

# Official Minutes for Webb County Commissioners Court Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2009 at 9:00 AM  
(approved June 22, 2009)

Call to order by Judge Danny Valdez

Let it be remembered that a regular meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court was held at 9:00 a.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 5<sup>th</sup> June 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**

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

Judge Valdez welcomed Mayor Raul Salinas and former Councilman Blas Castaneda which were present.

**Item No. 3. Approval of Minutes for May 26, 2009**

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

**Item No. 4. Approval of Bills, Payroll, and Monthly Report**

Discussion on file at the Webb County Clerks Office in the June 8, 2009 Commissioner's Court dvd.

Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, explained the monthly report ending May 31, 2009.

Judge Valdez advised the Court that the county got a donation for the golf course of 5000 square feet of grass from Flying G Turf Farms and laid out by A Rod Construction at no cost to the county. He thanked both companies for their donation.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve the item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

**Item No. 5. Communications**

Judge Valdez welcomed all students present as well as City Councilwoman Cindy Liendo Espinoza. He sent his condolences to the family of Ms. Olga Alvarez. Judge Valdez thanked the committee who worked extremely hard on

the Judge Solomon Casseb Jr., Webb County Youth Village and all those involved in the legislative committee for their hard work. He congratulated Judge Raul Vasquez's staff of their years of service to Webb County and Cmr. Sciaraffa and the Webb County Bombers for defending their championship.

Judge Valdez called on Mayor Raul Salinas and Councilwoman Cindy Liendo Espinoza.

Mayor Raul Salinas advised everyone of the fun experience that they had. Councilwoman Liendo Espinoza thanked the Court for their support and advised everyone that the benefit went to Ninos Vulnerable from Nuevo Laredo and South Texas Food Bank.

Judge Valdez stated that this event shows the participation and friendship that exists between the City of Nuevo Laredo, City of Laredo, and the County of Webb. He also welcomed Mr. Butch Head from GEO.

Cmr. Sciaraffa congratulated all Commissioners from the present and past Court along with the Board of Judges for the grand opening of the Judge Solomon Casseb Jr., Webb County Youth Village. He also congratulated the Webb County Bombers for defending the championship and also to Councilwoman Cindy Espinoza Liendo and Mayor Raul Salinas. Cmr. Sciaraffa also congratulated all inductees to the Latin American Hall of Fame.

Cmr. Tijerina sent her condolences to the family of Olga Alvarez, Rebecca and Cipriana Reyes, and to the family of the two year old little boy who lost his life in Los Altos. She thanked Warden Head from The Geo Group as well as congratulated Mr. Gabriel Medina for completing a one week internship. Cmr. Tijerina went on to thank Legislative representatives such as Senator Zaffirini, Representative Richard Pena Raymond, Representative Ryan Guillen, and all legislative committee members especially on the passage of Senate Bill 2253. She also thanked the committee who sponsored the grand opening for the Judge Solomon Casseb Jr., Webb County Youth Village, Mr. Miguel Angel Isidro, Mexican Consulate, for his presentation at the Larga Vista Community Center and also to Andie Arellano, her Administrative Assistant, for all her hard work.

Cmr. Garza sent his condolences to the family of Olga Alvarez, Pablo De Luna, Petra C. Fuentes, and Hilda Martinez. He thanked all Legislators who helped them through a lot of the legislation as well as other legislators such as Senator Lucio from the Valley. Cmr. Garza also thanked the legislative committee on the local level for all their hard work. He also congratulated all the Board of Judges, past and present Commissioner's Court on the grand opening of the Judge Solomon Casseb Jr., Webb County Youth Village.

Cmr. Martinez sent his condolences to the family of Michael Alvarez. He congratulated the Juvenile Board and all county employees who contributed in making the project a reality. He also thanked Senator Zaffirini, Representative Guillen and Raymond who assisted during the legislation as well as the Webb County Bombers for defending their title.

**Item No. 6. 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.**

1<sup>st</sup> witness card – Margie Ramirez Ibarra

Mrs. Ibarra asked the Court for their assistance in waiving the hiring freeze and allow her to hire two slots which are already budgeted for. She thanked Cmr. Sciaraffa and Cmr. Martinez for their support and advised that the Juvenile Department would be opening on June 15<sup>th</sup>; therefore, needed the support from at least one of the other Commissioners and/or Judge Valdez. Mrs. Ibarra stated that as head of the County Clerks Office she was respectfully asking the Court for their support.

Judge Valdez motioned to bring up item 10. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 10. Presentation of Letters of Commitment related to the 2009 GEO Group/Webb County Scholarships by Webb County Commissioners and Warden Butch Head of the GEO – Rio Grande Detention Center.**

Presentation made by Mr. Warden Butch Head . (List of Scholars on file at the Webb County Clerks Office.)

**Honorable Danny Valdez, Webb County Judge**

- Item No. 7. Presentation by Bob Zachariah, Chairman of the American Diabetes Association, regarding materials to raise awareness for the prevention of diabetes.**

Presentation made by Mr. Bob Zachariah, Chairman of the American Diabetes Association, Mr. Blas Castaneda, and Ms. Evelyn Garcia.

**Honorable Frank Sciaraffa, Webb County Commissioner Pct. 1**

- Item No. 8. Discussion and possible action to donate \$1,500.00 to Cigarroa High School for a trophy case. [Account #605-0201-8801]**

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

**Commissioners Court**

- Item No. 9. Discussion and possible action to enter an Order to establish a Ninety (90) day burn ban for the unincorporated areas of Webb County, effective June 8, 2009. [Recommended by Texas Forest Service]**

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 11. Discussion and possible action to approve the transfer of Department #0103-Radio Communications, including all Personnel and Operational budget line items to Department #0115-County Engineering, under the direction of Fitzgerald G. Sanchez, County Engineer; effective immediately; and any other matters incident thereto.**

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

**Honorable Anna L. Cavazos-Ramirez, County Attorney**

- Item No. 12. Discussion and possible action to enter into a contract amendment number One (1) to the Rural Transportation Federal Fund Grant Agreement No. RPT 0904 (22) 32 with the State of Texas, acting through the Texas Dept. of Transportation and Webb County, wherein Webb County accepts an increase of ONE HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY-ONE DOLLARS (\$105,891.00) to the original grant amount of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$188,457.00) for a grant total amount of TWO HUNDRED**

NINETY-FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$294,348.00) for the El Aguila Rural Transportation Program and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by, Javier Martinez, Community Action Agency Interim Director]

Item No. 13. Discussion and possible action to approve and ratify a Project Grant Application (No. RPT 0904(22)32 with the State of Texas, Texas Department of Transportation, for the operation of the Community Action Agency's "El Aguila" Transportation Program in the amount of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTYSEVEN DOLLARS (\$188,457.00) and with a Webb County match of EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$82,000.00) and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by Javier Martinez, Community Action Agency Interim Director].

Com. Martinez motioned to approve items 12 and 13 as submitted. Com. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 14. Discussion and possible action to approve an exemption to the County wide hiring freeze and allow the County Attorney to fill the following slots.

Slot #	Title	Yearly Salary
1257	Legal Assistant	\$ 31,002.00
2270	Liaison Officer for Mental Health Addictions and Criminal Justice Systems	\$ 57,330.00

Discussion on file at the Webb County Clerks Office under the June 8, 2009 Commissioner's Court dvd.

Mrs. Anna Laura Cavazos Ramirez, County Attorney, advised the Court that Slot 2270 would be filled until July 1, 2009.

Com. Martinez motioned to approve item but that the filling of slot 2270 be effective July 1, 2009. Com. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Honorable Margie Ibarra, County Clerk

Item No. 15. Discussion and possible action to approve an exemption to the county wide hiring freeze and allow the Webb County Clerks Office to fill the following Slots.

Slot #	Title	Hourly Rate
0642	Deputy Clerk	\$13.86
0643	Deputy Clerk	\$13.86

Discussion on file at the Webb County Clerks Office under the June 8, 2009 Commissioner's Court dvd.

Com. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Com. Martinez seconded the motion.

After discussion, Com. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item effective July 1, 2009. Com. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Honorable Rudy Rodriguez, Constable Pct. 1

Item No. 16. Discussion and possible action to authorize the transfer of employee to be assigned to J.J. A. E.P., and to approve the filling of the following Slot, effective June 8, 2009.

	Transfer Employee	Title	Hourly Rate
From:	2374	Deputy Constable (J.J.A.E.P.)	\$19.13
To:	2373	Deputy Constable	\$19.13
	Fill Slot #	Title	Hourly Rate
	2374	Deputy Constable (J.J.A.E.P.)	\$19.13

Item No. 17. Discussion and possible action to approve a change of title for the following slot, effective June 8, 2009.

	Slot #	Title	Hourly Rate
From:	1266	Executive Secretary/ Office Manager	\$19.13
To:	1266	Executive Secretary/ Peace Officer	\$19.13

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve items 16 and 17 as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Honorable Ruben Reyes, Constable Pct. 2

Item No. 18. Discussion and possible action to waive the freeze on the following line item transfer:

From:	001-2503-6402	Repairs & Maintenance Equipment	471
	001-2503-5011	Sick Leave Buy Back	6
To:	001-2503-6014	Equipment Rental	477

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Honorable Martin Cuellar, Sheriff

Item No. 19. Discussion and possible action to approve the submission of a 2009 Bulletproof Vest Grant Application to the Bulletproof Vest Partnership for bulletproof vests for the Sheriff's Department and other County Law Enforcement agencies. This grant

has a Fifty (50%) percent cash match, which will be provided through the Webb County Sheriff's Federal Forfeiture fund (170) and other Law Enforcement Department Budgets.

- Item No. 20. Discussion and possible action to approve the submission of an Edward Byrne Local Grant Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Application in conjunction with the City of Laredo to the Department of Justice for community-oriented instructional equipment and supplies in the amount of \$69,907. This grant has no cash match; and, thus, is at no cost to the County of Webb.

Com. Sciaraffa motioned to approve items 19 and 20 as submitted. Com. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

#### Administrative Services

- Item No. 21. Discussion and possible action to approve and adopt a policy concerning sensitive and non-public information to help prevent identity theft.

Com. Tijerina motioned approve item as submitted. Com. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

#### Community Action Agency

- Item No. 22. Discussion and possible action to accept \$17,500.00 from Reliant Energy Retail Services, LCC. for the CARE Program. The Webb County Community Action Agency will utilize these funds to assist qualified Reliant Energy Retail Services, LCC clients. [Account #902-4202-7004]

- Item No. 23. Discussion and possible action to fill the following Slot for the "El Aguila" Rural Transportation Program, effective June 8, 2009. This is a Grant Funded position.

Slot #	Title	Hourly Rate
1911	Driver (Part-time, no benefits)	\$9.36

Com. Sciaraffa motioned to approve items 22 and 23 as submitted. Com. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

#### Engineer

- Item No. 24. Discussion and possible action to approve the following line item transfer:

From:	801-3001-6201	Utilities	5,000
	801-3001-6407	Repair & Maint. Waterlines	2,000
	801-3002-6204	Fuel & Lubricants	5,500
To:	801-3001-6214	Chemicals	12,500
From:	801-3004-6204	Fuel & Lubricants	2,000

To: 801-3001-6022-8 Lab Work & Testing 2,000

Item No. 25. Discussion and possible action to approve the following line item transfers:

From: 711 Certificate of Obligations Interest Income 50,000  
Series 2006

To: 801-3004-6411 Repairs & Maint. 50,000

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve items 24 and 25 as submitted. Cmr. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 26. Discussion and possible action to award the bid for the Webb County EDAP/CWTAP Project No. 10201 new Twelve Inch Water Line servicing the cities of Rio Bravo and El Cenizo to Closner Construction in the amount of \$338,466.00.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item contingent upon no taxes being owed to Webb County. Cmr. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Mr. Fitzgerald Sanchez, County Engineer, advised the Court that there was a correction on item 25 on the line item being transferred to should be 726-3001-8801 Capital Outlay Account.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item 25 with the correction. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

## Facilities

Item No. 27. Discussion and possible action to approve the purchase of a NCM-350 controller for the Central Chiller Plant from Johnson Controls in the amount \$5,534.00 and to charge this expenditure to the Repairs and Maintenance of Equipment account. [Account #001-0106-6402]

Item No. 28. Discussion and possible action to approve the following line item transfer:

From: 001-0106-6403 (Bldg. Maint.) Repairs & Maint. of Veh. 500  
To: 001-6002-6403 (Parks & Grounds) Repairs & Maint. of Veh. 500

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve items 27 and 28 as submitted. Cmr. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

## Planning

Item No. 29. Discussion and possible action to approve the issuance of "Certificates of Compliance with Plat Requirements Regarding the Connection of Utilities" to authorize water and sewer service connections pursuant to the provisions of Section 232.028(b), Local Government Code and contingent upon the owner's

execution of required affidavits regarding present and future dwellings/structures limitations, uses and sales for the following properties:

**Ranchitos 359 East Subdivision**

1) Tracts 55 & 56 (2 non-residential service connections only)

**Tanquecitos South Acres, Phase I Subdivision**

2) Tract 31 (1 non-residential service connection only)

3) Tract 17 (1 non-residential service connection only)

4) Tracts 18, 19, 20, 21 (1 non-residential service connection only)

Staff recommends approval of the above-referenced properties as submitted containing Five (5) non-residential service connections on Eight (8) lots.

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

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

**Public Defender**

Item No. 30. Discussion and possible action to enter into a Nine (9) month agreement to lease Six (6) office spaces located at 1102 Scott St. between Webb County and Professional Services Plaza, to be utilized by the Webb County Public Defender's Juvenile Department in the amount of \$11,172.60 including all utilities, with authorization to extend for an additional Three (3) months at the same rate and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Fund 022 (Equalization Grant)]

Item No. 31. Discussion and possible action to allow the Public Defender to apply for a grant under the National Initiatives Adjudication Program. The grant would be an 18 month grant and monies would be used to hire an Assistant Public Defender. The grant does not require matching funds from the County.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve items 30 and 31 as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

**Purchasing**

Item No. 32. Discussion and possible action to authorize a Three (3) Year Support Option for an Ironport C150 Email Security Appliance in the amount of \$26,073.90 from Solid Border (DIR-SDD-255) for the M.I.S. Department. [Requested by Jaime F. Alvarado, MIS Director; Account #001-0500-6402 (Repairs & Maintenance Equipment)]

Item No. 33. Discussion and possible action to award Bid 2009-22 "Larga Vista Head Start Roofing Project" to A Rod Construction in the amount of \$16,450.00. [Requested by Eloy Ramirez, Jr., Purchasing Agent Director; Account #0114-9201- May "08 Storm].

Item No. 34. Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchase of an Audio System in the amount of \$10,764.00 from Southwest Sound and Electronics, Inc. for the Youth Village Courtroom. [Requested by Melissa Mojica, Juvenile Detention Center Director; Account #684-1301-8410]

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve items 32, 33, and 34 as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

### Commissioner's Court

**Addendum Item No. 1** Discussion and possible action for clarification from the court regarding action taken by Commissioner's Court on Friday, May 15, 2009, Item #5 (see attached official minutes) regarding incentive pay for Mrs. Alice Medina (Garcia) as a result of her appointment as Interim Director of the Self Help Center; and any matters incident thereto.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to table the item. Cmr. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

### **Item No. 35. Adjourn**

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to adjourn. Cmr. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.