

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF ORANGE

BE IT REMEMBERED that a Regular Court Session was held on Tuesday, August 5, 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:

1. COMMENTS No comments were made in this meeting.
2. PROCLAMATION Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to acknowledge and authorize the Orange County Commissioners' Court to sign a proclamation to honor and thank our local Emergency Management Team for their behind the scenes dedication and compassion as part of Emergency Management Appreciation Month.

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

3. PAYMENT OF BILLS Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to record in the minutes regarding payment of bills approved by the County Auditor for July 29, 2025.

GENERAL FUND	\$26,320.86
ROAD & BRIDGE	304.77
MOSQUITO CONTROL	-
ADULT PROBATION	4,339.95
AIRPORT	156.42
CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS	-

TOTAL FOR PAYMENT	\$31,122.00

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

4. **BILLS**

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve payment of August 5, 2025 bills approved by the 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 August 2025.
- b. \$13,716.00 from the General Fund (001-101-52345) to Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool for excess workers compensation – audited contribution for 2024.
- c. \$64,478.80 from the General Fund (001-740-57590) to Silsbee Ford for 2023 Ford Explorer (1FM5K8AB6PGC01431) Unit #719 Orange County Sheriff's Office.
- d. \$4,725.00 from the Special Grants Fund (081-927-53000) to Architects, Inc. for A&E fee for Public Health Building – Construction Admin. Phase.
- e. \$226,526.95 from the Special Grants Fund (081-927-53003) to McInnis Construction, Inc. for PODS – Pay Apps #6 and #7.

GENERAL FUND	\$345,980.17
ROAD & BRIDGE	49,284.56
MOSQUITO CONTROL	83.59
ADULT PROBATION	5,294.60
AIRPORT	652.09
CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS	286,765.50

TOTAL FOR PAYMENT	\$688,060.51

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

5. **LINE ITEM TRANSFER**

Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Chris Sowell approving the line item transfer as follows:

CONVENTION & EXPO

From: 074-791-59999 (Other).....(\$750.00)
To: 074-791-52150 (Janitorial Supplies).....\$750.00

Purpose: To provide funds for janitorial supplies for the remainder of the year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

6. LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator approving the line item transfer as follows:

ROAD & BRIDGE

From: 001-111-53830 (Contingency).....(\$500,000.00)
To: 002-573-52500 (Road Materials).....\$350,000.00
002-573-57550 (Repairs/Rental/Construction/Etc.).....\$150,000.00

Purpose: To cover the cost of road materials, rentals, and repairs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

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

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

From: 001-740-51110 (Regular Salaries).....(\$133,000.00)
To: 001-740-51120 (Overtime Salaries).....\$120,000.00
001-740-51130 (Schedule Overtime).....\$ 13,000.00

Purpose: To move funds to cover the remainder of the budget year.

From: 001-740-52300 (Fuel, Oil, Gas & Grease).....(\$10,000.00)
To: 001-740-52251 (Bullet Proof Vests).....\$ 5,000.00
001-740-59999 (Other).....\$ 5,000.00

Purpose: To move funds to cover the remainder of the budget year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

8. LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte approving the line item transfer as follows:

ORANGE COUNTY JAIL

From: 001-743-54421 (Board/Prisoners).....(\$5,000.00)
To: 001-743-52150 (Janitorial Supplies).....\$5,000.00

Purpose: To move funds to cover the remainder of the budget year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

9. LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte approving the line item transfer as follows:

COUNTY AUDITOR

From: 001-111-54091 (Court Appointed Attorney 163rd Adult).....(\$ 7,500.00)
 001-111-54092 (Court Appointed Attorney 260th Adult).....(\$ 7,500.00)
 001-111-51270 (Group Health, Life & Dental).....(\$50,000.00)
To: 001-111-54093 (Court Appointed Attorney CCAL Adult).....\$15,000.00
 001-111-51150 (Termination Pay).....\$50,000.00

Purpose: To provide funds for the remainder of the year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

10. CERTIFIED PROPERTY TAX VALUES Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan approving the submission of the 2025 Certified Property Tax Values from the Chief Appraiser and the Rolling Stock from the State Comptroller as required under Property Tax Code 26.04(b).

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

11. COLLECTION RATE Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator approving the Certification by the Tax Assessor-Collector of the 2025 Anticipated Collection Rate for debt service as required by Property Tax Code 26.04(b).

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

12. NO NEW REVENUE Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan approving the submission of the 2025 No New Revenue rates as required under Property Tax Code 26.04(b).

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

13. DMV FEE Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator approving to stay with Option A which is staying at current fees for the TxDMV Road and Bridge Fee and authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same.

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

14. APPROVE RESOLUTION Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded y Kirk Roccaforte to approve a Resolution to authorize the Orange County Sheriff's Office to apply for the SRA Community Assistance Program Grant 2025 and naming the authorized official as Chief Richard Howard and authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same. This is a grant to provide critical funding for the upgrade and repairs to Safe Boat and High-Water Rescue Vehicles.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)
15. NO ACTION No action taken on discussion and possible action to receive and act upon projects as presented by the Maintenance Department.
16. ROAD & BRIDGE PROJECTS Tracy Leach, Administrator, introduced the new superintendent, Kellen McLarty. He updated the Court with the July work orders, in Precinct 1 – 17 were opened, 7 completed and 24 total; Precinct 2 – 13 were opened, 35 completed and 48 total; Precinct 3 - 23 were opened, 32 completed and 55 total; Precinct 4 – 12 were opened, 35 completed and 47 total. They collected \$10,625 in culvert fees. The swing bridge was opened 21 times and is still opened. At the Collection Station, there were 1,030 participants and they collected \$12,941.
17. ORDER OF SPECIAL ELECTION Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve and sign the Order of Special Election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, Constitutional Amendment Election.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)
18. NO ACTION No action on discussion and possible action regarding the approval and signature of the Order of Special Election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, Creation of Orange County Emergency Services District No. 5.

19. EARLY VOTING

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan to approve the early voting locations, dates and times for Tuesday, November 4, 2025, Constitutional Amendment Election as follows:

Orange Public Library
(Main Early Voting Location)
220 N. 5th Street
Orange, TX 77630

Raymond Gould Community Center
385 Claiborne Street
Vidor, TX 77662

Orange County Precinct 2 POD
5320 Arnel Lane
Orange, TX 77632

Orange County Airport
2640 S Hwy 87
Orange, TX 77630

October (Octubre) 20-24 th	Monday – Friday (Lunes – Viernes)	8:00am – 5:00pm
October (Octubre) 27-29 th	Monday – Wednesday (Lunes – Miércoles)	8:00am – 5:00pm
October (Octubre) 30-31 st	Thursday – Friday (Lunes – Viernes)	7:00am – 7:00pm

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

20. NOTICE OF ELECTION

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator to approve and sign the Notice of Election for Tuesday, November 4, 2025, Constitutional Amendment Election.

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

21. NO ACTION

No action on discussion and possible action regarding the approval and signature of the Notice of Election for Tuesday, November 4, 2025, Creation of Orange County Emergency Services District No. 5.

22. ORDER OF APPOINTMENT

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to approve and sign the Order of Appointment for County Election Judges and Alternate Election Judges for the two-year term September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2027. TEC 32.009.

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

23. ORDER OF APPOINTMENT

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve and sign the Order of Appointment for the Early Voting Ballot Board Judge and Alternate Judge for the two-year term September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2027. TEC 87.002.

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

24. AWARD CONTRACT Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to award construction services contracts to Experts Underground for the County's GLO CDBG-DR Imelda Tulane Project (24-067-030-E219) under RFP-25007, contingent upon the issuance of the Authority to Use Grant Funds (AUGF) and to authorize the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

25. CLOSED MEETING Closed meeting held pursuant to 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 a closed meeting. This meeting was not recorded.


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

NO ACTION No action taken on closed meeting held pursuant to 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.

27. ADJOURN MEETING There being no further business, a motion was made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator 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

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