STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ORANGE

BE IT REMEMBERED that a Special Court Session was held on Tuesday, October 20, 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
Johnny A. Trahan,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Chris Sowell,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Kirk F. Roccaforte,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Robert Viator Jr.,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 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 — Ellis Tate from Orange talked about the uniqueness of the area and told story of No Man's Land between Sabine and Calcasieu River. He talked about a meeting being held in the evening of October 20, 2026 and thanked the Commissioners for working as a team and for what they do.

2. PRESENTATION — Acknowledge and presentation of programs and Spindletops presence in Orange County by Holly Borel, CEO and Danielle Pardue, Director of Business Development.

3. HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX — Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve the Hotel Occupancy Tax funds allotment for FY 2026-2027 from recommendations from the EDC Board as discussed in prior workshop.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

4. PRESENTATION — Acknowledge and presentation of the GCPD's 2025 Annual Report to Orange County Commissioners Court.

5. TREASURER MONTHLY REPORT — Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Johnny Trahan to accept the monthly reports from the County Treasurer for the month ending September 30, 2026, and recording in the minutes of the Court:

a. Approval of Investments for $136,002.67
b. Approval of Interest Earned to date $1,994,671.80

c. Treasurer's Report of revenues received and disbursed by the Local Government Code 114.026(d) and affidavit of approval by the court. This report will be available on the county's website for viewing.

d. Pledged Security Collateral for a total of $26,854,061.45 summary as follows:
   - Wells Fargo Bank $19,868,487.81
   - 1st Financial Bank $6,985,573.64

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

6. TREASURER QUARTERLY REPORT

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator to approve filing in the minutes of the Court the County Treasurer's quarterly investment report as required by HB 2459, Public Funds Investment Act. This report is for the Quarter ending September 30, 2026, and will be available for viewing on the County's web site.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

7. DIRECT DEPOSIT

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte seconded by Chris Sowell to approve filing in the minutes of the Court a direct deposit from the State Comptroller of Public Accounts in the minutes of the court for $642,976.31. These funds represent the ½-cent Sales and Use Allocation for August 2026 and are credited to the General Operating Fund.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

8. ACCEPT CHECK

Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Chris Sowell to file in the minutes of the Court revenue received from City of Pine Forest, Check #4188, in the amount of $249.42. These funds are reimbursement for road materials.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

9. ACCEPT CHECK

Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Chris Sowell to file in the minutes of the court revenue received from City of Pine Forest, Check #4202, in the amount of $240.00. These funds are reimbursement for road materials.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to record in the minutes regarding payment of bills approved by the County Auditor for October 13, 2026.

GENERAL FUND	$108,275.15
ROAD & BRIDGE	-
MOSQUITO CONTROL	-
ADULT PROBATION	$2,551.53
AIRPORT	$2,128.05
CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS	-
TOTAL FOR PAYMENT	$112,954.73

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

11. BILLS

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to pay October 20, 2026 bills approved by the County Auditor as per attested listings and also specifically as follows:

a. $43,308.00 from the General Fund (001-105-54190) to SHI Government Solutions for M365 APPS Enterprise GCC Subscription 10/01/2026-09/30/2027 (Year 1 of 3).

b. $34,668.76 from the General Fund (001-111-53880) to Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission for FY 2027 membership and programs.

c. $7,288.05 from the General Fund (001-111-53880) to Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission for 2027 S.T.A.N. membership.

d. $21,652.84 from the General Fund (001-111-54235) to U.T.M.B. for contract payment due October 2026.

e. $4,625.00 from the TDRA/GLO/Recovery Grants Fund (073-936-53003) to Gary R. Traylor & Associates, Inc. for CDBG-DR Imelda: Tulane Street Improvement Project administrative services 06/01/2026-07/31/2026.

f. $2,362.50 from the Special Grants Fund (081-927-53000) to Architects, Inc. for Public Health Building: Construction Admin services through 09/30/2026.

GENERAL FUND	$647,339.42
ROAD & BRIDGE	$227,396.81
MOSQUITO CONTROL	$4,434.25
ADULT PROBATION	$13,035.58
AIRPORT	$8,004.63
CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS	$5,067.50
TOTAL FOR PAYMENT	$905,278.19
IN ADDITION TO: STATE CRIMINAL COSTS AND FEES QUARTER ENDING	$165,378.48

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

12. AUDITORS MONTHLY REPORT

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to receive the County Auditor's Monthly Financial Reports.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

13. LINE-ITEM TRANSFER

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to approve a line-item transfer:

ROAD & BRIDGE

From: 002-573-57550 (Repairs/Rentals/Const./Etc.) .....($2500.00)
To: 002-573-54190 (Software and Programming) $2500.00

Purpose: To cover cost of software for Mechanic Shop.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

14. LINE-ITEM TRANSFER

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Johnny Trahan to approve a line-item transfer:

ROAD & BRIDGE

From: 002-573-54130 (Contracted Services & Maintenance).....($831.00)
To: 002-573-54190 (Software and Programming) $831.00

Purpose: To cover cost of software renewals for 1 year from Allterra.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

15. LINE-ITEM TRANSFER

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve a line-item transfer:

COUNTY CLERK

From: 040-926-59999 (Other) .....($500,000.00)
To: 040-926-61112 (Special Project) $500,000.00

Purpose: To move funds to correct line item to cover invoices for the Eagle Recorder conversion in the County Clerk's office.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

16. ACCEPT CERTIFICATION

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator to accept the certification of the September 2026 Collection Report for the Tax Office as required under PTC 31.10.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

17. ACCEPT CERTIFICATION

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan to accept the certification of the Annual Report Summary Collections for Year Ending September 2026 for the Tax Office as required under the PTC 31.10.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

18. ACCEPT CERTIFICATION

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan to accept the certification of the 2026 Delinquent Tax Roll (Property Tax Code Section 26.09(e)).

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

19. ACCEPT CERTIFICATION

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to accept the certification of the 2026 Current Tax Roll (Property Tax Code Section 26.09(e)).

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

20. HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator to set the Orange County Employee Holiday Luncheon on December 11, 2026 and for offices to close to the public at 2 pm.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

21. CHANGE ROAD NAME

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell to acknowledge the citizen is changing the name of Buller Lane, a private road in Precinct 3, to Granville Lane for 911 purposes.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

22. SET HEARING

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to set a Public Hearing on December 8, 2026 at 9:30 AM regarding citizen requests for improvement of the access road within the Minor Plat of Quiet Country, as permitted by Texas Transportation Code Chapter 253. Such improvements would result in an assessment against the landowners of the costs and would require the approval of a majority vote of the landowner of the subdivided property.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

23. RESOLUTION

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Johnny Trahan to accept a Resolution for the Fiscal Year 2026 Port Security Grant Program Award No. EMW-2026-PU-05283 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA in the amount of $319,239.00 in federal funds; committing the required county cost share of $106,413.00; and authorizing the County Judge to execute all documents necessary to accept and administer the award.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

24. APPROVE INCREASE

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve an increase for the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's) for the jail requested under capital outlay for the 26/27 budget year. The final quote acquired in October was $1,700 more than originally quoted in June 2026.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

25. LINE-ITEM TRANSFER

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to approve a line-item transfer:

OSCO JAIL

From: 001-743-57550 (Repairs/Rentals/Constr./Etc.).....($600.00)
To: 001-743-57595 (Equip. between $2,000 & $4,999).....$600.00

Purpose: To provide funds to cover the remaining cost of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) in the jail. The SCBAs were approved in Commissioner's Court for the 26/27 budget year.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

26. APPROVE INCREASE

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan to approve an increase for the APX N70 portable radio requested under capital outlay for the 26/27 budget year. The final quote acquired in October was $1,679.32 more than originally quote in June 2026. This is due to a promotional offer that ended prior to new budget.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

27. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell to enter a multi-jurisdictional Interlocal Agreement for Southeast Texas Auto Theft Task Force, to participate in a combined task force funded by the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) of the State of Texas for FY 2027 Senate Bill 224 Grant and authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

28. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to enter a multi-jurisdictional Interlocal Agreement for FY 2027. Southeast Texas Auto Theft Task Force, to participate in a combined task force funded by the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) of the State of Texas and authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

29. INTERLOCAL CONTRACT

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve amendment #2, extension of terms for an Interlocal Cooperation Contract for Jail Based Competency Restoration Services between Orange County and Spindletop Center for the period of September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027 and authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

30. INTERLOCAL CONTRACT

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve amendment #1 to the Mental Health Liaison Interlocal Cooperation Contract with Spindletop Center. This amendment extends the contract for 1 year, dated September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027 and specifies salary covered for one Liaison Deputy.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

31. APPROVE INCREASE

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve an increase for the automatic gate/fence requested under capital outlay for the 26/27 budget year. The final quote acquired in October was $800 more than originally quoted in March due to the price increase of materials needed. The original quote was $9,200 and the final quote is $10,000.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

32. LINE-ITEM TRANSFER

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve a line-item transfer:

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

From: 001-740-57550 (Repairs/Rentals/Const./Etc.).....($800.00)
To: 001-740-57590 (Equipment > $5,000).....$800.00

Purpose: To provide funds to cover the remaining cost of the automatic gate/fence that was approved in Commissioners Court for the 26/27 budget year.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

33. AMEND GRANT

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan to amend the Real Time Crime Center – Information Share Grant #5485601 to allow for budgetary adjustments for the radio purchases.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

34. ADOPT SPECIAL BUDGET

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to adopt a special budget for the limited use of spending $22,500 for the Real Time Crime Center – Information Share Grant #5485601 on radios. The county auditor certifies this funding has been awarded for the specified use under the grant in accordance with LGC 111.0106 – Special Budget for Grant or aid money.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

35. ROAD & BRIDGE WORK HOURS

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to change the Road & Bridge Department work hours to a 4-10 work schedule starting October 26, 2026 with procedures presented by Tracy Leach, Road Administrator as a six month test.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

36. CAPITAL OUTLAY

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve a capital outlay to purchase a Bear Chip Spreader.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

37. LINE-ITEM TRANSFER

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to approve a line-item transfer:

ROAD & BRIDGE

From:	001-111-53830 (Contingency)	($243,424.00)
To:	002-573-57590 (Equip. > $5,000)	$243,424.00

Purpose: To cover cost of the purchase of a Bearcat Chip Spreader.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

38. RESOLUTION

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to adopt a resolution to authorize submitting a Texas Community Development Block Grant program application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the 2027-2028 Community Development Fund and authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

39. APPROVE MOU

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve the MOU with Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission on the County's cost share for the Southeast Texas Alerting Network (STAN).

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

40. AWARD CONTRACT

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to award by resolution a contract for grant administrative services for the Mitigation Reallocation Program (MRP) through the Texas General Land Office under RFP 26007 to Grant Works by flip of coin and authorizing County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

41. SEVEN PINES SUBDIVISION

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan to approve an order for the proposed improvements and assessment of costs required by Texas Transportation Code 253.007 in Seven Pines Subdivision and authorizing the County Judge or Judge Pro Tem to sign the same.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.
(See exhibits for this date.)

42. CLOSED MEETING

Closed meeting held pursuant to Texas Government 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 meeting. This meeting was not recorded.

43. RETURN TO 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 Texas Government 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.

44. QUARANTINE LEAVE POLICY

Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to adopt a quarantine leave policy for law enforcement.

All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

45. 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

By: Haleigh Hutchison, Deputy

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