

Official Minutes for Webb County  
Commissioners Court Special Meeting

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009 AT 1:00 P.M.  
(approved May 26,2009)

Call to order by Judge Danny Valdez

Let it be remembered that a special meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court was held at 1:00 p.m. at the regular meeting place with the following members present to wit:

Danny Valdez	County Judge
Frank Sciaraffa	Commissioner, Pct. 1
Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina	Commissioner, Pct. 2
Jerry Garza	Commissioner, Pct. 3
Sergio "Keko" Martinez	Commissioner, Pct. 4

Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon the Agenda as posted in the meeting notice of the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, 2009. Present also were Mrs. Imelda Diaz, Deputy County Clerk representing Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, various officers and others interested in the business of the Court.

**Item No. 1. Roll Call by Honorable Margie Ramirez-Ibarra, Webb County Clerk**

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to excuse Cmr. Garza from being absent. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 by unanimous consent.

**Item No. 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item No. 3. Communications**

Judge Valdez congratulated Mr. Manuel Gutierrez on receiving the Liberty Bell Award. He welcomed everyone and advised everyone that Webb County is going through bad and difficult times of which everyone is facing. Judge Valdez mentioned that this budget workshop is only one of several that will be needed and advised that the last thing the Court wants is to cut personnel.

Cmr. Sciaraffa had no items under communications.

Cmr. Tijerina congratulated Mr. Manuel Gutierrez and welcomed all Webb County employees of which she considered everyone to be a family.

Cmr. Martinez congratulated Mr. Manuel Gutierrez and thanked him for all the work he has done.

**Cmr. Garza walked in at 1:21 p.m.**

Judge Valdez added that the Court would not be making a decision today and advised everyone that in no way was this situation due to mismanagement or things not being done in a correct manner.

**Item No. 4. Public Comment - This section provides the public the opportunity to address the Commissioners Court on any items on the Agenda. Members of the public wishing to participate must complete a Witness Card specifying which agenda item they wish to comment on. Each public member will be allowed a total of Three (3) minutes within which to make any/all public comments.**

Discussion on file at the Webb County Clerks Office under the May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Commissioner's Court dvd.

1<sup>st</sup> witness card – Mr. Rafael Perez, Auditor's Office

Mr. Perez stated that he had identified one area where monies were not coming in even though it should through a state mandate and mentioned that it was through the Court Collections.

2<sup>nd</sup> witness card – Joe Guterrez, Fred & Anita Bruni Community Center

Mr. Guterrez requested a new van for the community center since the current one that they own is approximately 14 yrs old. He also requested an adjustment either this year or next year on the Repair and Maintenance line item for his copiers due to the previous Director being behind on payments.

3<sup>rd</sup> witness card – Delia Perales, County Treasurer

Ms. Perales stated that she had two items on how there could be savings for her department. She advised the Court that she was contemplating that all employees in Webb County go into direct deposit of which would be of great savings. She also added that there was a new law that allowed the County Treasurer to collect on delinquent taxes of which would generate additional revenues.

Comr. Garza stated that he would not be in a position to approve to go into the Fund Balance as times are not as difficult and there were other alternatives.

Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, made several recommendations to the Court on how the County could bring about savings. **(As listed on memorandum provided by the Auditor's Office submitted for record)**

4<sup>th</sup> witness card- Fitzgerald Sanchez, County Engineer

Mr. Sanchez stated that he will work diligently with the committee to look at the water rates and the water utilities item.

5<sup>th</sup> witness card – Dr. Corrine Stern, Medical Examiner

Dr. Stern stated that she wanted to make the Court aware of Senate Bill 312 since if passed her professional service line item would have to increase. She advised the Court that according to this bill, the Medical Examiner's office will be able to charge for other services that they perform.

6<sup>th</sup> witness card – Cornell Mickley, Indigent Defense Program

Mr. Mickley stated that he has noticed a surplus on several of his line items ever since he came into office. He advised the Court that he would be willing to give an additional 10% of his budget.

7<sup>th</sup> witness card – Rhonda Tiffin, Planning Department

Ms. Tiffin advised the Court that she is looking at reducing her department's operational budget by 50% and will get together with the Auditor's Office to work with the numbers. She informed the Court on several legislative updates.

Judge Valdez asked if there was anyone else wishing to speak under Public Comment.

Mrs. Melissa Mojica, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, stated that it was time for the employees to give back to the Court. She offered 10% of her salary because she knew that this would save someone's job. She also agreed with a shorter work week and that if the Court was to decide that there should be a 10% in budget cuts to allow the department heads and/or elected officials decide where the cut should occur.

Ms. Juanita Puente, Santa Teresita Community Center Director, stated that things had to be looked at as luxury versus need. She advised the Court that she would be willing to give up the administrative travel line item as well as the

goods for public events in her department. Ms. Puente stated that another line item that could be given up in several departments was education and training with the exception of those requiring CEU or other hours. Also, she added that she currently has two vans in her department and would be willing to give up one to the Fred & Anita Bruni Community Center. Last, Ms. Puente stated that the dental program currently in Webb County should be looked at due to, in her opinion, this was a luxury.

Mr. Federico Garza, Sheriff's Office, advised the Court on several ways that the County could bring about savings. He mentioned that the maintenance on vehicles should be moved to every 6000 miles rather than every 3000 miles, that all lights should be turned off at the end of the day, look at everyone going paperless where able to, and that the Sheriff was interested in taking over the juvenile building once it is vacated. He advised on how this would be beneficial to the county.

Mr. Tony Silva, Veteran's Service Officer, stated that he enjoys attending monthly GIFTS program; however, feels that it should be eliminated due to a lot of time spent and the funds involved. He also stated that he agreed with the ten hr work day schedule.

Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, advised that all recommendations will be looked at.

**Item No. 5 Discussion and possible action to conduct a Commissioner's Court budget workshop with the participation from all county Department Heads and Elected Officials in order to receive comments, suggestions, and for the Court to make recommendations for the 2009-2010 proposed county budget; and any other matters incident thereto.**

Judge Valdez motioned to approve the item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to adjourn. Judge Valdez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.