

**EL PASO COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

CARLOS LEON
Commissioner, Pct. 1

ILIANA HOLGUIN
Commissioner, Pct. 3



DAVID STOUT
Commissioner, Pct. 2

CARL L. ROBINSON
Commissioner, Pct. 4

RICARDO A. SAMANIEGO
County Judge

Commissioners Court Chambers, El Paso County Courthouse
500 East San Antonio Room 303 El Paso, Texas 79901
Website address: <http://www.epcounty.com>
View live video webcast: <http://epcounty.com/video>

**COMMISSIONERS COURT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021**

HON. RICARDO A. SAMANIEGO	COUNTY JUDGE, PRESIDING	VIDEOCONFERENCE
CARLOS LEON	COMMISSIONER, PCT #1	VIDEOCONFERENCE
DAVID S. STOUT	COMMISSIONER, PCT #2	VIDEOCONFERENCE
ILIANA HOLGUIN	COMMISSIONER, PCT #3	VIDEOCONFERENCE
CARL L. ROBINSON	COMMISSIONER, PCT #4	TELECONFERENCE

**MINUTES PREPARED BY JESSICA DOMINGUEZ, DEPUTY CLERK
CESAR O. NAVA, DEPUTY CLERK**

1. MEETING CONVENED

Commissioners Court of El Paso County, Texas was called to order by the Deputy Clerk at 9:30 A.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Zion White, 2nd Grade Student at North Star Elementary School, led the Commissioners Court in the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

3. INVOCATION

A. Receive an invocation by Danelle White, Associate Pastor at Bethel Worship Center.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the regular meeting of March 22, 2021 and the special meeting of March 25, 2021.
County Administration Department (915) 546-2215
- B. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the County of El Paso, Texas Contract Services Agreement for Consultant Services with Patrick Ibarra, dba, The Mejorando Group, for strategic planning consulting services in the amount of \$15,775 beginning April 12, 2021. Funding is available in GF-CNTYADMIN-CONTR SVC-GEN. (Contract No. 2021-0256)
Betsy C. Keller, CM, Chief Administrator, County Administration Department (915) 546-2215
- C. PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER HOLGUIN** - Accept the Quarterly Report from Life Ambulance Service, Inc.
Rachel Harracksingh, President, Life Ambulance Service, Inc. (915) 772-1642
- D. Pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code, Section 115.021, audit and settle all accounts against the County shown on the attached listing and direct the payment of those accounts.
Edward A. Dion, County Auditor, County Auditor's Office (915) 546-2040
- E. Approve amendment No. 25 to the County of El Paso's 2020-2021 operating budget. This budgetary amendment will increase Grants by \$38,821.00, thus increasing the overall budget of \$496,773,711.57 to \$496,812,532.57.
Wallace Hardgrove, Executive Director, Budget and Fiscal Policy Department (915) 546-2262
- F. PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER STOUT** - Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Resolution in support of the City of El Paso's FY22 Federal appropriation project submissions for community and transportation funding requests to Congresswoman Escobar's Office (TX-16). (OP-21-0469)
Wallace Hardgrove, Executive Director, Budget and Fiscal Policy Department (915) 546-2262
- G. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Texas Department of Agriculture Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program FY20 County 5147 Affidavit required by the TDA to close out the home delivered meal (HDM) grant program. (Contract No. 2021-0251)
Irene G. Valenzuela, Executive Director, Community Services Department (915) 775-2708
- H. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Public Transportation Project Grant Agreement Amendment #2, FY2021 State Rural Project Grant Agreement (PGA) with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to add FY20 residual funds and extend the grant time period to August 31, 2022. No County match is required. (Contract No. 2021-0245)
Jose M. Landeros, Director, Planning & Development Department (915) 546-2015
- I. Approve and accept the amendment of Emerald Park Unit Four Amending Plat No. 1, pursuant to requirements of the Texas Local Government Code §212.016 (Amending of Plat); further, authorize the filing and recording of the subdivision plat.
Jose M. Landeros, Director, Planning & Development Department (915) 546-2015
- J. Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code §232.023, approve and authorize the acceptance, filing and recording of the Garden Park at Mission Ridge Unit Two Subdivision plat upon execution of the respective County subdivision construction agreement.
Jose M. Landeros, Director, Planning & Development Department (915) 546-2015
- K. Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code §232.023, approve and authorize the acceptance, filing and recording of the Garden Park at Mission Ridge Unit Three Subdivision plat upon execution of the respective County subdivision construction agreement.
Jose M. Landeros, Director, Planning & Development Department (915) 546-2015
- L. Approve the Certificates of Plat Compliance (under Texas Local Government Code Section 232.028(a), as provided on the attached listing.
Norma Rivera Palacios, Executive Director, Public Works Department (915) 546-2015

M. PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER ROBINSON - Approve the purchase, installation, programming, and labor of El Paso County Courthouse Surveillance Phase I through Sheriff's Department (12104092) using Region 19 Contract 17-7221 awarded to Pyrocom Systems, Inc., of El Paso, Texas in the amount of \$116,901.91. Purchasing approved on March 29, 2021. Funding is available in CIP21-SO CH SECURITY-RENOV.

Debra Carrejo-Trull, CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 546-2048

N. PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER ROBINSON - Approve the purchase, removal and installation of HVAC Units for the County of El Paso Sheriff's Jail Annex using Region 19 Contract 18-7285 awarded to GAP Air Conditioning & Heating of El Paso, Texas in the amount of \$135,163.88. Purchasing approved on April 5, 2021. Funding is available in CIP19-PWSOJAILMAINT-RENOV-REP and CIP21-FAC JAIL ANNEX-RENOVATION.

Debra Carrejo-Trull, CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 546-2048

O. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Contract for as-needed Newspaper Advertisement Services and legal ads for the County of El Paso (Bid 21-005) with Investor Publications, Inc. dba El Paso Inc. of El Paso, TX for a one-year term with four one-year options to renew. Funding is available in account GF-GADM-ADVERTISING. (Contract No. 2021-0056)

Debra Carrejo-Trull, CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 546-2048

P. Approve and authorize the transfer and removal of surplus assets from the respective departments to the Purchasing Department in compliance with Texas Local Government Code Section 262.011(j). See attachment.

Debra Carrejo-Trull, CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 546-2048

Q. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Equipment Purchase and Installation Agreement with MJAMLP, Inc., d/b/a System Integrations, for the removal and installation of video surveillance equipment in the County Jail Annex in the amount of \$63,455. Funding is available in SG-SHTREASURYEQ19-CAP-OUTLAYS. (Contract No. 2021-0248)

Sheriff Richard D. Wiles, EPCSO (915) 538-2234

MOTION: APPROVE

Motion by County Judge Samaniego
Seconded by Commissioner Leon

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson
Members Voting Nay: None

5. RESOLUTIONS

A. Approve and adopt a resolution recognizing April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in El Paso County, Texas.

David C. Stout, Commissioner, Pct. 2 (915) 546-2111

MOTION: APPROVE

Motion by Commissioner Stout
Seconded by Commissioner Leon

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson
Members Voting Nay: None

B. Approve and adopt a Resolution declaring the week of April 11, 2021, to April 17, 2021, as "Public Safety Tele Communicators Week."

Carl L. Robinson, Commissioner, Pct. 4 (915) 546-2044

MOTION: APPROVE

Motion by Commissioner Robinson
Seconded by Commissioner Leon

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson
Members Voting Nay: None

C. Approve and adopt a resolution declaring April 12, 2021, as "Tom Thomas Day," in El Paso County, Texas.

Carl L. Robinson, Commissioner, Pct. 4 (915) 546-2044

MOTION: APPROVE

Motion by Commissioner Robinson
Seconded by County Judge Samaniego

Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson
Members Voting Nay: None

D. Approve and adopt a resolution declaring the week of April 11, 2021, to April 17, 2021 as "Shoshana Nyree Johnson Week" in El Paso County, Texas.

Carl L. Robinson, Commissioner, Pct. 4 (915) 546-2044

MOTION: APPROVE

Motion by Commissioner Robinson Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson
Seconded by County Judge Samaniego Members Voting Nay: None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eloiso De Avila, with El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization and Border Interfaith, regarding residents of El Paso County who were vulnerable and did not receive assistance from the first Federal Stimulus Package or Cares Funds, and how they were able to receive assistance through the Hunt Family Foundation Family Independence Initiative.

Mary Sanchez, concerned citizen, regarding being a recipient of Hunt Family Foundation Family Independence Initiative assistance funding and how she continues to need assistance through the pandemic.

Claudia Garcia, concerned citizen, also a recipient of Hunt Family Foundation Family Independence Initiative assistance funding and how she continues to need assistance through the pandemic.

7. PRESENTATION

A. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding the 87th Texas Legislative Session, to include presenting information for the Court's consideration, removing or including bills on the County's state legislative agenda and supporting or opposing filed legislation, and take any action necessary on aforementioned items.

Daniel Collins, Governmental Affairs Manager, County Administration Department (915) 546-2215

MOTION: SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS THAT OFFER REDUCED FARES TO PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES TO OFFER THE SAME REDUCED FARES TO PASSENGERS WITH SEVERE AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS.

BILL: HB 3914 (ORTEGA) / SB 2126 (BLANCO)

Motion by Commissioner Holguin Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson
Seconded by Commissioner Stout Members Voting Nay: None

MOTION: APPROVE A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SB 1704 (BLANCO), DESIGNATING U.S. 54 IN EL PASO AS THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY.

Motion by Commissioner Stout Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson
Seconded by Commissioner Holguin Members Voting Nay: None

MOTION: OPPOSE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE RELEASE OF PERSONALLY-IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OR OTHER INFORMATION THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE ENABLE IDENTITY THEFT.

BILL: HB 3535 (HUNTER) / SB 926 (ZAFFIRINI)

Motion by Commissioner Stout Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson
Seconded by County Judge Samaniego Members Voting Nay: None

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

4C. PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER HOLGUIN - Accept the Quarterly Report from Life Ambulance Service, Inc.

Rachel Harracksingh, President, Life Ambulance Service, Inc. (915) 772-1642

MOTION: ACCEPT

Motion by Commissioner Holguin Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Holguin, Robinson
Seconded by County Judge Samaniego Members Absent - Stout Members Voting Nay: None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

8. Receive a report and discuss the CARES Act Grant and the Coronavirus Response and Relief, Supplemental Appropriations Act 2021.

Wallace Hardgrove, Executive Director, Budget and Fiscal Policy Department (915) 546-2262

NO ACTION

9. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding El Paso County's preparation and response for COVID-19.

Betsy C. Keller, CM, Chief Administrator, County Administration Department (915) 546-2215

MEETING RECESSED AT 12:04 P.M.

MEETING RECONVENED AT 1:02 P.M.

9. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding El Paso County's preparation and response for COVID-19.

Betsy C. Keller, CM, Chief Administrator, County Administration Department (915) 546-2215

MOTION: APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE OPENING OF ADULT SPORTS FIELD RENTALS WITHOUT SPECTATORS STARTING ON APRIL 19, 2021; THE SCHEDULING OF RUNS, WALKS, PAVILION AND PICNIC SHELTER USE AND RENTALS STARTING APRIL 24, 2021; AND FINALLY APPROVE ADULT SPORTS LEAGUE REGISTRATIONS WITHOUT SPECTATORS STARTING ON APRIL 26, 2021. IF APPROVED, CUSTOMERS WILL BE INFORMED THAT IF THERE IS A SPIKE THAT CAUSES THE COUNTY TO RETRACT OR SHUT DOWN, THE COUNTY WOULD CANCEL THE RENTAL AND WILL PROVIDE A REFUND OR ALLOW TO RESCHEDULE FOR A LATER DATE.

Motion by County Judge Samaniego Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson
Seconded by Commissioner Holguin Members Voting Nay: None

MOTION: APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE UP TO \$50,000 IN CARES FUNDS TO SUPPORT VACCINATION EFFORTS BEING COORDINATED IN THE COUNTY. THESE FUNDS WOULD BE USED TO PAY TEMPORARY STAFF TO HELP WITH DATA ENTRY AT VACCINATION EVENTS, PROVIDE FOOD, DRINKS AND SUPPLIES FOR VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF WHO CANNOT LEAVE THE SITE DURING THE EVENT.

Motion by Commissioner Holguin Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson
Seconded by County Judge Samaniego Members Voting Nay: None

10. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding the Commissioners Court Order of March 29, 2021, Item #10 on the Regular Agenda authorizing an allocation up to \$1.33 million for Constable COVID efforts as described, subject to County Attorney's Office and Grants Department review to ensure it is appropriate funding under the CARES Act.

Betsy C. Keller, CM, Chief Administrator, County Administration Department (915) 546-2215

NO ACTION

4F. PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER STOUT - Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Resolution in support of the City of El Paso's FY22 Federal appropriation project submissions for community and transportation funding requests to Congresswoman Escobar's Office (TX-16). (OP-21-0469) Wallace Hardgrove, Executive Director, Budget and Fiscal Policy Department (915) 546-2262

MOTION: AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY JUDGE TO SIGN THE RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF EL PASO'S FY22 FEDERAL APPROPRIATION PROJECT SUBMISSIONS FOR COMMUNITY AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING REQUESTS TO CONGRESSWOMAN ESCOBAR'S OFFICE, AND FURTHER REMOVE THE SECTION, "WHEREAS, THE EL PASO COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S COURT FINDS IT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITIZENS OF EL PASO COUNTY THAT THESE PROJECTS ARE IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY TO THE CITIZENS OF EL PASO COUNTY" FROM THE DOCUMENT.

Motion by Commissioner Stout Members Voting Aye: Stout, Holguin, Robinson
Seconded by Commissioner Holguin Members Voting Nay: Judge Samaniego, Leon

4M. PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER ROBINSON Approve the purchase, installation, programming, and labor of El Paso County Courthouse Surveillance Phase I through Sheriff's Department (12104092) using Region 19 Contract 17-7221 awarded to Pyrocom Systems, Inc., of El Paso, Texas in the amount of \$116,901.91. Purchasing approved on March 29, 2021. Funding is available in CIP21-SO CH SECURITY-RENOV.

Debra Carrejo-Trull, CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 546-2048

4N. PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER ROBINSON Approve the purchase, removal and installation of HVAC Units for the County of El Paso Sheriff's Jail Annex using Region 19 Contract 18-7285 awarded to GAP Air Conditioning & Heating of El Paso, Texas in the amount of \$135,163.88. Purchasing approved on April 5, 2021. Funding is available in CIP19-PWSOJAILMAINT-RENOV-REP and CIP21-FAC JAIL ANNEX-RENOVATION.

Debra Carrejo-Trull, CPPO, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department (915) 546-2048

MOTION: APPROVE BOTH ITEMS 4M AND 4N.

Motion by Commissioner Robinson Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by Commissioner Holguin Members Voting Nay: None

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

11. Receive a presentation from the Paso Del Norte Community Foundation on their EpRentHelp.Org platform and take appropriate action.

Irene G. Valenzuela, Executive Director, Community Services Department (915) 775-2708

PRESENTATION RECEIVED

PUBLIC WORKS

12. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Construction Agreement Between Owner And Contractor with JAR Concrete, Inc., d/b/a JAR Construction, Inc. for HMAC overlay and fog seal services related to the County's 2021 roadway paving program in the amount of \$2,610,000. Funding is available in SR-R&B-ROAD RESURFACING. (Contract No. 2021-0201)

Norma Rivera Palacios, Executive Director, Public Works Department (915) 546-2015

MOTION: APPROVE

Motion by County Judge Samaniego Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by Commissioner Leon Members Voting Nay: None

13. Approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Interlocal Agreement between the County of El Paso Texas and the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board to complete paving services along the Vista Del Este Water Distribution Project, and sewer line trenches from the Montana Vista Wastewater Collection System Phase I Project. Funding is available in EP-EMONWATER-CAP OUT-WTRSYS IM. (Contract No. 2021-0228)

Norma Rivera Palacios, Executive Director, Public Works Department (915) 546-2015

MOTION: APPROVE

Motion by Commissioner Holguin Members Voting Aye: Judge Samaniego, Leon, Stout, Holguin, Robinson

Seconded by County Judge Samaniego Members Voting Nay: None

14. INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 3:24 P.M.

A. Discuss findings regarding persons necessary in Executive Session.

County Attorney's Office (915) 546-2050

B. Discuss pending litigation styled Noe De Jesus Ortiz Villagran v. County of El Paso, et al; Cause No. 3:19-CV-00336-DCG; County Attorney's file number 0261-19-LD, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071.

Ruben Duarte, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office (915) 546-2050

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED AT 3:36 P.M.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:36 P.M.

**EL PASO COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

CARLOS LEON
Commissioner, Pct. 1

ILIANA HOLGUIN
Commissioner, Pct. 3



DAVID STOUT
Commissioner, Pct. 2

CARL L. ROBINSON
Commissioner, Pct. 4

RICARDO A. SAMANIEGO
County Judge

Commissioners Court Chambers, El Paso County Courthouse
500 East San Antonio Room 303 El Paso, Texas 79901
Website address: <http://www.epcounty.com>
View live video webcast: <http://epcounty.com/video>

**COMMISSIONERS COURT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:36 P.M.

ATTEST:

DELIA BRIONES, COUNTY CLERK
EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

JESSICA DOMINGUEZ, DEPUTY CLERK

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY ME THIS

_____ DAY OF _____, 2021.

COUNTY JUDGE RICARDO A. SAMANIEGO, PRESIDING