

Official Minutes for Webb County Commissioners Court Special Meeting

Thursday, January 6, 2011 at 4:30 PM
(Approved January 24, 2011)

Call to order by Judge Danny Valdez

Let it be remembered that a regular meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court was held at 4:30 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
Jaime Alberto Canales	Commissioner, Pct. 4

Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon the Agenda as posted in the meeting notice of the 3rd day of January 2011. Present also were Ms. Virginia Martinez, 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

Item No.3. Communications

Cmr. Sciaraffa – No comments.

Cmr. Tijerina welcomed and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Judge Valdez welcomed and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Cmr. Garza – No comments.

Cmr. Canales wished everyone a Happy New Year and gave thanks for his welcoming. He stated that he was aware that many individuals are concern about the community centers that had been automatically closed due to the problems that had occurred. Cmr. Canales mentioned that he would be doing the best to his ability during the next two weeks in hopes that the community centers will be opened by the 24th of January 2011.

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.

Jose Romero

Mr. Romero asked the court to do everything possible in order to keep the promise Mr. Canales made regarding the opening of the three community center; La Ladrillera, Lily Perez, and La Azteca.

Judge Valdez mentioned he had met with District Attorney Isidro "Chilo" Alaniz and that was aware of the fact that there are certain concerns that may not be said in open court. He stated that it was important for the community to realize that the court will do whatever it takes to make sure that the people that took advantage are dealt with either civilly or criminally.

District Attorney, Isidro "Chilo" Alaniz

Mr. Alaniz stated that he was not in liberty to discuss too much about the ongoing investigation. He mentioned that he assured the court and the people of Webb County that an investigation was being conducted. Mr. Alaniz stated that the Texas Department of Housing, the State Auditor's Department, and the Office of the Inspector General; Branch of the Federal Government were just some of the agencies that are examining the evidence in the case. Different branches of federal, state, and local law enforcement are looking into the case and its evidence.

Judge Valdez thanked District Attorney Isidro "Chilo" Alaniz for the information he presented to the court. He mentioned that he was aware of how tedious and time consuming the investigation is but that he wants to reassure the community that the court is going to do whatever it takes to prosecute those individuals who took advantage and that took part in any illegal activity.

Comr. Tijerina thanked Mr. Alaniz for cooperating with the investigation and was aware that he was in constant communication with the offices in Austin, TX. She asked Mr. Alaniz to continue cooperating with the investigation and to proceed with whatever needs to be done. She concluded by thanking him for all that he is doing.

Judge Valdez motioned to go into Executive Session. Comr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

(Executive Session 4:43 p.m. – 5:32 p.m.)

No action taken in Executive Session.

Item No.5. Status report from the CAA management team and County Attorney's office regarding the report and findings received on December 23, 2010 from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) on their inspection and review of Webb County CAA programs conducted October 25-29 and November 1-5, 2010; with discussion and possible action to submit a response and proposed course of action; and any other matters incident thereto. [Executive Session may be requested pursuant to Texas Government Code, Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]

Discussion on file at the Webb County Clerk's Office January 6, 2011 Commissioner's Court Special Meeting DVD.

County Attorney Ana Laura Cavazos Ramirez recommended for the court to review the proposed response being drafted by Mr. Vargas from the Management Team. She suggested for the court to give any additions or deletions upon the review of Mr. Vargas' draft for possible submission to the department in order to assure that the proposed course of action does not in any way impede the activity of the other funds that are received from the state.

Judge Valdez motioned to proceed with County Attorney Ana Laura Cavazos Ramirez's recommendations. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No.6. Discussion and possible action to re-hire employee in Slot #1162, Administrative Staff (Manager Support Services), effective January 7, 2011, only up to the percentage of time being paid out of CSBG funds. [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)] [Requested by CAA Management Team]

Discussion on file at the Webb County Clerk's Office January 6, 2011 Commissioner's Court Special Meeting DVD.

County Attorney Ana Laura Cavazos Ramirez stated that the recommendation from the Management Team was for the court to hire an individual that Mr. Vargas is suggesting from which will need to be put as an item in the next Commissioner's Court Meeting reading as a temporary part-time position. She mentioned that no action was necessary on item #6.

Cmr. Garza stated that he wanted to assure the community that any individuals who would be hired would be clear from any involvement of the issues being faced.

No action taken.

Item No.7. Status report by Administrative Services department regarding Request for Qualifications for CAA director position; with discussion and possible action to schedule a meeting date and time to interview and select a new director; and any other matters incident thereto. [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]

Cynthia Mares, Administrative Services

Ms. Mares stated that as of 3 p.m., the deadline of submitting applications for CAA Director, there were nineteen applicants from which one was disqualified for not meeting the deadline. She mentioned that after screening the applications, six can be disqualified for not meeting the minimum qualifications, therefore leaving twelve applicants for interviews.

Judge Valdez motioned to set up interviews for Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. giving each

applicant 10 to 15 minutes in each interview. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Judge Valdez commended the Management Team for all the work they have done. He stated that he would be traveling to Austin, TX on Thursday, January 13, 2011 to meet with the Executive Director in hopes to unfreeze some accounts in order to bring back the programs to the CAA. He concluded by thanking Representative Richard Raymond for setting up the meeting.

Item No.8. Adjourn

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

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.