

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF ORANGE

BE IT REMEMBERED that a Regular Court Session was held on Tuesday, September 15, 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
Chris Sowell,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Kirk F. Roccaforte,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Robert Viator Jr.,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

Absent was: Johnny A. Trahan, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 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 Jessica Irvin, EDC, spoke about Let's Eat Orange County Restaurant Week. Starting on September 21st through the 27th, thirty-one Orange County restaurants will be participating from Bridge City, Vidor, Orange, West Orange, Pinehurst and Mauriceville.
Kirk Roccaforte said to keep Commissioner Trahan and his wife in prayer. He also said he wished Commissioner Trahan was here to talk about the Longhorns' win.
2. BUDGET ADDITIONS Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve the following items to be added to the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget:
 - \$60,000 Capital Outlay expenditure for cameras for Parks;
 - For Payroll, \$3,500 for K9 Handler fee for Sheriff's Office;
 - Correction on P1 – P4 employess who will receive \$1.00 in addition to the \$2.00 raise for all employees totaling \$3.00
 - Raise the GIS person from \$20.00 to \$21.00.
3. RATIFY PROPERTY TAX Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator approving that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of .492847, which is effectively a 5.5% increase in the tax rate.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

4. ADOPT
BUDGET

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to officially adopt the Orange County Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, following a mandatory record vote of the Commissioner's Court.

John Gothia: AYE
Johnny Trahan: ABSENT
Chris Sowell: AYE
Kirk Roccaforte: AYE
Robert Viator: AYE
Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)

5. ADOPT
TAX RATE

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve, by record vote, an Order setting the final total property tax rate for the 2026 tax year at \$0.492847 per \$100 valuation, which exceeds the No-New Revenue tax rate of \$0.465032 and executing mandatory statutory language certifying the 5.5% increase.

John Gothia: AYE
Johnny Trahan: ABSENT
Chris Sowell: AYE
Kirk Roccaforte: AYE
Robert Viator: AYE
Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)

6. BILLS

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell approving payment of September 15, 2026 bills approved by County Auditor as per attested listings and also specifically as follows:

- a. \$186,695.60 from the General Fund (001-111-54110) to Orange County Appraisal District for 4th Quarter funding.

GENERAL FUND	\$434,034.25
ROAD & BRIDGE	249,261.66
MOSQUITO CONTROL	5,495.26
ADULT PROBATION	3,469.94
AIRPORT	2,468.99
CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS	-
ARPA	-

TOTAL FOR PAYMENT	\$694,730.10

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

7. ADOPT
SPECIAL
BUDGET

Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to adopt a Special Budget as certified by the County Auditor, in accordance with the provision of Local Government Code §111.106 to recognize revenues and establish accurate budget levels for funding received after budget approval.

Revenues:	050-000-44445	(SB-8 Grant Revenue)	(\$80,000.00)
Expenses:	050-956-51115	(Compensation Costs)	\$20,000.00
	050-956-53165	(Other Admin. Costs)	\$ 300.00
	050-956-53167	(Reporting Costs)	\$ 500.00
	050-956-54421	(Jail Related Costs)	\$30,000.00
	050-956-54551	(Travel/Education)	\$ 5,000.00
	050-956-57500	(Equipment Non-Inv < \$2,000)	\$ 2,200.00
	050-956-57590	(Equipment > \$5,000)	\$16,000.00
	050-956-57595	(Equip. between \$2,000 & \$4,999)	\$ 6,000.00

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

8. LINE ITEM
TRANSFER

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to authorize the line item transfer as follows:

TRANSPORTATION

From:	001-601-54130 (Contracted Services & Maint.).....	(\$6,000.00)
To:	001-601-57550 (Repairs/Rentals/Constr./Etc.).....	\$6,000.00
	001-601-52300 (Fuel, Oil, Gas & Grease).....	\$3,000.00

Purpose: To cover expenses for the remainder of the year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

9. APPROVE
PURCHASE

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator approving the purchase of a replacement fuel storage tank by the end of the fiscal budget year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

10. LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Chris Sowell to authorize the line item transfer as follows:

ROAD & BRIDGE

From: 002-573-57550 (Repairs/Rentals/Constr./Etc.).....(\$8,850.00)
To: 002-573-57590 (Equip. > \$5,000).....\$8,850.00

Purpose: To cover the cost of purchasing a replacement fuel storage tank by the end of the fiscal budget year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

11. APPROVE PURCHASE Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell approving the equipment purchase of 2 Grapple attachments by the end of the fiscal budget year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

12. LINE ITEM TRANSFER Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to authorize the line item transfer as follows:

ROAD & BRIDGE

From: 002-573-57550 (Repairs/Rentals/Constr./Etc.).....(\$12,300.00)
To: 002-573-57590 (Equip. > \$5,000).....\$12,300.00

Purpose: To cover the cost of purchasing 2 Grapple attachments by the end of the fiscal budget year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

13. APPOINT TO EDC BOARD Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to acknowledge for the record an appointment of Jay Trahan as the City's representative on the Orange County EDC Board.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

14. APPLY
FOR
GRANT
- Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to approve by Resolution authorizing submission of the revised 2026 Project Safe Neighborhoods Program – Crime and Public-Safety Analyst Project grant application (Grant Number 5835101) to the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office for an additional employee paid by the grant and the position for said employee is only as long as the grant is available; designating John Gothia, Orange County Judge, as Authorized Official and Lisa Schroeder as Financial Office; and providing assurance for return of funds in the event of loss or misuse.
- Voted AYE: Kirk Roccaforte, Robert Viator, John Gothia
Abstained from Voting: Chris Sowell
Motion Carried.
(See Exhibits for this date.)
15. NO ACTION
- No action taken on discussion and possible action to approve the purchase of a replacement uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for the Sheriff's Office dispatch center from Solid IT Networks in the amount of \$23,884.74 under DIR contract DIR-CPO-5404, to be paid from existing FY 2026 Sheriff's Office budget funds.
16. NO ACTION
- No action taken on discussion and possible action to approve a request for Orange County to move to a .GOV domain when we move to the updated website. This change will allow us to be more secure and quickly recognizable as a trusted government entity. Please authorize Lisa Reeves to fill out the registration paperwork on behalf of the County.
17. APPROVE
PLAT
- Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to approve the replat of 4.386 (called 4.387) acres of land into Lots 4-7 being a "Family Partition" of all of the "remainder Leonel Mendoza Property" in the William Dyson Survey, Abstract No. 10, Volume 15, Page 65 of the Map Records of Orange County, Texas. This final plat has been reviewed and approved by the Orange County Road Administrator and the Orange County Drainage District. The proper filing and reproduction fees have been paid and a tax statement has been provided.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
(See Maps. Volume 16, Page 85)
18. 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 session. This session was not recorded.

19. RETURN TO OPEN MEETING Return to open meeting. Take any action deemed necessary based upon discussion in closed meeting.

NO ACTION No action taken on 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.

20. ADJOURN MEETING There being no further business, a motion was made by Robert Viator, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte 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

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