

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - JANUARY 27, 2020

On the 27th day of January, 2020, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Commissioners' Courtroom, 2840 Hwy 35 N, 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; **Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Kristen Barnebey**, County District Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Barbara Hanson**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **Jacky Cockerham**, Interim County Auditor; **Tana Taylor**, First Assistant County Auditor; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Katherine Comeaux**, Development Services Coordinator; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager, County District Attorney's Office; **Michele Bennett**, Elections Administrator; **Lois White**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **John Gutierrez**, Chief Deputy Sheriff;

Long-Term Recovery Specialists: **Will Whitson**;

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

City of Rockport Council Members: **Bob Cunningham**, Ward 3;

Aransas County Navigation District: Keith Barrett, Harbor Master;
Malcolm Dieckow, Commissioner, Pct. 3;

Aransas County Citizens: Terrell James Brooks; John Moore; Betty
Stiles; Melissa Esquivel; Andrea Hattman;

PGAL - ARCHITEXAS: Paul Bonnette, Principal/Project Manager; Ryan
Horton, Architect;

Chamber of Commerce: Diane Probst, President/CEO; Sandy Jumper,
Vice President of Marketing and Promotion;

Rockport Center for the Arts: Luis Puron, Executive Director; Elena
Rodriguez, Curator of Exhibitions;

Rockport Maritime Museum: Kathy Roberts-Douglas, CEO;

The Rockport Pilot Newspaper: Mike Probst, Editor and Publisher;

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

Malcolm Dieckow addressed the court concerning security at the
Navigation District in regards to Item 19 on the Agenda:

In the contract on Page 4, Item 6, the County submits a written
request to the Navigation District considering the use of the
Aquarium Education Center building for drug rehabilitation
meetings, the main concern is security, it's a high traffic area
with a lot of tourism in that area and we feel that security
measures should be taken before, during, and after each meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Comprehensive update on Long Term Recovery Efforts

William Whitson gave an update with the assistance of a power point presentation and then invited Paul Bonnett to come forward and update the court on where we are on the new courthouse.

Paul Bonnett: We have met with each departments and gone through the programming process to talk about what each departments needs are. We are here today and tomorrow to start planning each individual department, and then from there we will start looking at the courthouse proper. We do have a survey for all of the properties involved and we've been working on some site plan concepts based on square footage, pretty rough square footage numbers at this point, but some of that is to support the Grants that William is talking about, to provide exhibits to the different groups to support the Grants. So, it will be a little while until we have some drawings, floor plans, and things like that but construction documents should be ready toward the end of the year, in November, based on the current schedule that we have and we are going to try to accelerate that a bit if we can.

Commissioner Smith: When you say construction documents what exactly are you referring to?

Paul: Construction documents would be a set of drawings that are ready to go out to bid to contractors.

Commissioner Smith: Did you say the end of the year?

Paul: Based on our current schedule. Now, there has also been

(Insert)

the CM Agent who's about to get on board and we will get some submittals from the CM Agents and we are evaluating those at this time, so they will be getting on board to help us with both management and pricing of the different concepts.

Commissioner Smith: It's kind of critical to be able to come up with a final number for the total cost of this project because if we don't get any more assistance. I know that the Feds don't rebuild Courthouses, City Halls, or Police Stations and how they came up with that rule is beyond me, but there will be a gap and the reason I bring this up is right now we are looking at some historically low interest rates so it would sure be nice to know as quickly as possible so we could take advantage of it.

Paul: Correct, when the CM Agent gets on board to do some of those cost exercises on preliminary drawings we will probably have a pretty good idea.

Commissioner Smith: You don't have to wait until the end of the year for that, do you?

Paul: No, to get ideas on costs they will be pricing this all the way through and assisting us with that aspect of it.

Commissioner Smith: Fair enough.

Paul: So that's really my update at this point, we are working on refining the program this next couple of days, planning some of those departments, and we can take a closer look at the big picture, and what it will look like.

Judge Mills: Ok, thank you very much.

CONSENT ITEMS

Items 6 & 7 were pulled for discussion

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

2. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2020.
3. Official Public Bond and Oath for Charlotte Auckland, Administrative County Floater.
4. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certificate from the Texas Association of Elections Administrators and Election Center certifying Julie Gifford, Assistant Elections Administrator as the 136th Certified Registered Election Official in the State of Texas.
5. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certificate from the Texas Association of Elections Administrators and Election Center certifying the Renewal of Michele Carew, Elections Administrator as the 51st Certified Registered Election Official in the State of Texas.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

Judge Mills: Commissioner Casterline would like to ask about dates for the election.

Commissioner Casterline: Michelle, can you give us the dates and information?

Michelle Carew: Early voting will start on February 18th

(Inserts)

and go through February 28th, we will be open starting on a Tuesday because Monday is a holiday, so Tuesday through Saturday will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the first week and the following week early voting on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Thursday and Friday it will be 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We decided to extend the hours on these two days to give those who do not work here in town a chance to vote early.

Commissioner Chaney: And Early Voting is going to be at your office?

Michelle: Right.

Judge Mills: Mrs. Stiles, you had something you wanted to say?

Betty Stiles: Yes Judge, Commissioners, with the Historical Commission, we were notified that we made a clerical error on one of our appointees and one of our board members, Jerry Brundrett, who is in the room, and Sandy Bridges, who is my Treasurer. So, we have corrected that issue and we are going to appoint two new members at our March meeting, one for the board and one as an appointee.

Commissioner Smith: So we are not in a position today to vote on this?

Betty: There is no appointment as of yet, correct, but I just wanted, for the record, to note that.

Judge Mills: Thank you.

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Adoption of the Early Voting Schedule (Dates & Times) and the Election Day County-wide

Polling Locations for the March 3, 2020 Joint Primary Election. Question.

Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to TABLE changes to the 2020 Appointments for the Aransas County Historical Commission. Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY REPORTS

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the 4th Quarterly 2019 Report for the Maritime Museum.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the 4th Quarterly 2019 Report for the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the 4th Quarterly Report for the Rockport Center for the Arts.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize Environmental Health to abate 2081 Sawyer Rd and put a lien on the property for any costs incurred for abatement.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize Environmental Health to abate 2116 Murphy Road and put a lien on the property for any costs incurred for abatement.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the Environmental Health to issue a variance for the On Site Sewage Facility (septic system) for Crab-N Restaurant as to a Commercial System being on more than one lot.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize Environmental Health to issue a variance for the On Site Sewage Facility (septic system) for Crab-N Restaurant as to a System being on a lot where the drain field is going and being that the lot is not owned by Crab-N.

Question. Motion carried unanimously. It

is so ordered.

(Inserts)

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign an updated Articles of Incorporation/Certificate of Formation of Aransas County Alliance Local Government Corporation (previously approved at the 12/09/2019 Commissioner's Court meeting).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Judge Mills to approve Resolution #R-01-2020, a Resolution of the Commissioners Court approving the creation/formation of the Aransas County Alliance Local Government Corporation.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to witness two approved Contracts for Election Services: one between the Aransas County Elections Administrator and the City of Rockport, the other between the Aransas County elections Administrator and the Aransas County Independent School district, for the (Joint) Election to be held on May 2, 2020. *(Note: Section 31.092(a) of the Texas Election Code, authorizes the county election officer to contract for election services. Further, an election services contract need not be submitted to the commissioners' court for approval).*

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Agency Agreement with Experience Works to be a Host Agency to provide meaningful training and work experience to SCSEP participants in exchange for federally subsidized hours of participants assigned by Experience Works for Community Service. Participants provide 17 hours per week of service at no cost to the County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a professional services agreement with Hanson Professional Services, Inc., in connection with the design and permitting of the Bahia Bay Stormwater Outfall.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to TABLE authorizing the County Judge to sign a one year In-Kind Lease Agreement with South Texas Substance Abuse Recovery Services, Inc. to use the Aransas County Aquarium Education Center on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize

(Inserts)

the County Judge to sign a System License, Maintenance, and Support Agreement with VR Systems, Inc. for VR STAR - a proprietary software solution for Texas election administrators to simplify workflows and automate complex processing required for absentee requests and ballot management more efficiently and accurately.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY ROADS & FLOODPLAIN

21. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to accept and sign a Drainage Easement from Kwinton Urban and Kristin B. Urban described as: a twelve foot wide drainage easement, embracing 0.04 acres of land out of Lot 67, Neptune Harbor Addition, Phase 2, out of the William Lewis Survey A-96, Aransas County, Texas.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

22. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve, with conditions, requested variance to subdivision regulations on minimum lot size to allow the re-platting of Lots 1, 2, & 3 of the Hill's Village Subdivision into two lots.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

23. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize Road & Bridge to advertise for bids for the construction of

(Inserts)

Banty Lane as per TxCDEG Contract N. 7219007.
Question. Motion carried unanimously. It
is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

24. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the County's monthly financial support to Code 3 Emergency.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

25. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Amending the Airport's FBO (Fixed Base Operators and Tenants) Rules & Regulations to reflect new Liability Insurance Limits.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

26. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Budget Line Item Transfers of which there were none.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

27. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities. (Jacky Cockerham stated that this does include a \$500,000 purchase of a CD.)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

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

Valerie Gonzalez: Environmental Health did remove illegally dumped trash in the amount of 68 tons, we did recover 4.7 tons of steel, which was recycled, we picked up 265 tires with the help of Road & Bridge, and that brings our total up to 86.55 tons that we removed, that was illegally dumped in County Right of Ways in 2019.

Jacky Cockerham: Read Fees Report.

Commissioner Casterline: I attended a COG (Coastal Bend Council of Governments) meeting on Friday and they had a presentation from the Census Department and they actually would like to hire 100 people in Aransas County to work the Census, full or part-time, it pays \$18.50 an hour, they were also looking for some locations to set up around here, but I have some information that I can give Mike Probst for the newspaper, the Judge's office, and whoever else might want it.

Alma Cartwright: So the Community Action of Victoria actually has been has been working and they are going to work with me on this same Census, maybe they can help provide the means or a place.

Commissioner Casterline: The Judge and I also attended the 4-H Show in San Patricio County, our kids did real well over there and I'm sure Ginger will be bringing them in for a presentation in the near future.

(Inserts)

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:42 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.



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



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