

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - JANUARY 22, 2018

On the 22nd day of January, 2018, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Commissioners' Courtroom in the County Courthouse, located at 2840 Highway 35 North, 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; **Brian Olsen**, 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 and District Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Latisha Murphy**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **Lora Rios**, Juvenile Case Manager; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Jacky Cockerham**; Assistant County Auditor; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **Diana Espinoza**, Drainage Engineer; **Michele Bennett**, Elections Administrator; **John Gutierrez**, Chief Deputy Sheriff; **Mike Koerner**, Long-Term Recovery Specialist; **Paul Chapple** (Director), **Michael Bonner**, **Hugo Ortiz**, and **Todd White**, Reconstructive Operations/Northstar Recovery Teams; **Kathleen Hicks**, Regional Pool Alliance;

Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present:

City of Rockport Council Members: **C. J. Wax**, Mayor; **J. D. Villa**, Ward 2; **Pat Rios**, Ward 3 and Mayor Pro Tem; **Barbara Gurtner**, Ward 4;

Aransas County Historical Commission: **Pam Stranahan**, Chair; **Mike Geer**, Vice Chair; **Carol Thompson**, Treasurer; **Linda Garcia Haynes**, Secretary; Other members: **Jerry Brundrett**; **Betty Collier**; **Barbara Gurtner**; **Sandra Garrison**; **Pat Rousseau**; **Sherry Collins**; **Betty Stiles**, Court Appointed Liaison; **Collin Jackson**, Advisor;

Chamber of Commerce: **Diane Probst**, President/CEO; **Sandy Jumper**, Director of Tourism & Events;

Rockport Maritime Museum: **Kathy Roberts-Douglas**,

Primary Candidates for Commissioner, Pct. 4: **Russel Cole**, **Billy Burke**, **Stevie Lew Meinhausen** and **Wendy Laubach**;

Local Citizens: **Brad Brumback**; **Pinky Gonzalez**;

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:

Judge Mills: Welcome to our new building, I'd like to recognize Kathleen Hicks with Regional Pool Alliance, without her diligence and hard work we may not be here today. And I would like to thank the people who actually did the work, Paul would you please stand, Hugo, they've worked really hard and a new building in a little over 30 days is nothing more than remarkable, thank you very much for everything you've done.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Pinky Gonzalez: I was the Election Day Judge at the V.F.W., I worked the 2016 Primary Election and it was not fun, to say the least, we did not have enough machines and the voters waited in line for over two hours, they were not very happy and that's an understatement. Luckily, Michele was able to borrow some equipment from San Patricio County, she was also able to obtain additional poll pads for the General Election, which went a lot smoother. I understand that we can't currently borrow equipment anymore, it's not an option, so I am here to ask that you consider purchasing additional machinery.

Brad Brumback: There was an Agenda Item on the November 27 Commissioners' Court Meeting that discussed revising the Flood Plain Order so that certain areas of the County would not have to adhere to the same building requirements as other areas of the county. After some discussion this item was tabled and a workshop was ordered. That workshop was held on December 8th and since then I don't see where this issue has been addressed by Commissioners' Court and I think it needs to be. We've been told some of the reasons for requiring the additional height restrictions included protecting residents from future flood events and lowering flood insurance premiums in the county. The tabled agenda item would have exempted a large part of the county from those same height restrictions, no reason was given for why this was proposed. There are a lot of people who are trying to build or rebuild and they are not sure what the rules are going to be and it's hard to tell your architect how high you want a building without a definitive answer from the county. If part of the reason for the expanded height requirement is to

lower flood premiums, then we qualify for extra FEMA credits and get even lower flood premiums by requiring it over the entire county, instead of just in some areas. If the court chooses to modify the flood plain order and rescind the extra height requirement, because they want to encourage more construction and reconstruction, then I think you should encourage that in all areas of the county. Let's have the same rules for everybody, I think five months is a long enough time to decide and I think it's a good time to end the confusion and let the people of Aransas County know where you stand on this issue, so I'd like to request that the court add an agenda item to its next meeting that would address this situation directly and vote on it. I think whichever way you decide, the decision should apply to the entire county. Thank you.

Stevie Lew Meinhausen: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak, I understand that a time had to be established to end the debris pickup out at the right-of-way, that's just common sense, I will tell you as such, because I do not know the ins and outs, I would hope there is some kind of provision for folks that still have a lot of work to accomplish and that they are not penalized because of slow adjusting from their insurance companies, from lack of funds to do their work, and that some kind of provision can be made at least so they can take it to the transfer station and have the same kind of treatment that the rest of our community has had. I work with over 200 volunteers that are still coming to Rockport and they have intentions to do that for the next couple of years, so this is sort of a long term situation, I'm just one person and I know there are many other people doing the same thing. We've completed over 200 projects but I have another 100 plus people

that want these projects completed. I work with these individuals looking for financial resources, people with skills, and people with needs and most of these folks are vulnerable individuals of our community. The three that come to mind immediately are the Vietnamese woman out in Copano Ridge and her husband has dementia, he has Alzheimer's, and she's just starting the process of tearing out her house and she can't even speak very good English and has a difficult time of getting anything done. Another family is in their 80's and they haven't even started pulling everything out of their house because of the insurance problems. I have a good friend that died yesterday because he lived in a pop-up tent for four months and he got pneumonia. He was running his business, he couldn't take what FEMA offered him to move to San Antonio, he had to stay here in a pop-up tent and his wife has to try to rebuild the house without him. There are so many people I want to help, but I feel if we leave them no resource to take that debris, it's very expensive to take to the transfer station. You may have already made provisions and I'm speaking to the choir, but I just wanted to make that appeal and make sure there is some provision for these people. Thank you for your time.

PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve:

1. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2018.

2. This item went into closed session.
3. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the Minutes of Commissioners Court District Judge's Salary Order for the County Auditor and Auditor Staff for Fiscal Year 2018.
4. Public Official Bonds on Kristen Barnebey, County District Attorney.
5. The Front Steps of the new County Courthouse, 2840 Hwy. 35 North, Rockport, Texas be designated as the area where sales of real property are to take place under Section 34.01 of the Property Tax Code.
6. The Front Steps of the new County Courthouse located at 2840 Hwy. 35 North, Rockport, Texas be designated as the area where sales of real property under a power of sale conferred by a Deed of Trust or other contract lien are to take place under VTCA Property Code Sec. 51.002 as amended by H.B. No. 1504, 70th Legislative Regular Session to be effective January 1, 1988.
7. Allowing Environmental Health to seek bids for Mosquito Control Chemicals for 2018.
8. February 12, 2018, being the last day to put Hurricane debris in the Right-of Way.
9. Returning to normal (pre-hurricane) enforcement for debris being put in the Right-of-Way starting February 13, 2018, per Aransas County Abatement of Public Nuisance Ordinance and Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 365.
10. Accepting a donation made to Aransas County for shoes and clothing for students of Aransas County I.S.D. & C.I.S. received from Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Rogene Samuelson in the amount of \$800.00.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

COUNTY REPORTS

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve 4th Quarterly Report for the Maritime Museum.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve the New 2018 Appointments & Officers for the Historical Commission.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve 4th Quarterly Report for the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

COUNTY ROADS

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve granting a variance to the subdivision regulations to allow the re-plat of Goose Island Estates Block 12, Lots 7, 8 and 11.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers of which there were none.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &

DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

Judge Mills: I would like to comment on Item #10 under the consent items. This family contacted Amy Montgomery and asked what they could do to help Aransas County and in Amy's opinion, she gave them three different projects to pick from. They chose the project for raising money for clothes and shoes for the kids at the Aransas County Independent School District and this family made it a family project, little kids on up to the dad, they raised \$800 and sent it to us for their project. We sent them a letter but I just wanted to thank them publicly.

The Court entered into closed session at 9:28 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 9:55 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

2. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to accept the bid as presented awarding the bid to Harte for the new Verity electronic voting machine system and that we select option number one: Ten Year with the Poll Book for \$46,953.54 per year at an interest rate of 3.6, the first year will be deferred and the total amount of that will be \$388,616.10.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:57 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles.

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

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