

particular issue (or issues) or unless the member (or members) of the public complete(s) a Public Participation Form and submits same to the County Clerk prior to the time the agenda item (or items) is addressed by the Court. A sample of the Aransas County Commissioners' Court Public Participation Form is attached hereto as "Exhibit A".

- A. Each member of the public who appears before the Commissioners' Court shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes to make his/her remarks. Time for each speaker shall be maintained by the County Clerk or such other designated representative of the Commissioners' Court.
- B. Maximum public discussion on any agenda item, regardless of the number of members of the public wishing to address the Commissioners' Court on such agenda item (or items) shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes. In the event that more than six (6) members of the public wish to address a particular agenda item (or items), then only the first six (6) speakers will be recognized. To the extent possible, the six(6) members of the public recognized to speak shall be divided equally between those members of the public wishing to speak for the agenda item (or items) and those members of the public wishing to speak against the agenda item (or items). Time may be yielded from one speaker to another.
- C. In matters of exceptional interest, the Court may, by the majority vote of the members of the Court in attendance at the meeting, either shorten or lengthen the time allocated for a particular member of the public, all members of the public, and/or the amount of time allocated for all agenda items and/or specific agenda item.
- D. It is the intention of the Court to provide an open access to the citizens of Aransas County to address the Commissioners' Court and its own members to express themselves on issues of County Government. However, members of the public and members of the Court are reminded that the Aransas County Commissioners' Court is a Constitutional Court, with both judicial and legislative powers. As a Constitutional Court, the Aransas County Commissioners' Court also possesses the power to issue a Contempt of Court Citation. Accordingly, as the presiding officer of the Commissioners' Court, the County Judge (or, in the absence of the County Judge, the designated Judge Pro-Tem of the Commissioners' Court) has the power to issue a Contempt of Court Citation. Therefore, members of the public and members of the Court in attendance at any Regular, Special and/or Emergency meeting of the Court shall conduct themselves with proper respect and decorum in speaking to and/or addressing the Court; in participating in the meetings and the discussions of the Court, and in all actions in the presence of the Court. Proper attire for men, women and children is mandatory. Those members of the public and the Court who are inappropriately attired and/or who do not conduct themselves in an orderly and appropriate manner will be ordered by the County Judge to leave the meeting. Refusal to abide by the Court's Order and/or continued disruption of the meeting may result in the County Judge issuing a Contempt of Court citation.
- E. It is not the intention of the Aransas County Commissioners' Court to provide a public forum for the demeaning of any individual or group. Neither is it the intention of the Court to allow one of its members, or a member (or members) of the public to insult the honesty and/or integrity of the Court, as a body, or any member or members of the Court, individually or collectively, or county employee or any other person or persons. Accordingly, profane, insulting, slanderous or threatening language directed toward the Court, from anyone on the Court, and/or any person in the Court's presence will not be tolerated. Nor will the Court tolerate racial, ethnic, religious, age, disability, or gender slurs or epithets. To enforce this policy, the County Judge (or Judge Pro-Tem) as the presiding officer of the Court shall have the power to:
 - 1. Cancel a speaker's remaining time;
 - 2. Have the violator removed from the Commissioners' Courtroom;
 - 3. Issue a Contempt Citation; and/or

4. Use such other civil and/or criminal sanctions as may be authorized under the Constitution, Statutes and Codes of the State of Texas.

V.

The County Judge is the presiding officer of the Aransas County Commissioners' Court and is a fully participating member thereof. The Judge Pro-Tem will serve as the presiding officer of the Court in all matters which require the action of the County Judge in the event of the absence of the County Judge. The Commissioner present with the longest tenure shall be the Judge Pro-Tem. Any member may decline to serve as Judge Pro-Tem.

VI.

The County Judge (or Judge Pro-Tem of the Commissioners' Court), as presiding officer of the Commissioners' Court, is responsible for conducting and maintaining order at all meetings. To the extent possible, and where they would ordinarily apply to a governing body such as the Commissioners' Court, the County Judge should follow the most recent version of the Robert's Rules of Order in conducting court meetings; however, this parliamentary procedure is not mandatory on the County Judge, and he or she may deviate from these rules at his or her discretion. A majority vote by the remaining Commissioners' Court can require the presiding officer to follow any normal parliamentary rule of the Robert's Rules of Order.

VII.

Special Rules for the Media:

- A. No media personnel or equipment, including lights, cameras or microphones will be located on the Commissioners' Court bench nor closer than five feet (5') in front of the Commissioners' Court bench.
- B. Reporters and technicians are required to structure their movements, equipment set-up and take-down and adjustments, etc., in such a manner as to not disrupt the Commissioners' Court deliberations or the ability of the public to see, hear, and participate in the proceedings.
- C. Interviews shall not be conducted inside the Commissioners' Courtroom during the time the Court is in session.
- D. Media interviews which are conducted outside the Commissioners' Court should be conducted in such a manner that the interview does not disturb, impede or disrupt the proceedings of any Regular, Special, Emergency and/or Executive Session Meeting of the Court.

VIII.

The County Judge may designate any one or more licensed County Peace Officer(s) to serve at any meeting of the Commissioners' Court as Bailiffs.

IX.

Members of the Court, County officials, or County employees who desire to speak about a subject should, as a matter of policy, wait to be recognized and be given the floor by the County Judge before they speak. When the County Judge feels that this policy is necessary to control a meeting, he or she may order that this policy will be mandatory for the rest of the meeting and may enforce the policy by contempt. Members of the public who have properly completed a Public Participation Form must wait to be recognized and be given the floor by the County Judge before they will be allowed to address the Court.

X.

From time to time, Commissioners' Court shall conduct town meetings and public hearings. These **Second Amended Rules of Procedure, Conduct and Decorum** shall also apply to such town meetings and public hearings;

however, the Commissioners' Court may adopt such additional and supplemental rules for such meetings as may be necessary and appropriate to conduct such meetings in an orderly, efficient and proper manner.

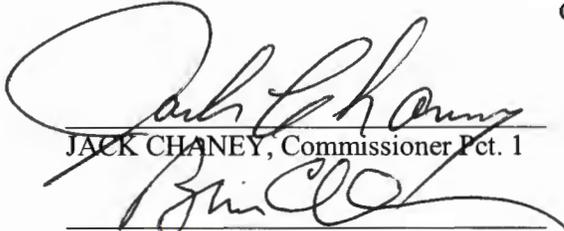
XI.

These **Second Amended Rules of Procedure, Conduct and Decorum at Meetings of the Aransas County Commissioners' Court** shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the Court and shall remain in full force and effect until amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Commissioners' Court.

ADOPTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, on this the 9th day of April, 2018.



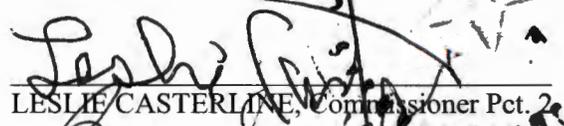
C.H. "BURT" MILLS, JR., County Judge



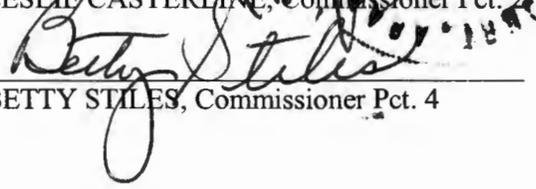
JACK CHANEY, Commissioner Pct. 1



BRIAN OLSEN, Commissioner Pct. 3



LESLIE CASTERLINE, Commissioner Pct. 2



BETTY STILES, Commissioner Pct. 4


VALERIE AMASON, County Clerk

**ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM**

Instructions: Fill out all appropriate blanks. Please print or write legibly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Do you represent any particular group or organization? _____

If you do represent a group or organization, please state the name, address and telephone number of such group or organization:

Which agenda item (or subject) do you wish to address?

In general, are you for or against such agenda item (or subject)? _____

Signature: _____

NOTE: This Public Participation Form must be presented to the County Clerk prior to the time that Commissioners' Court convenes. Each member of the public who appears before the Court shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes to make his/her remarks. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Commissioners may not discuss or take action on any item which has not been posted on the agenda.