

MINUTES OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

SPECIAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

On the 30th day of September, 2019, there was a Special 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 **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Latisha Murphy**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **Jacky Cockerham**, First Assistant County Auditor;

Auditor; **John Gutierrez**, Chief Deputy Sheriff;

Long-Term Recovery: **Vicki Foley**, Executive Secretary;

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

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:

ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION

1. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Amended Court Order #0-17-2019-A, Setting Fees for Sheriff and Constables.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

**Commissioner Smith:** On Wednesday night of last week I attended a presentation put on by Flatsworthy concerning a Desalination Plant proposed to be put on Harbor Island and the Discharge Permit that the Port of Corpus Christi trying to get. They want to take the water from Offshore, according to the permit, two and a half miles out in the Gulf, desalinate it, then they want to put the brine from the desalination process directly back into the bay and that's a bad plan as far as I'm concerned and as far as the science is concerned. It's pretty much accepted that most, if not a vast majority of the desalination, to get rid of the brine it's dumped back in the ocean where it will have little or no impact, but that is the real problem. The greater risk is on the end of process when the brine is put back, the brine will substantially higher the salinity of the normal ocean water, the brine also, in those conditions, will make it more difficult for the Marine Life in the immediate

vicinity of the discharge site to survive. This particular permit wants to put it back in there at Harbor Island where you have the confluence of the Ship Channel on one side and Lydia Ann Channel and the Shrimp Channel on the other and that would provide a barrier for the larvae coming out of the sea water on species such as Redfish, Shrimp, Crabs, etc. from getting into the bay, a severe impact. So going forward, we don't have anything at this point and time but I just want to make the Court aware, and everyone else that is here, that this particular permit is a dangerous situation for our bay system and the productivity of our bay system, and as we've always stated here in the past environmental problems are economic problems for our County.

**Judge Mills:** We probably need to look at writing a Resolution to the fact that this court, if it passes, does not support this discharge permit.

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:03 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith.*

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*Valerie K. Amason*

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

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

