

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ORANGE

BE IT REMEMBERED that a Special Court Session was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 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

Cathey Fleming – questioned why we were not notified about the bomb threat from last week.
Sheriff Bobby Smith – stated there is an app, STAN, that sends emergency alerts.
Johnny Trahan- spoke of the ribbon cutting at Blue Bird Park, shoutout to Jeremiah Gunter and Lainey Claybar.
Chris Sowell- Thanked all the volunteers for their help with the Heritage house and Art in the park.
2. PROCLAMATION

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan to acknowledge for record a proclamation announcing the Lower Sabine Neches Soil and Water Stewardship Week, running from April 26 to May 3, 2026.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)
3. TAC PRESENTATION

Clarissa Messinger, Health and Employee Benefits Consultant Supervisor with the Texas Association of Counties (TAC), presented to the Court concerning the mid-year performance of the Orange County Employees health insurance plan. Tasha Brent, Wellness Consultant with TAC presented a review of Orange County's Wellness program.
4. ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell to authorize the addition of the District Clerk, County Clerk and other designated personnel to be custodial account managers for Investing Court Blocked Minor Fund accounts at First Financial Bank on behalf of their respective offices.

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

5. MONTHLY REPORTS
- Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Robert Viator to approve monthly reports from the County Treasurer for month ending March 31, 2026, and record in the minutes of the court:
- A) Approval of Investments in the amount of \$5,407,239.64
 - B) Approval of Interest Earned to date in the amount of \$958,315.48
 - C) Treasurer's Report of Revenues received and disbursed in accordance with the Local Government Code 114.026(d) and affidavit of approval by court. This report will be available on the county's website for viewing.
 - D) Pledged Security Collateral for a total of \$21,522,190.75 summary as follows:
 - Wells Fargo Bank \$14,565,201.82
 - 1st Financial Bank \$ 6,956,988.93

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

6. TREASURER REPORT
- Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve for filing in the minutes of the Court the County Treasurer's quarterly investment report as required by HB 2459, Public Funds Investment Act. This report is for Quarter ending March 31, 2026, and will be available for viewing on the County's website.

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

7. DIRECT DEPOSIT
- Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to file in the minutes of the Court a direct deposit from the State Comptroller of Public Accounts in the amount of \$554,942.62. These funds represent the ½ - cent Sales and Use Allocation for the month of February 2026 and have been credited to the General Operating Fund.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

8. PAYMENT OF BILLS
- Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to record in the minutes payment of bills approved by the County Auditor for April 7, 2026.

GENERAL FUND	\$ 15,578.04
ROAD & BRIDGE	-
MOSQUITO CONTROL	-
ADULT PROBATION	1,849.51
AIRPORT	-
CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS	-

TOTAL FOR PAYMENT	\$17,427.55

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

9. BILLS

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to pay April 14, 2026 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 UTMB for contract payment due April 2026.
- b. \$20,000.00 from the General Fund (001-111-54105) to Patillo, Brown & Hill for the 2025 Annual Audit billing.

GENERAL FUND	\$ 412,702.75
ROAD & BRIDGE	143,477.05
MOSQUITO CONTROL	5,496.41
ADULT PROBATION	4,542.77
AIRPORT	3,866.30
CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS	-

TOTAL FOR PAYMENT	\$570,085.28

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

10. AUDITOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

Motion was made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to receive the County Auditor's Monthly Financial Report(s).

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

11. SPECIAL BUDGET

Motion was made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to adopt a special budget as certified by the County Auditor, pursuant to LGC §111.0106, to recognize/establish operating budgets for funds received from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) in excess of fiscal year budgeted amount.

Revenues: 089-000-46830	GOMESA Coastal Conservation Revenue	(\$191,125.23)
Expenses: 089-841-53001	GOMESA Expenditures	\$191,125.23

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

12. SPECIAL BUDGET
- Motion was made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan to accept a special budget as certified by the County Auditor, pursuant to LGC §111.0106, to recognize/establish operating budgets for funds received from the Opioid Settlement Program in excess of fiscal year budgeted amount.
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|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Revenues: 037-000-46203 | Opioid Settlement | (\$53,283.43) |
| Expenses: 037-827-53000 | Opioid Fund Expenses | \$53,283.43 |
- All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
13. TRAVEL POLICY
- Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to acknowledge and accept updates to the Orange County Travel Policy as presented by the County Auditor.
- All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
14. ACCEPT CERTIFICATION
- Motion made by Chris Sowell seconded by Johnny Trahan to accept the certification of the March 2026 Collection Report for the Tax Office as required under PTC 31.10.
- All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
15. 2027 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
- Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to approve the 2027 Holiday Schedule.
- All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)
16. AMEND BUDGET
- Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator to approve a request from the Sheriff's Office to amend the previously budget approved purchase of six law enforcement vehicles. The original authorization – five Chevrolet Silverado 1500 PPV patrol pickups and one Silverado PPV investigator unit (totaling \$498,302.37), to be replaced with six Chevrolet Tahoe PPV 2WD SUVs, \$497,770.56, saving a total amount of \$531.81.
- All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
17. TRANSFER ASSET
- Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan to approve the County Judge to execute an asset transfer agreement on behalf of the County to Deputy Chris Arriola for the possession, care, custody and control of the K-9 for the remainder of its life and also, authorize the transfer of the asset (Asset #19615) from the inventory of the Orange County Sheriff's Office to surplus in the discretion of the Orange County Purchasing Agent.

- 18. MAINTENANCE DEPT. PROJECTS

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

Kurt Guidry, Maintenance Director, stated they have one window left to fix at the DA 2 story building. Still working on the PODS buildings, they had some issues at 3 and had some in-house requests to work on. They're going to have to replace the sewer line at the UTMB at 10th and Cordrey. Waiting on another quote for the cost of lane 2 at 1442. They got the fence line at the bat cave cleaned up with the help of some inmates and two employees at the sheriff's office. They're going to get a revised quote for the cost of the repair of the fence so they can move forward with repairs. They're working on replacing the hot water pump at the courthouse. They've had 6 AC repairs and are working on replacing the generator at the transportation building.

- 19. ROAD & BRIDGE PROJECTS

Tracy Leach, Road Administrator, stated they finished the Harvey roads project. He updated the court on March workorders. Precinct 1 – 3 open, 16 completed; Precinct 2 – 7 open, 16 completed; Precinct 3 – 11 open, 26 completed; Precinct 4 – 12 open, 46 completed. Culvert fees collected \$1,105.00 and swing bridge open 11 times. Citizen Collection Station has 1,422 participants and billing were \$21,761.00. Receipts were \$21,362.00. Cameras are being installed at the East Roundbunch bridge.

- 20. APPROVE POSITIONS

Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve 5 more CDL positions for this budget year for Road & Bridge.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

- 21. VETERANS OFFICE QUARTERLY REPORT

Mark Hammer, Veterans Affairs Agent, presented to the court the Veterans Office quarterly progress report. They had 387 walk-ins in the last quarter. They are processing claims much faster nowadays. The Southeast Texas Stand Down event for Orange County will be May 15th from 9am - 1pm.

- 22. QUARTERLY REPORTING

Fallon White, AgriLife Coordinator, presented the court with the quarterly report covering January – March 2026. During this quarter the extension team focused on delivering impact programs and family community health, 4-H development and agriculture and natural resources. They reached 12,858 contacts across all their programs area. They traveled 3,114 miles to provide educational programs, training and community outreach across the county.

23. APPROVE LOCATIONS Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator to approve the Early Voting locations, dates and time for the May 26, 2026, Joint Primary Runoff 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 Precinct 3 POD
2010 S Hwy 87
Orange, TX 77630

May 18-22	Monday – Friday	7:00 am – 7:00 pm
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All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

24. ACCEPT NOTICE Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell to accept the Notice of Election for Tuesday, May 26, 2026, Joint Primary Runoff Election. The Notice will be posted on the county's website.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

25. OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDS Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve \$30,000.00 to be allocated to increase access to treatment for individuals in custody of Orange County Jail and have identified as opioid use disorder. Treatment can be both inpatient and outpatient, treatment will be coordinator between adult probation, the jail staff, judiciary and treatment providers.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

26. MOU Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Sabine-Neches Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist, and Orange County for repairing the pedestrian bridge that crosses Cow Bayou at Claiborne West Park.

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

27. BALLPARK GUIDLINES
- Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to set the dates for the spring season from February to July and fall season to be September to December at a random draw each year.
- Voted AYE: Chris Sowell, Kirk Roccaforte, Robert Viator, John Gothia
Voted NAY: Johnny Trahan
Motion Carried.
- Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte that the organization that put the time, effort and energy into preparing the park to get it useable again, would be allowed to use the field Monday and Thursday at 5:15 for the period of two years.
- Voted AYE: Chris Sowell, Kirk Roccaforte, Robert Viator
Voted NAY: Johnny Trahan, John Gothia
Motion Carried.
28. RV Park
- Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve a Recreational Vehicle (RV) Park application for the property located at 16609 Highway 62, Orange, Texas. All requirements have been reviewed and approved by the Orange County Drainage District, Orange County Road and Bridge Department, and Orange County Environmental Health and Code Compliance Department.
- All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
29. NO ACTION
- No action was made on discussion and possible action to approve Amendment No. 1 of the Chapter 312 Tax Abatement Agreement between Orange County and USG Paper, LLC.
30. CLOSED MEETING
- Closed meeting held pursuant to Tex. Gov. Code §551.071, to discuss with Assistant County Attorney one or more discrete and unrelated 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.
- The Court went into closed meeting. This meeting was not recorded.

31. RETURN TO MEETING

Return to open meeting. Take any action deemed necessary based upon discussion in closed meeting.

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan to authorize the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the release forms relating to 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.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

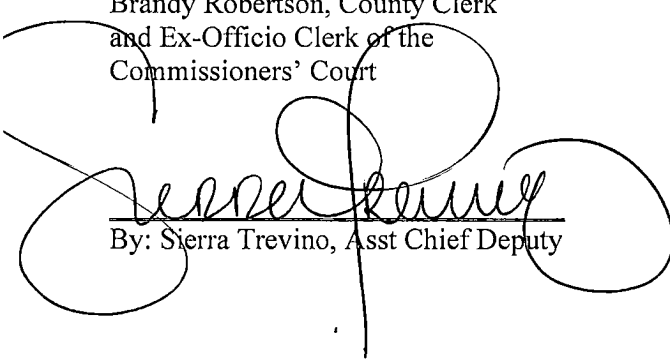
32. ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, a motion was made by Johnny Trahan, 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



By: Sierra Trevino, Asst Chief Deputy

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