

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 10, 2020

On the 10th day of August, 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 via 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 YouTube, or via Zoom, were Kristen Barnebey, County District Attorney; Jeri Cox, Tax Assessor-Collector; Alma Cartwright, Treasurer; Pam Heard, District Clerk; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Tracy Orr, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; Jacky Cockerham, County Auditor; Tana Taylor; First Assistant County Auditor; Anna Marshall, Chief Deputy Tax Assessor & Tax Assessor Elect; 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;

Long-Term Recovery Specialists: Will Whitson; Kim Foutz;

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

Aransas County Navigation District: Mickey Casterline,
Commissioner Pct. 4 - 4A;

RBC Global Asset Management (U.S.) Inc.: Robert "Bob" V. Henderson, Senior Portfolio Manager;

Chamber of Commerce: Diane Probst, President/CEO;

The Rockport Group at Morgan Stanley: John Jackson, Certified Investment Management Analyst/Senior Vice President;

Gulf Coast Hardware, dba Ace Hardware: Philip Salemi, Owner;

Rockport Cultural Arts District: Jennifer Day, Executive Director;

Aransas County Citizens: Amanda Oster, County/District Attorney Elect; Pat Rousseau, County Commissioner, Pct. 3, Elect; Mark Wagon; Charles Belaire; Allan Smith; Mike Fields; April Clark; Arthur Uehlinger; David Hattman; Michael Bishop;

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:

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation on pivotal projects and how they are tied together in our recovery. John Jackson and Phil Salemi.

SEE WRITTEN STATEMENTS ATTACHED

PUBLIC HEARING/CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Pam Heard presented the Proposed plan for the District Clerk's Technology Funds, Texas Government Code, Chapter

51.035, Subchapter D, to fund the preservation and restoration of the District Clerk's Records as set out in Item No. 2 below. NO PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE MADE

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to close the public hearing at 9:29 a.m. Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONSENT ITEMS

Item 5. WAS PULLED FROM CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - DUE TO ERROR IN FEE AMOUNT AND YEAR.

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to TABLE District Court Technology Fund and Fee \$10,000, 2020 for the preservation and restoration of the District Clerk's Records pursuant to Texas Government Code Sec. 51.305 and request approval of funding a records management expenditure in an amount up to \$22,535 and appropriate budget line item transfer from reserves. Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

1. Minutes from the Workshop Meeting of June 22, 2020.
2. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 3, 2020.

3. Minutes from the Workshop Meeting of August 3, 2020.
4. Accepting a donation to the auditor's office of nine (9) 5 inch, 3-ring notebooks valued at \$320 from the Rockport Area Association of Realtors.
5. Pulled for Separate Consideration.
6. Official Surety Bond Continuation Certificate for Michael Geer, Airport Manager, Aransas County.
7. Official Public Bond and Oath for Jaime Blackburn, Executive Assistant to County Judge.
Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

COUNTY PROJECTS

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to TABLE options approved by Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) for the future of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Project 4332-017 Fulton Beach Road Shoreline Resiliency Grant [Tabled 8/03/2020].
Question. Motion carried with Commissioner Chaney voting against the motion.
It is so ordered.
9. Motion was made by Commissioner Laubach to approve and then withdrew her motion; and then made a motion to take no action at this time, this motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline to a proposal to place the proposed certificate of obligation bond (as referred to in the County's Notice of Intent published on or about July 15, 2020) on the ballot of

(Inserts)

the November 3, 2020 election in an amount to be specified, but not to exceed \$19.9 Million. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

COUNTY REPORTS

10. Draw Public Members Names and Alternates for Salary Grievance Committee in accordance with Section 152.015 of the Local Government Code. Public Members Names drawn a follows: FLOYO KILGORE; ANGELA MARIE KMIEC; MORGAN LEANN VASQUEZ; JOSEPH ADAM TAYLOR; DIANNE CARBAJAL; PERRY DINO PICARAZZI;
11. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve 2nd Quarter 2020 Report for the Rockport Cultural Arts District. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

COUNTY ELECTIONS

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Order #0-12-2020, appointment of the 2020-2021 election judges and alternates. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.
13. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve early voting sites and election day voter centers for the general election to be held on November 3, 2020, including opening an additional voting location on Election Day. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

COUNTY ROADS

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve evaluation of proposals and selection of vendor, Holt Caterpillar, for the purchase of a new Loader.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve evaluation of proposals and selection of vendor, Doggett, for the purchase of a new Street Sweeper.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a Contract Amendment with Mott MacDonald Engineering to extend Time for Performance on February 12, 2019 Agreement for Professional Services covering three (3) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects, Hurricane Harvey, for roadway flood protection: Fulton Beach Road (FEMA Project No. DR-4332-017), Shell Ridge Road (FEMA Project No. DR-43320016), and Lamar Beach Road (FEMA Project No. DR-4332-015) from December 3, 2019 to May 22, 2023.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing County Judge to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to provide County with certain confidential data extracted from designated death records which Department of State Health Services (DSHS) retains.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to TABLE Resolution R-34-2020, a resolution authorizing the selection and award of a professional engineering services contract to Strand Associates for various Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) programs and supplemental Hazard Mitigation Programs administered by the General Land Office (GLO).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve authorizing County Judge to sign a contract agreement with Tasador, Inc. for appraisal services for 2000 Highway 35 Business North.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing County Judge to sign a contract agreement with Wild Associates for environmental services for 2000 Highway 35 Business North.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

21. General Discussion of the 2021 Budget.

Jacky Cockerham: The budget you are going to see is based on a NO NEW REVENUE TAX RATE, as well as, we have worked with the Feds on the rate for housing Federal Prisoners and they have negotiated a rate of \$76 a day. We asked for a three year come back to renegotiate and we have not heard if they have approved that or not. We were getting \$63 a day, so this budget that you are seeing right now actually takes into account that increase as well as the No New Revenue Rate.

Commissioner Laubach: What's the increase for what we attribute for getting a higher rate for the Federal Prisoners?

Commissioner Chaney: \$233,000.

Jacky: No that is what the change in fund balance will be, the prisoners is actually \$427,000, that's what we anticipate for the increase, basically the extra \$13 per prisoner, per day.

Commissioner Laubach: So you were saying, taking that good news into account, we are now looking at dipping into the General Fund Balance at only \$233,000?

Jacky: Yes.

Commissioner Smith: To put it into perspective, we started off the year with a \$6,900,000 in the General Fund and we are going to project, as of the end of this year, around \$6,600,000 and this would reduce it down to somewhere between \$6,300,000 and \$6,400,000.

Jacky: Yes sir, and this does take into account all of the new positions and the extra payroll that we have because of the 27 pay periods, all of that is already built into these

numbers. We do have a spreadsheet that we can show you if Commissioners chose to give a cost of living, what effect that would have on the Fund Balance, and the General Fund it's about \$200,000 below.

Commissioner Smith: It's particularly important also to point out that this is after if we adopt a tax rate that is actually a decline of about 1.8 cents too, which is a fair amount based on our tax level of about 3%, probably.

Commissioner Laubach: This budget factors in the projected cost for the borrowing if we do the \$19,900,000 bond, or not?

Jacky: This does have that, this No New Rate is kind of an accumulation, but it does have that built into the debt portion of it, yes ma'am.

Commissioner Smith: Commissioner, whether that bond issue is actually approved or not, it will not affect this budget.

Jacky: Yes, because it would be the same rate.

22. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Elected Officials Salaries and Expenses to be included in the 2021 Budget with no increase. Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

23. The Public hearing on the 2021 Budget is scheduled for August 24, 2020 @ 8:45 a.m.

24. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the adoption of the Proposed 2020 Tax Rate at 0.433543.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

25. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve No Public Hearing date on the proposed 2020 Tax Rate.

Question. Jeri: Because we went with a No New Revenue Tax Rate, we do not have to have a public hearing on this. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

26. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve August 31, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m. as Time and Date to Adopt the 2021 Budget and the 2020 Tax Rate.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

27. 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.

28. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities with the addition of Interest and Principle paid on the Annual Debt Payments.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

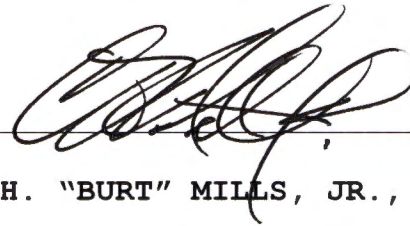
REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &

DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

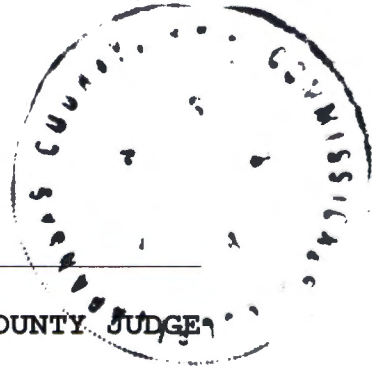
Commissioner Chaney: I'd like to thank the folks out at the Transfer Station, I've been paying attention to how clean they have been keeping it, they are really doing a good job.

Commissioner Smith: I'd like to state that I look forward to having a public vote on issuing the debt through CO's or a General Obligation bond. I think the plan we have put forth is a good plan and I'm looking forward to answering any potential questions that voters might have on this issue.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 11:13 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Laubach.



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



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