

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 24, 2020

On the 24th day of February, 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; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **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; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Michele Carew**, Elections Administrator; **Lois White**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **Lori Cesar**, Animal Control Director;;

Long-Term Recovery Specialists: **Randall Freeze;**

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

Fulton Mansion State Historic Site: **Jacqui Ainlay-Conley**, Site Manager; **Jessica Holt**, Assistant Site Manager;

**Aransas County Citizens: Melissa Esquivel; Melissa Holdefer;  
Mark Wagnon;**

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**

**Melissa Holdefer:** My family and I have resided out on Sawyer Lane for over 9 years and in that time we have had nothing but problems with the residents that live at 2081 Sawyer Lane. There is no septic system, it is full of run-down, trashed-out campers and I think it was a week or two ago that four stolen welders were recovered from that property. They had the property owner in jail 265 days for not having a septic as I understand it, and yet he was recently released because no charges were ever filed against him. We have these people coming down to the end of our drive all hours of the night trying to entice our dogs out into the road. Saturday night the gentleman was standing out there whistling at our dogs, calling them and saying come eat this and you won't be alive anymore. We've had them standing in our back yard with Machetes, we are in fear of our lives and concerned for the safety of our children and our grandchildren. To my understanding the taxes on that property have not been paid since 2011 and I don't understand why people are still there. Our neighbor woke up to one of them sitting in her vehicle. Anybody who is from this area, I'm sure they know Rex Frautschi, Jr., and the Sheriff's deputies have told us that he is crazy and to be careful. What else do we have to do, we have a fence, we have our posts painted purple? When we caught them in the back yard my husband went out and shot

his 45 off and the guy stood up and said, "Ok, I'm leaving". But my neighbors and myself, we shouldn't have to live this way and we've done it for over 9 years, someone is going to end up getting seriously hurt or killed because nobody is doing anything. My next intention is to go ahead and contact the news stations and the State Representatives, because they take them to jail, they are in jail a day or two and then they are out, and then they are back down on our property, and I'm terrified for my grandchildren. I have a nine year old granddaughter who is so scared of them that she won't even ride her bike in our driveway unless someone is out there watching her and that shouldn't be. I know you can't give me any answers today but I pray that somebody will look into this and do something about it. Thank you.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Sheriff Mills presented the Annual Profile Report related to 2019 Traffic Stops as required by Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.**

**CONSENT ITEMS**

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

1. Minutes from the Workshop Meeting of January 27, 2020 and the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2020.
2. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certificate of Attendance presented to Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer, for completing three

**(Inserts)**

(3) hours of instruction provided by the County Treasurers' Association during the calendar year 2019, training specific to the statutory requirements 2019 as prescribed in Texas Government Code Chapter 2256.008 of the Public Funds Investment Act.

3. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certificate of Attendance awarded to Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer for completing fourteen (14) hours of instruction provided by the County Treasurers' Association during the calendar year 2019.
4. Official Public Bond Continuation Certificate for Deputy Sheriff James L. Weston.
5. Official Public Bond Continuation Certificate for Aransas County IT Director Collin Jackson.
6. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners' Court the appointment of early voting clerks for the March 3, 2020 Joint Primary Election.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**COUNTY REPORTS**

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve 4th Quarterly 2019 Report for the Fulton Mansion.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES**

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by

(Inserts)

Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the Texas A&M University System Amendment One Interagency Cooperation Contract and Agreement between Aransas County and the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center on behalf of the Texas A&M Rural and Community Health Institutes.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve accepting and awarding the low bids for Vector Control Insecticides for 2020.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**COUNTY ROADS**

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve acceptance of a 15 foot drainage easement from Larry J. Isles at 313 Griffith Drive and authorize the County Judge to sign easement for recordation with the County Clerk.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE**

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the December 2019 Treasurer's Report.

**(Inserts)**

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve the January 2020 Treasurer's Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve the Treasurer's 4th Quarter Investment Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. 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.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve new job description for Fleet Maintenance Supervisor to include changes and new responsibilities - no new money.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers and Amendments **of which there were none.**

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**(Inserts)**

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney 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**

**Michele Bennett:** As of this morning we've had a little over 1,300 voters which is currently a 7% turnout basically for the first week of early voting. I want to encourage everyone to come in and vote early, I anticipate long lines on Election Day because they are not coming in now. We have two late nights this week, Thursday and Friday we will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Commissioner Smith:** So we are averaging about 260 a day?

**Michele:** We were doing about 300 a day, but Saturday it dipped down to 155.

**Commissioner Smith:** That is kind of low for a Presidential Election Year.

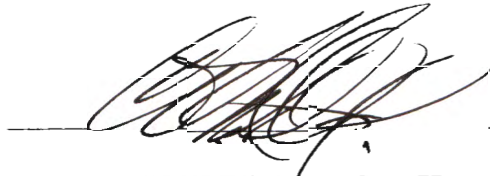
**Michele:** I know, also on Election Day we will have 4 polling locations open. And I will try to be here by 7:00 p.m. Tuesday night.

**(Insert)**

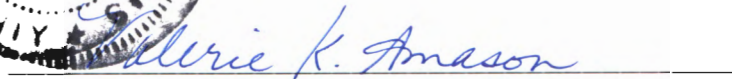
---

*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:28 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