

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 5, 2019

On the 5th day of August, 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; **Charles Smith**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Richard P. Bianchi**, County Court at Law Judge; **Kristen Barnebey**, County District Attorney; **Jeri Cox**, Tax Assessor-Collector; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Latisha Murphy**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Russ Walker**, Senior IT Technician; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Michele Bennett**, Elections Administrator; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager, County District Attorney's Office; **Jacky Cockerham**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Tana Taylor**, Internal Auditor; **John Gutierrez**, Chief Deputy Sheriff;

Long-Term Recovery: **Randall Freeze**, Long Term Recovery Specialist;

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

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

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.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

1. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 22, 2019, the Special Meeting of July 25, 2019, and the Workshop Meeting of July 29, 2019.
2. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certificate of Attendance presented to Alma Cartwright, Aransas County Treasurer, from the County Treasurers' Continuing Education Seminar, April 15-18, 2019 in Austin, Texas.
3. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certificate of Attendance presented to Alma Cartwright, Aransas County Treasurer, from the County Treasurers' Association of Texas for completion of 05 hours of

(Inserts)

instruction specific to the statutory requirements of the Texas Government Code, Chapter 2256.008 of the Public Funds Investment Act during the 47th Annual County Treasurers' Continuing Education Seminar, April 15-18, 2019 in Austin, Texas.

COUNTY REPORTS

4. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve 2nd Quarterly 2019 Report for the Rockport-Fulton chamber of Commerce. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign an Interlocal Agreement for E9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point Services with the Coastal Bend Council of Governments (COG). Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.
6. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Resolution #R-26-2019, a Resolution of Aransas County Commissioners Court, which resolves that the Interlocal Agreement with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), is in the best interest of Aransas County, and that the obligations and requirements set forth are properly within the legal authority of the Contracting Parties.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge and the Tax Assessor-Collector to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) for Provision of Equipment and Consumables to counties to administer motor vehicle title registration and transactions.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

8. **Discuss, approve, or disapprove and authorize the County Judge to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Rockport for the Downtown Anchor Project went into Executive Session.**

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a Facility Use Agreement with Rockport Center for the Arts, allowing them to hold the 2019 Rockport Film Festival at the Gene Johnson Memorial Community Hangar, October 31 - November 4, 2019.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the July 2019 Indigent Health Care Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to accept the renewal rates from Ameritas for Dental and Vision Insurance for the 2019-2020 Plan Year.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the proposed new job description of Corporal Jailer/Kitchen Supervisor for the Detention Center. There is money available in the salary line item for this upgrade.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the proposed revised job description for County Court at Law (CCAL) Court Manager. This upgrade from a 15-5 to a 17-5 to bring the position more in line with the paralegals based on required job responsibilities. There is money available in the 2019 budgeted Payroll Reserve Fund.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. **Discuss, approve, or disapprove the proposed new job description of Animal Control Officer (ACO) Shelter Volunteer Coordinator for Animal Control. No change from current Group and Step went into Executive Session.**

(Inserts)

15. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the proposed new position and job description for Director of Animal Control at a Pay Group 18 with an estimated \$12,541 additional cost to the 2019 department's budget which is available in the 2019 budgeted Payroll Reserve Fund went into Executive Session.

16. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the proposed revised job descriptions for Animal Control Officer and Kennel Technician - no new money went into Executive Session.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities including a few additional accounts payable items.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. Discussion and possible action on Proposed 2020 Budget.

Judge Mills: The budget came in line fairly well, I personally am pleased, we weren't able to come up with the money that the Aransas County employees deserve but we were able to give them a little bit.

Commissioner Smith: The budget situation this year because we are currently in a recovery period, we have to make sure that we have funds available for matching the grants that are coming into place, so keeping that in mind it's very important

(Inserts)

that we protect our General Fund Balance so that we have the flexibility to go forward out there, that was one of the big items as far as I was concerned this year, because there are a lot of projects on the board.

Judge Mills: Any questions? (None)

Commissioner Chaney: I think you all have done a good job.

Commissioner Smith: Are we going to approve the budget this morning or is that going to be done later?

Judge Mills: It will be done later.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Elected Officials Salaries and Expenses for 2020 Budget Year.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

21. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve Date and Time for Public Hearing(s) on the 2020 Budget. Public Hearing set for August 19, 2019 at 8:45 a.m.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

22. Discussion and possible action on Proposed 2019 Tax Rate.

Commissioner Smith: I was going through some numbers trying to determine how much of the increase this year, or decrease, if you will, could be separated between the market value increases, what would be the impact on the tax rate, as far as, are both of them positive or negative, could you do that for me?

(Insert)

Jeri Cox: I believe that the packet that I gave you in the Workshop Meeting on July 29th, my report had a notice that we don't have to do, but I provided it like an effective rate summary, it starts out "2019 Property Tax Rates", I was thinking somewhere on that I saw the Effective Rate would generate an additional \$286,847 on the same properties.

Commissioner Smith: No, I was looking at the, when you break down the increase on the average dwelling, you furnished that information here.

Jeri Cox: Yes, I did.

Commissioner Smith: Under the proposed Tax Rate that the County is considering adopting, your showing that the average residence last year to be \$767.52?

Jeri Cox: That was last year's rate, yes.

Commissioner Smith: And this year it's going up to \$836.66, which is an increase of \$69.14.

Jeri Cox: Yes.

Commissioner Smith: Can you break that down between how much of it is rate and how much is increase in value?

Jeri Cox: No.

Commissioner Smith: Let me help you with that, the rate is actually going down.

Jeri Cox: Yes, the rate went down, but the values went up.

Commissioner Smith: I've got that the rate \$69.14, \$120 of that is due to increases in assessed values and that the rate is a negative number \$51.26, you might want to check that and see if my computation is correct.

Commissioner Casterline: Jeri, what is the amount of new construction?

Jeri Cox: The new construction number, or new improvement value, is \$77,742,780.

Commissioner Casterline: But you can't separate new construction, or new improvement from...

Jeri Cox: I just give you one lump sum and if it's not, like all of the construction may not be considered a new improvement, so I don't know how the Appraisal District breaks down those values.

Commissioner Smith: Thank you Jeri.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to propose the adoption, going forward, of the Ad Valorem Tax Rate of .451453.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

23. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve record vote on Proposed 2019 Tax Rate and Schedule Two Public Hearings on proposed Tax Rate. 1st Public Hearing set for August 19, 2019 at 8:45 a.m. 2nd Public Hearing set for August 22, 2019 at 8:45 a.m.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

24. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Time and Date to Adopt the 2020 Budget and 2019 Tax Rate and set for August 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

There were none.

The Court entered into closed session at 9:35 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 10:57 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Rockport for the Downtown Anchor Project and direct the County Attorney to incorporate the changes discussed in Executive Session and as quickly as possible go back to the City.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Laubach to table this item along with Items 15 and 16, no second made, therefore the motion died. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the proposed new job description of Animal Control Officer (ACO) Shelter Volunteer Coordinator for Animal Control. No change from current Group and Step.

Question. Motion carried with Commissioner Laubach voting against the motion.

It is so ordered.

(Insert)

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Judge Mills to approve the proposed new position and job description for Director of Animal Control at a Pay Group 18 with an estimated \$12,541 additional cost to the 2019 department's budget which is available in the 2019 budgeted Payroll Reserve Fund.

Question. Motion carried with Commissioner Laubach voting against the motion.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the proposed revised job descriptions for Animal Control Officer and Kennel Technician - no new money.

Question. Motion carried with Commissioner Laubach voting against the motion.

It is so ordered.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 11:01 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. H. Mills, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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

August 5, 2019



Valerie K. Amason

VALERIE K. AMASON,

EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT