

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - APRIL 8, 2019

On the 8th day of April, 2019, 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; **Brian Olsen**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Jeri Cox**, Tax Assessor-Collector; **Richard P. Bianchi**, County Court at Law Judge; **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Kristen Barnebey**, County District Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Latisha Murphy**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Katherine Comeaux**, Development Services Coordinator; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Elizabeth Guerra**, Human Resources Assistant; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager, County District Attorney's Office; **Jacky Cockerham**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Ronell Burke**, Animal Control Supervisor; **Lois White**, Chief Deputy Treasurer;

Long-Term Recovery: **Will Whitson**, **Randall Freeze**, Long Term Recovery Specialists;

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

City of Rockport Council Members: Barbara Gurtner, Ward 4;

Aransas County Citizens: Betty Stiles; Charles Smith; Randall Lee Freeze; David Blankenship; Joyce & Rodney Rodriguez; Annmarie Gragg;

Grantworks, Inc: Roxana Sandoval;

Mike Probst, Editor and Publisher of the Rockport Pilot Newspaper;

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.

PRESENTATION

1. Transportation Services provided by R.E.A.L., Inc., Rural Economic Assistance League

Martin Ornelas, Director: R.E.A.L. is a non-profit organization based out of Alice, Texas, serving the counties of Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Live Oak, Refugio, and San Patricio. This organization provides free transportation for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the general public, assisting them with necessary trips to the grocery store, doctor's appointments, etc.

(See power point attached)

CONSENT ITEMS

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

2. Minutes from the Public Hearing, Regular Meeting, and Workshop Meeting of March 25, 2019.
3. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certificate of Completion from Election Center presented to Michele Bennett, Elections Administrator, for successfully completing Course 11 equaling 10.00 hours of educational training during the Professional Education Program held in Houston, Texas; March 18-19, 2019.
4. Appointment of Early Voting Clerks for the May 4, 2019 General Election.
5. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certificate of Course Completion from the Paternity Opportunity Program certifying that Valerie K. Amason, County Clerk, has completed training on Acknowledgement of Paternity April 2, 2019.
6. Resolution #R-14-2019, a Resolution in support of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).
7. Resolution #R-15-2019, a Resolution designating authorizing signatories for contractual documents and documents for requesting funding pertaining to the 2018 (Colonia Construction Fund) TxCDBG (Texas Community Development Block Grant) Program Contract No. 7218085.

(Inserts)

8. Resolution #R-16-2019, a Resolution adopting Civil Rights Policies in compliance with TxCDBG (Texas Community Development Block Grant) standards.
9. Proclamation #P-04-2019, Proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month in Aransas County.
10. Proposed Aransas County Official Holidays for 2020.
11. Proposed Aransas County Transfer Station Official Holidays for 2020.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve March 2019 Indigent Health Care Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Aransas County Budget Calendar-FY 2020.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve reassigning the Collections Department to report directly to the County Court at Law Judge instead of the County Clerk - department already has its own budget that will move with it.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve new job descriptions for the Road & Bridge Department as follows: Crew Chief, Driver, Laborer I, Operator II, Operator III, and Construction Technician (job descriptions attached) - no new monies.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve proposed increase of Animal Control ten (10) day Quarantine fee which is currently \$140 and approval will raise it to \$200.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

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

Suzy Wallace: There is no fee report to read.

Sheriff Mills: I just wanted to share that CJIS/DPS made a visit to Aransas County on March 28th to do our three year audit of the Rockport PD and the Sheriff's Department. This involves a lot of checking of records, dispatch, requests of information, and the privacy of it. We did pass the audit and we have a letter on file that we can bring to you later.

Kristen Barnebey: We do have two citizens that would like to speak, they were just late in turning these forms in, I know this isn't public participation.

Judge Mills: Yes sir, you would like to speak?

Rodney Rodriguez: We here have a bit of a grievance and also as a public safety situation, I'd like to show you some pictures. There is a property that affects all four of us and it has been grossly neglected, it's at 225 Rattlesnake Point Road. I've owned my house for sixteen years, we just moved here last August and it was bad but since the hurricane it's gone just way down south. We're here to ask if you can help us to at least contain it to a point that it doesn't look like a dump. We've spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on our properties to try to bring them back from the hurricane and then we have to wake up in the morning and look across the street at that. As I understand it and I don't know a lot of what's going on, but the lady that owns it is very old, if she's still even with us, but the daughter in question, as I understand, is in jail. There was a guy that was squatting in what looks like an abandoned RV

or whatever you saw there and he was picked up for burglary and is in jail right now. We've heard that they have had Meth houses inside these trailers and buildings, even behind it, and you know, we don't want to live in that type of neighborhood, we are doing everything that we can to make our neighborhood nice again and this isn't cutting it, so if there is anyway, anyhow, that you can help us, I'd really appreciate it.

Judge Mills: Alright thank you sir, this is not an agenda item but we will look into it, I can promise you that.

David Blankenship: I own the property next door to the property in question and I just wanted to give you a little bit of history on that property. Previous to the hurricane there were some gentlemen that were arrested for manufacturing methamphetamine on that property and then the hurricane hit and they cleaned all that debris out and then this new group actually brought in five new junky RV's. No environmental permit was filed for any development or anything else, they don't have any sewage, no electricity, and like Mr. Rodriguez said, they are all in jail and we just want to get it cleaned up.

Judge Mills: Thank you, we will look into it.

(Inserts)

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:24 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

April 8, 2019



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



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