



MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 8th day of March, 2021, the Honorable Commissioners Court of Uvalde County, Texas convened in regular session via video conferencing utilizing Zoom. The following members were in attendance:

William R. Mitchell, *County Judge*
John Yeackle, *Commissioner Pct. #1*
Mariano Pargas, *Commissioner Pct. #2*
Jerry W. Bates, *Commissioner Pct. #3*
John Dodson, *County Attorney*
Valerie Del Toro Romero, *County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of
the Commissioner's Court*

Also connected to video conference utilizing Zoom were: *County Treasurer* Joni Deorsam, *County Auditor* Alice Chapman, *Sheriff* Ruben Nolasco, *Tax Assessor Collector* Rita Vertuyft, *County Consultant* Carl Esser, *District Attorney* Christina Mitchell Busbee, *Elections Administrator* Melissa Jones, *Fairplex Director* Wendy Speer, *Road Administrator* Dee Kirkpatrick, *ABEI Development Manager* Trey Patton with *ABEI Energy*, *ABEI Development Engineer* Patrick Walsh with *ABEI Energy* and *Julye Keeble* with *Uvalde Leader News*.

Absent: Ronnie Garza, *Commissioner Pct. #4*

1. Consider and act upon call to order, invocation and pledge of allegiance:

The Honorable William R. Mitchell called the meeting of March 8, 2021 to order at 10:02 AM followed with the invocation, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Consider and act upon approval of minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Bates to approve the minutes of February 22, 2021.

Seconded by Commissioner Yeackle.

Motion carried (2-0-1) with Commissioner Pargas abstaining his vote.

3. Consider and act upon resolution to award grant writing administration contract for colonia project:

The Court considered a resolution to award the professional service provider contract for the 2021-2022 TXCDBG Colonia Fund Construction. Four firms including; Blias & Associates, Esser & Company LLC, KBB Consulting and KSBR Consulting were contacted and requested to reply from the pre-qualified list on the Texas Department of Agriculture website. Esser & Company Consulting LLC was the only firm that replied to the invitation.

Copies of bids/proposals may be obtained from the office of the Uvalde County Judge.
Motion by Commissioner Pargas to award the contract to Esser & Company LLC.
Seconded by Commissioner Bates.
Motion carried (3-0).

4. Consider and act upon resolution to apply for FY 22 Local Border Security Program:

County Consultant Carl Esser requested the Court's approval of a resolution for the Uvalde County Local Border Security Program Solicitation FY 22 LSBP. The one year grant application in the amount of \$21,000.00 begins on September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 and is to be used strictly for overtime pay for sheriff deputies to provide enhanced patrol. There is no match required in this grant. The application deadline is March 18, 2021.
Motion by Commissioner Bates to approve resolution for Local Border Security Program.
Seconded by Commissioner Yeackle.
Motion carried (3-0).

5. Consider and act upon resolution to apply for FY 22 Border Prosecution Unit Grant:

County Consultant Carl Esser requested approval on a resolution to apply for FY 22 Border Prosecution Grant in the amount of \$764,916.22 for a period of two years beginning September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2023. The grant monies provide for a border prosecutor position, investigator, travel cost, training, bullet proof vest and cell phone cost. The application deadline is March 18, 2021.
Motion by Commissioner Pargas to approve the resolution for the Border Prosecution Unit Grant.
Seconded by Commissioner Bates.
Motion carried (3-0).

6. Consider and act upon Sheriff racial profiling report:

The Court considered the submission of a racial profiling report submitted for approval by Uvalde County Sheriff Ruben Nolasco pursuant to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure §2.132 requiring the governing body of each county or municipality served by an agency certified under the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement if the agency is an agency of a county, municipality or other political subdivision of the state to provide an annual policy and report that clearly defines acts constituting racial profiling.
Motion by Commissioner Pargas to approve the racial profiling report as submitted by the Uvalde County Sheriff Ruben Nolasco.
Seconded by Commissioner Yeackle.
Motion carried (3-0).

7. Consider and act upon resolution supporting annual cybersecurity training for officials and staff:

County Auditor Alice Chapman outlined the cybersecurity training mandate pursuant to Texas Government Code §2054.5191. All elected officials, staff and any employees who

have access to a local government computer system or database must complete a cybersecurity training program certified by the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) at least annually. The cybersecurity training is available at no cost to the county through the Texas Association of Counties. The training must be completed no later than June 14, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Yeackle to approve the annual cybersecurity training requirement for officials and staff.

Seconded by Commissioner Pargas.

Motion carried (3-0).

8. Consider and act upon winter storm declaration of disaster:

County Judge William R. Mitchell issued a Declaration of Disaster on February 16, 2021 for a period of seven (7) days due to extremely severe winter weather, sub-freezing temperatures, freezing rain and snow that resulted in widespread damage leaving thousands of residents without electrical power and water for several days. The Court considered and approved the issuance of a new declaration which would allow for businesses and individuals to seek Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance.

Motion by Commissioner Yeackle to approve declaration of disaster.

Seconded by Commissioner Bates.

Motion carried (3-0).

9. Consider and act upon presentation of ABEI Energy pertaining to proposed solar farm project:

Project Development Manager Trey Patton and Project Development Engineer Patrick Walsh with ABEI Energy provided a power point presentation to the Court with an overview and introduction of ABEI Energy and their proposed solar farm project planned for an area along Highway 90 between Uvalde and Knippa.

No action taken.

10. Consider and act upon Road Administrators report:

Road Administrator Dee Kirkpatrick informed the Court that the Road Department cleared right of ways on County Roads 106, 107 and 429, washed off molasses from County Road 101 at the Frio Crossing, removed the remainder of dirt from the Utopia School track, Cut the culvert and received the steel for the Bear Creek Crossing and assisted EOC (Emergency Operations Center) with distribution of cases of water.

No action taken.

11. Consider and act upon line item budget amendments:

No amendments were presented to the court for consideration at this time.

No action taken.

12. Consider and act upon payment of bills:

Motion by Commissioner Bates to approve payment of bills.

Seconded by Commissioner Pargas.

Motion carried (3-0).

13. Consider and act upon payroll approval:

Motion by Commissioner Bates to approve payroll.
Seconded by Commissioner Pargas.
Motion carried (3-0).

14. Consider and act upon approval of monthly reports:

Monthly reports on file for review in the office of the Uvalde County Clerk were presented to the Court for consideration and approval.
Motion by Commissioner Bates to approve monthly reports.
Seconded by Commissioner Pargas.
Motion carried (3-0).

15. Consider and act upon resolutions and proclamations:

The Court approved resolutions in honor of the memory of the following individuals:

Robert Joe Beal, Jr. †
Sean Bonnette †
Randy Crispin †
Esdula Gomez †
Joe Earl Hargrove †
Leonor Martinez †
Rosa Martinez †
Andrea Moreno †
Jean Pepper †
John Rambie †
Leticia Risa †
J.H. (Slim) Teague †
Maria Zapata †

16. Executive Session (As permitted by Section 551.074, Texas Government Code)

a. Discussion with District Attorney potential litigation regarding sale of 38th Judicial District Attorney's building-property located in Medina County.

The Court entered into Executive Session (As permitted by Section 551.074, Texas Government Code) at 10:37 AM.

17. Convene in regular session and take action, if any.

The Court reconvened into regular session at 11:12 AM after discussion with District Attorney Christina Mitchell Busbee regarding the sale of the 38th Judicial District Attorney's building/property located in Medina County.

No action taken.

With no further business, the meeting of March 8, 2021 was adjourned.

Exhibits identified under a specific agenda item are included as supporting documentation of the action taken by the Uvalde County Commissioners Court and are placed after the minutes and before the last page titled Commissioners Court Order.

COMMISSIONERS COURT ORDER

On this the 22nd day of March, 2021, came to be heard the Uvalde County Commissioners Court Minutes of March 8, 2021 as prepared by the Clerk of the Court.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED the foregoing be recorded and entered for record in the UVALDE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES, as required by law. (ORDER 03-12-12)

APPROVED BY: _____

William R. Mitchell, County Judge

John Yeackle, Commissioner Pct. #1

Mariano Pargas, Jr., Commissioner Pct. #2

Jerry W. Bates, Commissioner Pct. #3

Ronnie Garza, Commissioner Pct. #4

(SEAL)

ATTEST: _____

Valerie Del Toro Romero, County Clerk and
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court
of Uvalde County, Texas