

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - MAY 26, 2020

On the 26th day of May, 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 in person, via Zoom, or YouTube: **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 in person, via Zoom, or YouTube were **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Kristen Barnebey**, County District Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **David Klanica**, Executive Assistant to the County Judge; **Jacky Cockerham**, Interim County Auditor; **Tana Taylor**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Latisha Murphy**, Assistant Auditor; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Katherine Comeaux**, Development Services Coordinator; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Rene Butler**, Facilities Director; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Judy Sutterfield**, IT Tech; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager, County District Attorney's Office; **Michele Carew**, Elections Administrator; **Iris Sanchez**, County Librarian; **Lori Cesar**, Animal Control Director; **John Gutierrez**, Chief Deputy Sheriff; **Gavin Harrison** Training Coordinator for the Sheriff's Office;

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

**Aransas County Citizens:** Pat Rousseau, Aransas County Commissioner Elect, Pct. 3;

**Rockport Cultural Arts District:** Jennifer Day, Chairman/President;

**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**

Pat Rousseau submitted a Public Participation Form concerning Agenda Item #'s 8, 11, 13, and 30, to request more information if needed at the time the Items are addressed.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

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

1. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 11, 2020.
2. Allowing Aransas County Elections Administrator to accept a donation of eighteen (18) locally sewn face masks from Aransas County PPE Sewing Relief Group, to be given to election day and early voting clerks for their personal use during upcoming elections to help combat the spread of COVID19.

3. Official Public Bond Rider Expiration date change on Policy for the Aransas County JP 2 Judge Diana Rinche McGinnis.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

4. {Payment of \$200.00 from the County District Attorney Forfeiture Fund to Jesse Pilgrim through a reimbursement to Kristen Barnebey for COVID accommodations including masks for jurors was pulled from Consent Agenda, this Item was not considered for approval.}

COUNTY REPORTS

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve 1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter 2020 Report for the Rockport Cultural Arts District.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY ROADS

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize Road & Bridge to advertise a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the purchase of a Front End Loader.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize Road & Bridge to advertise a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the purchase of a Street Sweeper.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve, with conditions, the Concept Plan for Sangam Estates subdivision development south of Rattlesnake Point Road and west of South Salt Lake Road.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

Pat Rousseau: Is this plan available for public viewing and comment? Katherine Comeaux: The preliminary plat is available, the engineering plans will be available for viewing but they are not available to give out because they are considered proprietary information, but we'd be glad to schedule a time if you want to come by Road & Bridge and take a look at them.

Pat Rousseau: I know that over the last several years many people from that area have come to Commissioners Court to complain about the poor condition of Rattlesnake Road and on that list of roads that David Reid presented to the Court, I believe at the last meeting, Rattlesnake Road is shown as being in poor condition and that there are lots of accidents out there. Are there going to be improvements made to that road and at whose expense? Katherine Comeaux: Right now Road & Bridge is working with the Long Term Recovery group to secure funding to do improvements through the CDBG-DR program, so I believe it will be progressing with all of the CDBG-DR projects over the next couple of months. I think we are at the stage of finalizing those engineering contracts. Commissioner Smith: We've already received contracts from the GLO on that and we will be signing those, probably within the next 30 days and so then we could to move forward on Rattlesnake Road.

(Inserts)

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve, with conditions, the proposed replat of 2351 Market Street and 2301-F1 Market Street lots.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve awarding bid **to Grant Works** for grant administration services for Aransas County for the 2020 Texas County Transportation Infrastructure Funds (CTIF) administered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES**

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to **TABLE** Resolution #R-14-2020, a Resolution of Aransas County, TX, authorizing the award of professional environmental services contract for the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Project (CDBG-DR) through the General Land Office (GLO) for Hurricane Harvey Recovery, to Wild Associates in the amount of \$7,250, for the Micro-Hospital component, Phase I & II environmental site assessment. Question. **Motion carried with Commissioner Chaney**

(Inserts)

voting for and Judge Mills and Commissioner Smith voting against.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Resolution #R-15-2020, a Resolution authorizing the hiring of Construction Management Agent (CMA) for the Downtown Anchor Project.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a contract with Broaddus & Associates, Inc., for professional Construction Management Agent (CMA) services, for supporting the implementation of the Downtown Anchor project. Contract Not To Exceed \$704,000.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

Pat Rousseau: Is the \$704,000 payment that will be made the total amount that Broaddus will be receiving? John Strothman:

It's a percentage, but yes. Pat Rousseau: It's a percentage, but is it... Judge Mills: It's not to exceed \$704,000.

Commissioner Casterline: And it's a percentage based on final construction costs? John Strothman: Yes. Pat Rousseau: Are

there plans available for the public to see the Downtown Anchor Project? Judge Mills: Yes, preliminary plans are coming out

as soon as possible. Pat Rousseau: But they are not available right now? Commissioner Casterline: No, not yet. Commissioner

Laubach: Are we talking a few weeks, John? John Strothman: We are going to do a presentation the first part of June.

(Inserts)

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Resolution #R-16-2020, a Resolution to accept Help America Vote Act (HAVA) emergency funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus for the 2020 federal election cycle.

Question. Commissioner Smith: Michele, in looking at what the additional costs are going to be, is your budget going to be sufficient to cover the 20% County match that's required for this grant? Michele Carew: I believe so, once we do some line item transfers there is quite a bit, for example our conference money we could use because the conferences have been canceled.

I also have money in my... Commissioner Smith: Jacky, do you concur with that? Jacky Cockerham: Yes sir, I'll look at it, I'm not sure what the exact dollars will be.

Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to authorize the County Judge to eSign the 2020 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) CARES Act Sub-Grant to Texas Counties, authorized by U. S. Congress under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act which will provide \$26,136.62 of support to Aransas County Elections, for the 2020 Federal election cycle (20% County Match).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge

(Inserts)

to sign a contract with DataBank for the conversion of voter registration files to digital format for the preservation of county documents, to be funded by (State-matched and authorized) unspent state cybersecurity grant funds from the Texas 2018 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Sub-Grant to Texas Counties.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a contract with Vista Solutions for professional services-including license subscription and support to DataBank - needed to complete the conversion of voter registration files to digital format, to be funded by (State-matched and authorized) unspent state cybersecurity grant funds from the Texas 2018 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Sub-Grant to Texas Counties.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE**

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the contract with Grant Connection providing grant administration services for the Bay Shore Drive Restore Act project.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**(Inserts)**



19. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a contract with Mott MacDonald for preliminary engineering and Unites States Corp of Engineers (USACE) permit for Shoreline Resiliency Project-Fulton Beach Road extended North from Mesquite Street to the Kon-Tiki Condos. Funding through the Coastal Management Program (CMP) Grant **with the inclusion that the engineer coordinates and consults with the County Road and Bridge Engineer, David Reid.**

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a contract with Mott MacDonald for final engineering on Bay Shore Drive Shoreline Resiliency Project. Funding will be through the Restore Act Bucket 1 through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

21. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a Lease Agreement with Stewart Legacy Group, LLC, a long-term land lease on airport property, for land upon which exists a box hangar it is purchasing from current land lease tenants, Donald D. and Jeanette K. Rae.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**(Inserts)**

22. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a Lease Termination Letter for Donald D. and Jeanette K. Rae, on their existing land lease of airport property, contingent upon full execution of a long-term Lease Agreement covering the same land with Stewart Legacy Group, LLC.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

23. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the April 2020 Treasurer's Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

24. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Resolution #R-11-2020, a Resolution approving Aransas County's Investment Policy (yearly review).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

25. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Resolution #R-12-2020, a Resolution appointing Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer, as Investment Officer to invest Aransas County's funds in accordance with the foregoing Investment Policy.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

26. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Resolution #R-13-2020, a

(Inserts)

Resolution acknowledging the Broker/Dealers List as being authorized to provide services as required to Aransas County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

27. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign request for Capital Credits from the State for the Unclaimed Property Capital for Counties and to allocate any such funds received, to the Literacy Programs offered at the Aransas County Public Library per Local Government Code 381.004.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

28. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the Aransas County Treasurer to sign a Promissory Note, Disbursement Request and Authorization, and Notice of Final Agreement between Aransas County and Prosperity Bank for the automatic extension of the expiration date for one year on the Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit #1973 from Prosperity Bank to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), said extension going through June 1, 2021. The letter of credit covers financial assurance of the Aransas County Transfer Station in the amount of \$10,200.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

29. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Extension of Rental

**(Inserts)**

Support to South Texas Family Planning & Health Corporation in the amount of \$999.00 per month, for the period of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020, to be paid out of the Health Care Sales Tax (HCST) Fund. The amount is already figured in the Health Care Sales Tax (HCST) Fund Budget.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

30. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve creating a Public Information Officer Position under the County Judge at a Group/Step 12-4 to continue the county's public communication and promote understanding of Aransas County programs, services, and activities. Position has been under Workforce grants but will now be funded by Grant Administrative Fees and FEMA reimbursements. **The length of this position will be subject to budgetary conditions.**

Pat Rousseau: Has someone been hired and will the job be posted, because I believe it does need to be posted. I know you've changed the personnel policy since I left but most jobs of this nature would require posting and I also was curious if it was going to be permanent or just created for one or two years? I believe the Commissioners' were asked for the dollar value of a 12-4 but I did not hear what the answer was and then what are the associated benefits? Judge Mills: The total is around

\$47,000 for the year with benefits. Pat Rousseau: For the salary and benefits? Judge Mills: Yes.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

31. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to enter into and sign the Renewal Agreement with the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) for Employee Health Insurance for the 2020-2021 Plan Year **with the Adoption of Option A.**

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

32. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign Healthy County Specific Incentive Program (CSI). Options are \_\_\_ 1) We would like to implement a CSI in 2020-2021.

**X** 2) **We are interested in learning more about a CSI.** \_\_\_ 3) We are not interested in learning more at this time.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

33. 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.

34. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities.

**Jacky Cockerham: This run includes a check that would be required with a finding by our outside Auditors for the District Court Registry at about \$4,600.**

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

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

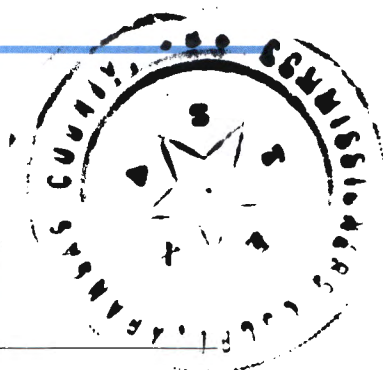
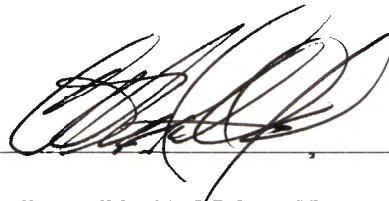
Jacky Cockerham read the fee report.

Commissioner Chaney wished to publicly congratulate Valerie Gonzalez on putting together a good staff at the Transfer Station.

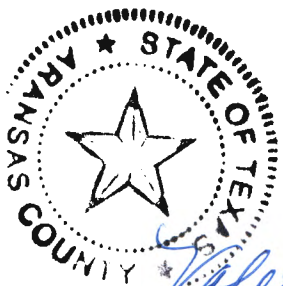
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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:17 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.*

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



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