2. AUDITED FINANCIAL

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to accept and file into the minutes of the Court, the Orange County Audited Financial Report for fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, by Chris Pruitt of Patillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)

3. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to record in the minutes regarding payment of bills approved by the County Auditor for July 1, 2025.

GENERAL FUND	\$8,632.35
ROAD & BRIDGE	1,310.98
MOSQUITO CONTROL	-
ADULT PROBATION	14,063.94
AIRPORT	293.83
CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS	-

TOTAL FOR PAYMENT	\$24,301.10

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)

4. BILLS

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell approving payment of July 8, 2025 bills approved by County Auditor as per attested listings and also specifically as follows:

- a. \$21,652.83 from the General Fund (001-111-54235) to U.T.M.B. for contract payment due July 2025.
- b. \$1,150.00 from the General Fund (001-111-54290) to Memorial Funeral Home for indigent funeral expenses.
- c. \$98,350.00 from the Road & Bridge Fund (002-573-57590) to Cimline for a 6,000 gallon tank with agitator and ladders.
- d. \$308,101.16 from the Special Grants Fund (081-927-53003) to McInnis Construction, Inc. for Pay Apps #5 & 6 for PODS.
- e. \$164,700.00 from the Special Grants Fund (081-927-53000) to Gary R. Traylor & Associates for Mileston 3 – 2021 USDT (A.R.P.A.) 5/1/2022 – 2/1/2025.

GENERAL FUND	\$388,342.12
ROAD & BRIDGE	362,479.58
MOSQUITO CONTROL	134,787.83
ADULT PROBATION	1,078.15
AIRPORT	92.78
CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS	474,748.39

TOTAL FOR PAYMENT	\$1,361,528.85

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)

17. SET HEARING Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell to set the date and time of August 5, 2025 at 9:00A.M. for a hearing to consider the creation of Orange County Emergency Services District No. 5, Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 775.015.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

5. LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Chris Sowell to authorize the line item transfer as follows:

ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

From: 001-260-54955 (Data Processing Services & Fees).....(\$1,000.00)
To: 001-260-59999 (Other).....\$1,000.00

Purpose: To cover cost of dues for the remainder of the budget year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

6. LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Robert Viator to authorize the line item transfer as follows:

JUVENILE PROBATION

From: 001-230-54550 (Travel/Reg./Dues/Etc.).....(\$1,500.00)
To: 001-230-52300 (Fuel, Oil, Gas, Grease & Repairs).....\$1,000.00
001-230-52100 (Office Supplies).....\$ 500.00

Purpose: To provide funds for the purchase of a new set of tires for the 2016 Ford Explorer, office supplies, and to replenish line items for the remainder of the year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

7. ACCEPT CERTIFICATION Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator accepting the certification of the June 2025 Collection Report for the Tax Office as required under PTC 31.10.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)

8. APPROVE PURCHASE Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator approving the purchase of a 2024 Chevy Silverado for the Orange County Sheriff's office administration division. The Chevy Silverado costs \$82,487.98.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

- 9a. RECLASSIFY COUNTY ENGINEER
Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to change the structure of Road and Bridge Department by reclassifying the position of County Engineer to Administrator at an E4 salary, effective July 9, 2025 based on the affirmative finding that the Court has been unable to hire a qualified county engineer under the Texas Transportation Code. This change will allow for a broader administrative focus on budgeting, personnel management, project coordination and interdepartmental collaboration, while maintaining oversight through contracted engineering services.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
- 9b. APPOINT ADMINISTRATOR
Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to appoint Tracy Leach as Administrator, effective July 9, 2025.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
10. RENEW CONTRACT
Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator approving the renewal of interlocal contract between SETRPC 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point and Orange County.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)
11. MAINTENANCE DEPT. PROJECTS
Phil Noland, Supervisor, stated they were working in the bat cave, remodeling office area with new flooring and new sheet rock, patching and painting. At Elections, they treated for termites and are repairing the flooring from the termite damage. They are keeping the ACs and ice machines going during summer season. They are waiting on a start date for the elevator.
12. ROAD & BRIDGE PROJECTS
Tracy Leach, Interim Road & Bridge Administrator, updated the Court with the June report. They collected \$150 in new plat application fees and \$7655 in culvert fees. The swing bridge was opened and closed 46 times. At the Collection Station, there were 862 participants and they collected \$12,585. For June work orders, in Precinct 1 – 16 were opened, 7 completed and 23 total; Precinct 2 – 11 were opened, 28 completed and 39 total; Precinct 3 - 30 were opened, 24 completed and 54 total; Precinct 4 – 18 were opened, 23 completed and 41 total.
13. APPROVE PLAT
Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator approving a minor plat of 1.009 acres tract of land into Tract 1, Claiborne West Survey, Abstract No. 27, Orange County, Texas. This final plat has been reviewed and approved by Orange County Road and Bridge and the Orange County Drainage District. The proper filing and reproduction fees have been provided and a tax statement has been provided.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Maps. Volume 16, Page 32)

14. APPROVE
PLAT

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte approving a 0.7742 -acre replat of Lots 7, 8 and 9, Block 7 of Kinard Estates into Lots 7A and 9A, 2843 and 2815 Dewitt Drive, Orange, Texas 77632, located in Pct. 1. This final plat has been reviewed and approved by Orange County Road and Bridge and the Orange County Drainage District. The proper filing and reproduction fees have been provided and a tax statement has been provided.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Maps. Volume 16, Page 33)

15. APPROVE
PLAT

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator approving a 2.587 -acre replat of Lots 22 and 23 of Brittington Estates recorded in Volume 13, Page 83 of the Map Records of Orange County, Texas into Lot 22-A of Brittington Estates, Orange County, Texas. This final plat has been reviewed and approved by Orange County Road and Bridge and the Orange County Drainage District. The proper filing and reproduction fees have been provided and a tax statement has been provided.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Maps. Volume 16, Page 34)

16. VETERAN'S
OFFICE
QUARTERLY
REPORT

Mark Hammer, Director, stated last quarter they had 390 appointments and walk ins. He stated Orange County brings in thousand of dollars per quarter for the economy whether its service connected disability, compensation or DIC. They attended the Southeast Texas Stand Down for 2025 at the Orange County Convention and Expo on May 16th. This will be his 12th year to attend the Texas Veterans Commissions next week for the annual accreditation course.

18. APPROVE
ORDER

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to accept and approve the Spectrum Service Order for Orange County and to authorize the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign said contracts. This contract will be for a term of 36 months.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)

20. APPOINT
COMMITTEE

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to appoint a selection committee for construction services for the County's GLO CDBG-DR Imelda Tulane Project (24-067-030-E219) under RFP-25007. The selection committee will consist of Chris Sowell, Kirk Roccaforte, Tracy Leach, Morgan Turner and Joel Ardoin.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

21. AWARD CONTRACT

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell to award construction services contracts for the County's GLO CDBG-DR Imelda Kinard Estates Project (24-067-030-E218) under RFP-25004, contingent upon the issuance of the Authority to Use Grant Funds (AUGF) to T Johnson Construction and to authorize the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same, pending legal approval.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

22. APPROVE TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell approving the transfer of the following items:

DESCRIPTION	VIN OR SERIAL #	FROM	TO	CONDITION
American Biotech Supply Freezer	ABS-23137467-24	Health Services	Surplus	Unuseable
Optoma TX780 Projector	085YA705AAAAC0249	Emergency Management	Surplus	Fair
Optoma TX780 Projector	085YA705AAAAC0258	Emergency Management	Surplus	Fair
2015 Dodge Charger	2C3CDXATOFH906905	Sheriff's Office	Surplus	Poor
2015 Dodge Charger	2C3CDXAT3FH906901	Sheriff's Office	Surplus	Poor
2016 Ford Expedition XL	1FMJU1FT8GEF32265	Sheriff's Office	Surplus	Poor
2016 Ford Expedition XL	1FMJU1FT6GEF32264	Sheriff's Office	Surplus	Poor
2018 Ford Expedition XL	1FMJU1FTXJEA05691	Sheriff's Office	Surplus	Poor
2006 Ford Escape	1FMYU03146KA97160	Sheriff's Office	Surplus	Poor

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

23. APPROVE ORDER

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve an Order for Discretionary Exemption pursuant to Local Government Code §262.024 and authorize the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same. This order will confirm the Court's prior determination that its contract for Temporary/Disaster Meal Provision Services is exempt from competitive bid requirements, both as a personal/professional service and food item.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)

24. APPROVE CONTRACT Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte approving a proposed contract with LBS BBQ & Catering for Temporary/Disaster Meal Provision Services and authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)

25. ADVERTISE FOR BIDS Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell approving the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids for construction services for the County's GLO CDBG-DR Imelda Tulane Project (24-067-030-E219) under RFP-25007.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

26. APPROVE ABANDONMENT Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte approving the abandonment of an undeveloped right-of-way previously dedicated for use as a public road near Old Highway 90 in Precinct 4 and authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the order and to waive any filing fees. The result of abandonment would be the reversion of clean title to the owner of the underlying property.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

27. CHANGE COMMITTEE Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator authorizing the removal of the Assistant County Attorney to the committee reviewing proposals for RFP-25003, Principal Managing Bank, Participating Depository and Sub-Depository Banks and adding the County Treasurer to the open position.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

28. FORM ADA COMMITTEE Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to form an American Disabilities Act (ADA) committee to oversee compliance in County Buildings and properties and the committee will be the Maintenance Director, Maintenance Supervisor, MIS Director, Assistant County Attorney and Health & Social Services Director.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

29. ADOPT POLICY Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Johnny Trahan to adopt a proposed policy on Fraud Prevention and Detection. This type of policy is required pursuant to several of the County's State and Federal grants.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

30. APPROVE RENEWAL Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte approving a proposed renewal of the Pipeline Easement and Right of Way Agreement between Orange County and Kinder Morgan Texas Pipeline L.P. and authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same. The proposed 20-year renewal involves no new construction.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

31. CLOSED MEETING Closed meeting held pursuant to the Tex. Gov. Code §551.071, to discuss with Assistant County Attorney matters regarding pending or threatened litigation, as well as to seek or receive information and advice from Assistant County Attorney on legal matters that are not related to litigation or settlement of litigation but are matters in which the duty of the attorney to the Court otherwise conflicts with Chapter 551. Multiple discrete matters will be discussed.

The Court went into closed meeting. This meeting was not recorded.


32. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING Return to open meeting. Take any action deemed necessary based upon discussion in a closed meeting.

NO ACTION No action taken on closed meeting held pursuant to the Tex. Gov. Code §551.071, to discuss with Assistant County Attorney matters regarding pending or threatened litigation, as well as to seek or receive information and advice from Assistant County Attorney on legal matters that are not related to litigation or settlement of litigation but are matters in which the duty of the attorney to the Court otherwise conflicts with Chapter 551. Multiple discrete matters will be discussed.

33. ADJOURN MEETING There being no further business, a motion was made by Robert Viator, seconded by Chris Sowell to adjourn Commissioners' Court meeting.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
John Gothia adjourned the Commissioners' Court meeting.

ATTEST:



Brandy Robertson, County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the
Commissioners' Court

* * * * *