

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**COMMISSIONERS' COURT**

**REGULAR MEETING - SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**

On the 24th day of September, 2018, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Commissioners' Courtroom in the County Courthouse, located at 2840 Highway 35 North, 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; **Betty Stiles**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Kristen Barnebey**, County Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Latisha Murphy**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Valerie Gonzales**, Environmental Health Director; **Jacky Cockerham**, Assistant County Auditor; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Iris Sanchez**, Head Librarian; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager for the County District Attorney;

Long-Term Recovery: **Kim Foutz**, Long-Term Recovery Specialist;

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

City of Rockport Council Members: **Pat Rios**, Mayor; and Mayor Pro-Tem; **Barbara Gurtner**, Ward 4;

**Keven Carruth**, City Manager, City of Rockport;

**Wendy Laubach;** Candidate Elect for Commissioner, Pct. 4;

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

**Citizens:** Kevin Jamison; June Gregory;

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**

**James (Jim) Eamons:** I am with the Rockport Masonic Lodge, concerning the new Courthouse, we would like to be allowed to conduct a Cornerstone Leveling Ceremony, which we have conducted for many years for Public Buildings, Churches & Schools. This would be officiated by the Grand Lodge of Texas, this type of ceremony is short and it allows people, basically, to give speeches.

**Darrell Pool:** I am a resident on Banty Lane, which is right on the edge of Aransas County and the last rain devastated our road and McCampbell Road, which is a major road through and from, has since been repaired. Banty Lane is not a major road and County maintenance ends at the stop sign, but we have major issues with drainage out there, we have not had drainage for the fifteen years that I have been there. I have maintained the road and somewhat gotten drainage going through there, but with these last couple of rains and the Hurricane it has just been overwhelming. We have sick kids and an elderly lady with liver problems out there. As of right now, there is no way to get any Emergency Vehicles or routine police patrol out there. I've reached out to the property owners and I have a petition with

the names and phone numbers, we would like to be able to sit down with the County Engineer and our Commissioner or anyone that we can speak with. We have photos, air drone photos, and it has just totally changed our lives this last go around. We have a makeshift road to get in and out but it is not a substantial road for small cars or Emergency Vehicles. The residents are all in agreement and willing to give up their easements. We can dig the dirt from our properties to alleviate some of the expense. We will work with the County and maintain the improved roads, whatever we can do to make it easier and get it resolved quickly.

**Debbie Griffith:** I was here a few weeks ago to speak to you about the FEMA canal clean-up issue in Copano Cove. In the last couple of weeks, I have worked really hard to work with Valerie Gonzales in trying to get the residents to sign the authorization forms. The last time I was here communication was slow, there was a very short time frame given to get the authorizations in. I have worked very hard trying to locate people and I have discovered that there are a couple of people who own part of Salt Lake that we did not know about and they live in Brazil now, I was able to contact them and hopefully by Wednesday or Thursday I will get their approval form. But I don't know if that is enough, so my question for the court is, if there is anything else that we can do to help further this along, to get direction or support from the County, see what we can do. I have heard that the canals are tenancy in common, or something, otherwise I have not found anywhere that it says that I own that piece of it. If we could just get that cleared so that the barges can come through Salt Lake. I feel helpless and I just want to know if there is anything I can do to help get

this done because it is not just affecting the residents of Copano Cove, I think it is affecting the whole community. My largest concern is the amount of debris in the water that has come from these homes, which had common hazardous material and chemicals inside and around the homes, which have required methods of disposal, these are now in the water. Who is ultimately going to be responsible for the clean-up of hazardous waste? I just want to appeal to you and offer my services, anything that I might be able to do to help.

**PRESENTATIONS**

There were none.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

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

1. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2018.
2. Court Order #O-07-2018, Setting Fees for Sheriff and Constables.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES**

3. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Resolution #R-13-2018, a Resolution of Aransas County (County), Texas, certifying that the County has made a grant to the Aransas County Council on Aging, an organization that provides home-

(Inserts)

delivered meals to homebound persons in the county who are elderly and/or have a disability and certifying that the county has approved the organization's accounting system or fiscal agent.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

4. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Resolution #R-14-2018 for the 2019 Indigent Defense Grant Program.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve allowing the Aransas County Library to apply for a grant from Castaways Thrift Shop for \$3,000, to be used for purchasing educational and activity items for the family areas of the library.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

6. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Rockport regarding a Chapter 380 Economic Development Agreement with Elsley, LLC went into closed session.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Aransas County, to clarify the parties' responsibilities for information technology (IT) services and support at the Aransas County AgriLife Extension Office.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

**REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS AND/OR QUALIFICATIONS**

8. Approval for soliciting requests for Qualifications (RFQ's) for Engineering Support services to meet Long-Term Recovery operational program needs and projects went into closed session.

**PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE**

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the August 2018 Treasurer's Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve ratifying the 2019 Budget.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &

DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

**Commissioner Stiles:** I received a letter from the Texas Parks & Wildlife and they are going to have a controlled burn at the new Goose Island Big Tree Park and part of the State Park itself between November, 2018 and January, 2019, so whatever we need to do to let folks know, dispatch probably has a copy of this but I don't want to assume that.

**Judge Mills:** Yes, they do. **Commissioner Stiles:** Ok.

**Commissioner Chaney:** I want to publicly thank David Reid and his group for their quick action on Banty Lane. Thankfully, there were no injuries from that major road washout, it went from a foot deep to about six feet deep in a matter of about 45 minutes to an hour and was 10 - 15 feet wide across. The Road & Bridge Department was out there and I also want to thank the Sheriff and the Aransas Pass Police Department for their help, it was a dangerous situation.

**Suzy Wallace:** Read the Fee Report.

**Judge Mills:** Gavin Harrison, Training Coordinator for the Sheriff's Office, is conducting "Stop the Bleed" training sessions today. They had one at 8:30 this morning and will have another one from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. They also have them scheduled at the same times on September 27<sup>th</sup>, this coming Thursday, all taking place in the District Courtroom.

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*The Court entered into closed session at 9:20 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 10:42 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:*

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6. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to TABLE Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Rockport regarding a Chapter 380 Economic Development Agreement with Elsley, LLC.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve soliciting requests for Qualifications (RFQ's) for Engineering Support services to meet Long-Term Recovery operational program needs and projects subject to a list of projects to be provided and submitted by staff.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

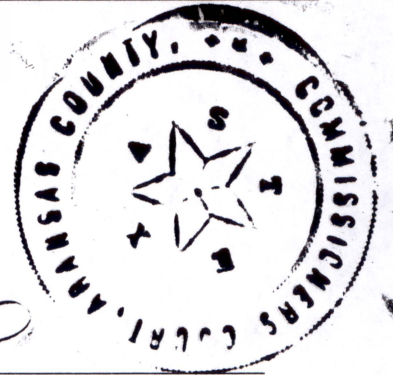
It is so ordered.



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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:45 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.*

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. H. Mills, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Valerie K. Amason", is written over a horizontal line.

VALERIE K. AMASON,

EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT