

MINUTES OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
REGULAR MEETING - DECEMBER 14, 2015

On the 14th day of December, 2015, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Courthouse, Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, with the following members present: **C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.**, County Judge; **Jack Chaney**, Commissioner, Precinct 1; **Leslie "Bubba" Casterline**, Commissioner, Precinct 2; **Charles Smith**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Betty Stiles**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Kristen Barnebey**, County Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, County Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Lezlie Kirk**, County Auditor; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager for the County Attorney's Office; **Jacky Cockerham**, Assistant County Auditor; **Timilu Latham**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **James Jackson**, Environmental Health Director; **David Vyoral**, Road Administrator; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **John Gutierrez**, Chief Deputy for the Sheriff's Office; **Rick McLester**, Emergency Management Coordinator; **Donnie Montemayor**, Texas A&M Agrilife District Extension Administrator; **Bethany Jackson**, Wharton County Extension Agent and candidate for the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Family and Consumer Science Agent for Aransas County; **Kevin Carruth**, City Manager, City of Rockport; **Brian Olsen**, Local Resident; Members representing Friends of the History Center for Aransas County as follows: **Pam Stranahan**, President, **Kam Wagert**, Vice-President, **Linda Garcia**, and **Vickie Moon Merchant**.

The Meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. at which time a quorum was declared by Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were none.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Pam Stranahan, President, and members of Friends of the History Center, presented Jerry Brundrett with an award to honor him for his excellent service to the History Center. Jerry has served as a board member for two terms and as chairman of the ad hoc committee formed to determine how to preserve the rural Paul Johnson house where he provided survey expertise and hosted meetings in his office. He served refreshments at events and also hosted monthly as a docent at the History Center.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve:

1. Minutes from the Regular Commissioners' Court Meeting of November 23, 2015.
2. Public Official Bond Rider on Christy Lee Gibson, Deputy County Clerk.

(Inserts)

3. Resolution #R-20-2015 for the Aransas County Airport Wildlife Hazard Assessment.

4. Resolution #R-21-2015 for the Aransas County Airport Master Plan.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**APPOINTMENTS**

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Appointing District Clerk, Pam Heard, to the Rockport Fulton Community Art District Committee.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve appointing Bethany Jackson as the candidate for Texas A&M Agrilife Extension's Family and Consumer Science Agent to fill the position in Aransas County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to appoint David Reid as Flood Plain Manager to be effective March 1, 2016.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to make Animal Control a department of its own, answering to the County Judge effective immediately. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

**BIDS, CONTRACTS & LEASES**

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to **TABLE** accepting bids for 2016 Road Materials. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve authorizing the County Judge sign an agreement between Aransas County and O'Malley Strand Engineering for Preliminary Design and Engineering Services for the Fulton Beach Road Trail. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign a Project Consultant Contract with The Grant Connection to assist County Staff with the preparation of an Application to the Texas Department of Transportation's "Transportation Alternatives Program" requesting funds for improvements to the

(Inserts)

Southern Trail and Fulton Beach Road Trail, and to administer the grant if the project is selected for funding.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign a Project Consultant Contract with The Grant Connection to assist County Staff with the preparation of an Application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's "Recreational Trails Program" requesting funds for improvements to the Southern Trail and Fulton Beach Road Trail, and to administer the grant if the project is selected for funding.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to authorize the County Judge to accept bid and sign a contract with Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., for the 2016 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Aransas County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign an Interlocal Agreement with Tarrant County for a Cooperative Purchasing Program for the purchase of patrol vehicles for the Sheriff's Office.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign a Construction Contract with J. J. Fox Construction, Inc. for the James & Kossuth area Sanitary Sewer Grant Contract #7214009.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign the 2016 Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement between Aransas County, the City of Rockport and the Town of Fulton for Dispatching Services.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the City of Rockport for Septic Services.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing the County Judge to

(Inserts)

sign an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the City of Rockport and the Town of Fulton for Animal Control.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign an Interlocal Agreement between the Counties of San Patricio and Aransas for an Intoxilyzer Program and Technical Supervisor.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve acceptance of a Certified Letter from Mike Burris requesting a 5 Year Renewal on a Hanger/Land Lease.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

21. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign Contract #7215065 with the Texas Department of Agriculture for the 2015 Colonia Fund Construction Sewer Improvements under the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE ITEMS

22. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Job Description for Part Time Deputy Treasurer effective January 1, 2016 as approved in the 2016 Budget.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

23. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the 2016 Fee Schedule for the Transfer Station.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

24. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the purchase of equipment for use in the District and County Courtrooms and the Grand Jury room at a cost of \$19,241.16.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

26. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve payment of excessive leave from compensatory time for all County/District Attorney employees through the end of the year.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)



27. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to disapprove authorizing County Judge to negotiate the sale of property located in Precinct 1A in Aransas Pass, TX.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

28. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve renewal of the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) Insurance Policies for General Liability, Law Enforcement Liability, Public Officials Liability and Automobile Coverage.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

29. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve renewal of Flood Insurance for the Courthouse, Public Safety Center and the Jail.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

30. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the bid submitted by the Beyer & Company CPA Firm to conduct audit and complete the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for Aransas County's Fiscal Year 2015.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

31. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the Indigent Health Care Report for November, 2015.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

32. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2015.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

33. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

34. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve Accounts Payable to include payment of all monies due, to date, that are payable to the City of Rockport for dispatching services.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**DEVELOPMENT, PLATS, DRAINAGE & STORM WATER**

35. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Cocahoe RV Park Master Development Plan, a 25 Unit Development at 565 Rabbit Run Road.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &  
DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

There were none.

**REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST REGARDING  
WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

There were none.

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*The Court entered into closed session at 10:24 a.m. to discuss and review potential litigation issues and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1)(a); and to discuss real estate negotiations, including Pathways Projects pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072; and resumed Open Meeting at 11:06 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:*

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25. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the creation of Full-Time Positions through the utilization of already-budgeted professional services for the County/District Attorney's office effective December 18, 2015.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

**PRESS QUESTIONS**

Norma Martinez, Managing Editor for the Rockport Pilot:  
Regarding this new position effective December 18, 2015, was this considered in the budget, since it's no longer public services, it's just part of the budget's additional fund?

Commissioner Smith: It's not additional funds, that short period in there from the 18th.

Martinez; Out of the compensatory pay for employees in the County Attorney's office, in 2013, did not the court reject paying employees of another office when they had to work additional hours to implement the Tyler Technologies transition?

Commissioner Smith: I could go back and check, it's the reason I was effecting to this point, it seems to me like we were taking on quite a few additional felony responsibilities for the County Attorney. But I think the gist of the conversation it's happening more, that was my take on it. I can't answer that at this time.

Martinez: In regards to that statement, should not the Commissioners have taken that into consideration, that there would have been more funds needed for the creation of a whole new office, new staff and new services.

Commissioner Smith: We are not infallible, we do our best. When you get down to the marketplace, sometimes things don't work out exactly as planned.

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 11:12 a.m. on a motion made by  
Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles.*

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C. H. "BURT" MILLS, JR., COUNTY JUDGE

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VALERIE K. AMASON,  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT