

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF ORANGE

BE IT REMEMBERED that a Regular Court Session was held on Tuesday, September 9, 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 10:03 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 No comments were made in this meeting.
2. NO ACTION No action taken on discussion and possible action regarding the adoption of the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year Budget in accordance with Local Government Code §111.008.
3. NO ACTION No action taken on discussion and possible action regarding the adoption of the property tax as assessed by the Orange County Appraisal District and the adoption of the tax rate for Taxable Year 2025 per Local Government Code §111.008.
4. REVENUE
RECEIVED Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Chris Sowell to file in the minutes of the Court revenue received from City of Pine Forest, check #3956, in the amount of \$2,494.57. These funds are reimbursement for road materials.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

5. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to record in the minutes regarding payment of bills approved by the County Auditor for September 2, 2025.

GENERAL FUND	\$6,924.46
ROAD & BRIDGE	91.13
MOSQUITO CONTROL	-
ADULT PROBATION	111.30
AIRPORT	134.39
CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS	-

TOTAL FOR PAYMENT	\$7,261.28

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

6. BILLS

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell approving payment of September 9, 2025 bills approved by County Auditor as per attested listings and also specifically as follows:

- a. \$175,140.70 from the General Fund (001-111-54110) to Orange County Appraisal District for 4th Quarter funding.
- b. \$21,652.83 from the General Fund (001-111-54235) to U.T.M.B. for contract payment due September 2025.
- c. \$111,947.49 from the Improvement Grants Fund (026-983-53000) to Planet Three Elevations for Draw 1: Pre-Elevation/Mobilization – 2019 FMA Elevations Project.
- d. \$36,639.09 from the Special Grants Fund (081-927-53003) to LED Partners in partial payment of Contract #678-22: LED signage.
- e. \$185,000.00 from the General Fund (001-111-53020) to the Orange County Economic Development Corporation for 2024-2025 Membership Payment #3.

GENERAL FUND	\$953,571.80
ROAD & BRIDGE	527,620.08
MOSQUITO CONTROL	197.59
ADULT PROBATION	241.50
AIRPORT	29,690.59
CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS	52,716.82

TOTAL FOR PAYMENT	\$1,564,038.38

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

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

COUNTY AUDITOR

From: 001-111-53830 (Contingency).....(\$48,350.00)
To: 001-111-54110 (Appraisal Contract).....\$48,350.00

Purpose: To provide funds for final quarterly payment due to increase in contract from prior year. Estimated increase: 9%. Actual increase: 18%.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

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

COUNTY AUDITOR

From: 001-111-54122 (Lawsuits, Claims & Settlements).....(\$25,000.00)
To: 001-111-53203 (Sheriff Criminal Bonds Returned).....\$25,000.00

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

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

9. LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to authorize the line item transfer as follows:

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

From: 001-740-52300 (Fuel, Oil, Gas & Grease).....(\$30,000.00)
To: 001-740-57550 (Repairs/Rentals/Constr/Etc.).....\$30,000.00

Purpose: For the repair to 9 currently downed units, including cost of an engine swap, 3 A/C repairs, transmission repairs, 3 engine malfunction repairs and brakes.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

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

ROAD & BRIDGE

From: 002-573-59999 (Other).....(\$5,750.00)
To: 002-573-54950 (Tree & Debris Removal Services).....\$5,750.00

Purpose: To cover the cost of the removal of dead trees in county right of way.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

11. LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to authorize the line item transfer as follows:

MOSQUITO CONTROL

From: 003-490-57550 (Repairs, Rentals, Constr./Etc.).....(\$1,500.00)
To: 003-490-57500 (Equip. Non-Inv. < \$2,000).....\$1,500.00

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

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

12. LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Johnny Trahan to authorize the line item transfer as follows:

TRANSPORTATION

From: 001-602-57550 (Repairs, Rentals, Constr./Etc.).....(\$2,500.00)
To: 001-602-52100 (Office Supplies).....\$2,500.00

Purpose: To provide funds to purchase a laptop, printer & storage case for the Jasper Pilot Program.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

13. LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Johnny Trahan to authorize the line item transfer as follows:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

From: 001-793-52110 (Public Safety Supplies & Uniforms).....(\$1,700.00)
To: 001-793-57550 (Repairs/Rental/Constr./Etc.).....\$1,700.00

Purpose: To provide funds for tire replacement of F250 truck.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

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

PARKS

From: 001-111-51270 (Group Health, Life & Dental).....(\$18,300.00)
To: 001-681-52730 (Cellular/Internet Expense).....\$ 500.00
 001-681-51140 (Extra Help Salaries).....\$17,800.00

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

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

15. ACCEPT CERTIFICATION Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell accepting the certification of the August 2025 Collection Report for the Tax Office as required under PTC 31.10.

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

16. ESTABLISH SART TEAM Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte approving the establishment of an adult sexual assault response team (SART) in Orange County in accordance with Local Government Code Sec. 351.252.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

17. APPROVE PURCHASE Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte approving the capital outlay purchase of an industrial washing machine for the jail dorm area to replace the broken one. The current washing machine is 16 years old, beyond repair, and needs to be replaced as soon as possible. The cost of the washing machine is \$20,043.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

18. LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to authorize the line item transfer as follows:

JAIL

From: 001-743-54421 (Board Prisoners).....(\$20,100.00)
To: 001-743-57590 (Equip. > \$5,000).....\$20,100.00

Purpose: To purchase a replacement industrial size washing machine for the jail dorms.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

19. APPROVE PURCHASE Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Johnny Trahan approving the capital outlay purchase and installation of an amplifier for audio/visual equipment in the 128th District Court.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

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

128TH DISTRICT COURT

From: 001-210-54550 (Travel/Reg/Dues/Etc).....(\$1,357.00)
001-210-57500 (Equip. Non-Inv. < \$2,000).....(\$1,235.00)
To: 001-210-57595 (Equip. between \$2,000 & \$4,999).....\$2,592.00

Purpose: To provide funds to purchase and the installation of updated audio/visual equipment.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

21. MAINTENANCE DEPT. PROJECTS Kurt Guidry, Maintenance Director, stated the elevator is being worked on at this time. They have come across other issues and waiting on parts to be delivered this week. He does not know how long it will take but is hoping before the end of the month. They are working on POD building in Precinct 2. They are currently doing a build out for the election equipment. They have the crowd control, tables and chairs in and will be painting soon and get the AC going. They will finish up with installation on paper towel and toilet paper dispensers and install fencing at the back of the building. He will have Donna come look and then they will repeat in the other three buildings. They have also been keeping up with the ACs throughout the county buildings.

22. ROAD &
BRIDGE
PROJECTS
- Tracy Leach, County Road Administrator, updated the Court with the August report. Work orders for Precinct 1 - 14 open, 8 completed for total of 22; Precinct 2 - 4 open, 43 completed, for total of 47; Precinct 3 - 19 open, 33 completed for total of 52; and Precinct 4 - 29 open, 13 completed for total of 42. Culvert fees collected \$11,770 and swing bridge opened 10 times. Citizens Collection Station has 1049 participants and fees collected were \$13,853.
23. APPROVE
PLAT
- Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Chris Sowell approving a final plat of Lots 1 and 2 located in Croft Addition (Precinct 4), a 10.804 -acre tract of land recorded in Clerk's File No. 537135, Official Public Records of Orange County, Texas, partially out of Lots 15 & 16, Block 1, Pecan Acres Subdivision recorded in Volume 5, Page 82, Map Records of Orange County, Texas lying in the John Stephenson Survey, Abstract No. 169 and the W.M. Stephenson Survey, Abstract No. 23. 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 paid and a tax statement has been provided.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
See Maps. (Volume 16, Page 38)
24. APPROVE
PLAT
- Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte approving a replat of 2.121 acres of land, part of the W.B. Wortham Survey, Abstract No. 415 in Orange County, Texas, commonly known as Lots 61 and 62, Deer Park (unrecorded) into Tracts 61-A, 61-B, 62-A and 62-B, located in Precinct 4. This replat 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 paid and a tax statement has been provided.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
See Maps. (Volume 16, Page 39)
25. APPROVE
PLAT
- Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Johnny Trahan approving a plat of 0.9369 (called 0.9355) acre of land, replat of part of Lots 1 & 2, Block 4 Townes Addition, City of Vidor, Volume 3, Page 73, Map Records of Orange County, Texas into Pirates Cove Estates Phase 1A. This replat 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 paid and a tax statement has been provided.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
See Maps. (Volume 16, Page 40)
26. APPROVE
PURCHASE
- Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Johnny Trahan approving a capital outlay purchase of a Fixed Tooth Road Planer to be used on the skid steer for \$28,750.00 from line item 002-573-57590 (Equip. > \$5,000).
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

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

ROAD & BRIDGE

From: 002-573-52520 (Drainage & Ditches).....(\$25,100.00)
 002-573-53022 (Water Tank & Well Constr. Pct 1).....(\$ 3,650.00)
To: 002-573-57590 (Equip. > \$5,000).....\$28,750.00

Purpose: To provide funds to cover the cost of a fixed tooth road planer for the skid steer.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

28. APPROVE PURCHASE Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve the purchase of a Modern Path Slayer mower attachment for \$6,700 from line item 001-681-57590 (Equip. > \$5,000).

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

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

PARKS

From: 001-681-54950 (Misc Tree & Landscape Services).....(\$6,700.00)
To: 001-681-57590 (Equip. > \$5,000).....\$6,700.00

Purpose: To purchase a Modern Path Slayer mower attachment to enable employees to mow closer to the pond and help clear trails at Claiborne Park.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

30. ACCEPT BID PROPOSAL Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to accept the bid proposal for Engineering Services provided by AWC to provide a scope of services for repairing the large pedestrian bridge located within Claiborne West Park that crosses Cow Bayou.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

31. ACCEPT DONATION Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator to accept a donation from Todd Langston and Juice Baseball of approximately \$60,000 in field improvements to the ballfield located within Claiborne West Park.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

- 31a. CREATE
COMMITTEE
- Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to create a committee for rules on use of the ballfield located within Claiborne West Park. The committee will consist of Denisha LeFleur, Chris Sowell, Johnny Trahan, Kurt Guidry and Edie Burch.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
32. ABANDON
EASEMENT
- Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell approving the request for the County to abandon an undeveloped and unused portion of a road easement at the end of Teal Road Subdivision, Section 1 and relinquish right of way as described and written by legal counsel and to authorize the County Judge to sign the Order of Abandonment once legal counsel has it prepared.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
33. REVISE
POLICY
- Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte approving the proposed revision to County Personnel Policy 421 – Computer Hardware and Software Security. The proposed revisions incorporate legislative changes and the implementation of Multi-Factor Authentication for county systems.
- Voted AYE: Johnny Trahan, Kirk Roccaforte, John Gothia, Robert Viator
Voted NAY: Chris Sowell
Motion Carried.
34. AIRPORT
INSURANCE
- Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to review, select and approve the associated payment of the Airport General Liability Insurance policy renewal of the incumbent proposal for the term of September 18, 2025 to September 18, 2028, to include accepting terrorism and war coverage and to authorize for the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign any necessary documents regarding the same.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)
35. APPOINT
REPRESENTATIVE
- Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to appoint Missy Pillsbury as the Designated Sponsor's Authorized Representative for the FY2026 Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) Grant, M26200RNG.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

36. RAMP GRANT

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan authorizing the County Judge to sign the FY2026 RAMP Grant, M26200RNG. The scope of services includes airport maintenance at the Orange County Airport. The project has an estimated maximum eligible cost of \$111,111.11, with the State reimbursing 90% (not to exceed \$100,000) and the County providing a 10% match of 11,111.11.

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

37. TRANSFER ASSETS

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

ASSET	DESCRIPTION	VIN OR SERIAL #	FROM	TO
19621	2021 Ford Explorer (totaled)	1FM5K8AB1MGA65415	SO	Surplus
17634	Dishwasher Hobart	851075338	SO	Surplus
17154	2005 Ford F250 (244,528 miles)	1FTSF20P75EA40490	Road & Bridge	Surplus

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

38. CLOSED MEETING

Closed meeting held pursuant to §551.087 of the Texas Local Government Code, deliberation regarding commercial or financial information that the Orange County Economic Development Corporation has received from a business prospect that the Commissioners' Court seeks to locate, stay or expand in or near the territory of Orange County and with which the Commissioners' Court is conducting economic development negotiations, or to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to such a business prospect, under section 551.087 of the Act, regarding any current confidential Orange County Economic Development Corporation Projects.

The Court went into closed meeting. This meeting was recorded.

39. 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 §551.087 of the Texas Local Government Code, deliberation regarding commercial or financial information that the Orange County Economic Development Corporation has received from a business prospect that the Commissioners' Court seeks to locate, stay or expand in or near the territory of Orange County and with which the Commissioners' Court is conducting economic development negotiations, or to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to such a business prospect, under section 551.087 of the Act, regarding any current confidential Orange County Economic Development Corporation Projects.

40. NO ACTION No action on discussion and possible action regarding a proposed Facility & Tower Lease Agreement between Orange County and L3Harris Technologies, Inc. relating to the Radio Tower site at the Orange County Airport, in conjunction with and support of the FAA Prime Contract with L3Harris. The lease involves no new construction at this time.

41. CLOSED MEETING Closed meeting held pursuant to the Tex. Gov. Code §551.071, to discuss with Assistant County Attorney and outside counsel matters regarding settlement offers in the matter of Texas opioid multi-district litigation for the County in the matter of *County of Orange v. Purdue Pharma, Inc., et al*, MDL PRETRIAL CAUSE NO. 2018-63587, in the 152nd District Court of Harris County, Texas.

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

42. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING Return to open meeting. Take any action deemed necessary based upon discussion in a closed meeting. Possible action may include authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to execute an Order Authorizing Approval of Proposed Texas Statewide Opioid Settlement Agreements and any related release forms.

EXECUTE ORDER Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Robert Viator authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to execute the Order Authorizing Approval of Proposed Texas Statewide Opioid Settlement Agreement and all related documents.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

34a LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Johnny Trahan to authorize the line item transfer as follows:

AUDITOR

From: 001-101-52344 (Flood Insurance).....(\$1,950.00)
To: 001-101-52342 (Liability General).....\$1,950.00

Purpose: To provide funds to pay for the insurance increase that was approved.


All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

43. ADJOURN
MEETING

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