

**MINUTES OF THE ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT**

**REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 26, 2020**

On the 26th day of October, 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 Casterline**, Commissioner, Precinct 2; **Charles Smith**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Carrie Arrington**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present in person, via YouTube, or via Zoom, were: **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **David Klanica**, Detention Center Lieutenant; **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor, **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **Tracy Orr**, Administrative Assistant to County Judge; **Jaime Blackburn**, Executive Assistant to County Judge; **Tana Taylor**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Latisha Murphy**, Assistant Auditor; **Elizabeth Guerra**, HR Assistant; **Kat Comeaux**, Development Service Coordinator; **Mike Geer**, Airport Manager; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Rene Butler**, Facilities Director; **John Strothman**, Project Manager; **Misty Kimbrough**, Collections Specialist; **Lori Cesar**, Animal Control Director; **Kim Foutz**, Long-Term Recovery; and **William Whitson**, Long-Term Recovery.

Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present in person, via YouTube, or via Zoom, were: **Justin Parkoff**, Texas Maritime Museum; **Diane Probst** and **Sandy Jumper**, Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce; **Randall Freeze**, Program Specialist & Legislative Liaison, Texas General Land Office; and **Mike Probst**, Editor and Publisher, The Rockport Pilot.

**Aransas County Citizens present** in person, via YouTube, or via Zoom, were: **Amanda Oster**, County District Attorney-Elect; **Pat Rousseau**, Commissioner-Elect, Pct. 3; **Katy Jackson**; **Mike Fields**; **Allan Smith**; **Jeff Hutt**; **Katherine Kane**; **Robert Henderson**; **Richy Etheridge**; and **Brandi Karl**.

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**

**Katy Jackson**: Generally, Ms. Jackson expressed her dissatisfaction with the County's website. She feels that it should be a much better source of information for the public and that it should be easy to access. Instead, she finds it extremely difficult - if not impossible - to find things she's looking for and not at all user friendly. She also thinks it is very visually unappealing - "a mess." She believes that this is an important issue and she hopes the County will look closely at our website and make some good changes.

**Jeff Hutt**: Generally, Mr. Hutt criticized the letter that Judge Mills had published in the newspaper this weekend. He disagreed with Judge's characterization of "Rockport having some relatively new residents who are sowing seeds of distrust." He went on to say that he and the Aransas County Voter Coalition just want transparency in their government and they have problems when their requests for public documents are denied. He said he didn't trust the Judge or the long-term recovery plan and that he disagreed with many of the planned expenditures and the lack of public information and citizen input.

**Katherine Kane**: Generally, Ms. Kane takes issue with the county's use of Mott MacDonald as the engineering firm for the two shoreline

mitigation projects on this agenda. She wanted to know about the selection process, whether we went out for bids or just have an approved list or bidder of choice for all engineering projects. She also wanted to know whether we have looked at or can look at other engineering firms besides Mott MacDonald. Her concerns are based on Mott MacDonald's previously-presented shoreline mitigation solutions for the southern portion of Fulton Beach Road that didn't take into consideration the concerns and input of the property owners along Fulton Beach Road or Aransas County citizens. She is concerned about their inability to look at alternative options that work for the citizens of this county.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

1. Proclamation #P-09-2020 to recognize the Month of November 2020 as "Home Care and Hospice Month" in Aransas County and encourage the support and participation of all citizens in learning more about the home care and hospice philosophy of care for the elderly, disable, and the terminally ill was read into the record by Tracy Orr. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith to approve the proclamation as read and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

2. Minutes from the Special Meeting of October 5, 2020.
3. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 12, 2020.
4. Minutes from the Public Hearing with Special Meeting of October 19, 2020.
5. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) presented to Melissa Bolt for completing training course-Online Family Law Workshop-provided by Texas District Clerk Alliance

6. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) presented to Pam Heard for completing training course-Online Family Law Workshop-provided by Texas District Clerk Alliance
7. Official Surety Bond Continuation Certificate for Linda Doane, Human Resources.
8. Payment of \$1,000 from the County District Attorney's forfeiture account to be paid to the Children's Advocacy Center as a contribution during the Coastal Bend Day of Giving on or before November 10, 2020.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

**COUNTY REPORTS**

9. Justin Parkoff, Executive Director and Marine Archaeologist, Texas Maritime Museum, gave the organization's quarterly report. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 Report for Texas Maritime Museum. [tabled on 10-12-20]  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.
10. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve 2019-2020 HOT Fund Expense Report submitted to the Court Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce's Diane Probst, President/CEO, and presented by Sandy Jumper, Vice President of Marketing and Promotions.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

**COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK**

11. In accordance with Government Code 51,319 (3) and the Court's discussion with Pam Heard, a motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to set the new

"reasonable" service fee for District Clerk to charge in the required posting of a citation by publication, as mandated by Senate Bill 891 (86R), at the same amount as the posting fee that Commissioners' Court approves annually for sheriff and constable, and for the clerk's posting of a citation by publication fee to continue to adjust each year accordingly. Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

#### COUNTY ROADS & FLOODPLAIN

12. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve Concept Plan for Fulton Beach Landings Planned Unit Development on North Fulton Beach Road, as submitted by Kat Comeaux and David Reid. Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

#### CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

13. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Laubach authorizing County Judge to sign an agreement with our current inmate commissary provider, Keefe Commissary Network LLC, for prepaid debit card "Secure Release" services for Aransas County inmates. Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve Amended Resolution #R-40-2020-A to document Commissioners' Court continued support for and acceptance of a Financial Assistance Grant from Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) with the updated costs for Repair and Reconstruction of Airport Apron Drain/Sinkhole Repair Project.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Resolution #R-42-2020, a resolution awarding a professional services contract for a fiber optic loop feasibility study for GLO Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Contract #20-065-098-C270, and to authorize the County Judge to sign a contract with Cobb, Fendley & Associates for this feasibility study, contingent upon successful negotiation of that contract. Should negotiations be unsuccessful with Cobb, Fendley & Associates, however, with this motion, this Court also authorizes the County to move forward with the second ranked firm, TOP Engineers - the selected qualified runner-up firm to provide such project-related services - and for the County Judge to sign that contract instead, contingent upon that successful negotiation.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing County Judge to sign an Engineering/Architectural/Surveyor Services Agreement with Strand Associates, Inc. for Aransas County's Fiber Optic Loop Communication System Project, part of Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Hurricane Harvey application.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

17. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing County Judge to sign an Engineering/Architectural/Surveyor Services Agreement

with LNV, LLC. for Aransas County's Ruby Allen Streets, Drainage and Utility Infrastructure Improvement Project, part of Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Hurricane Harvey application, contingent upon review by legal counsel.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing County Judge to sign an Engineering/Architectural/Surveyor Services Agreement with Mott MacDonald, LLC. for Aransas County's Newcomb Point Shoreline Preservation Project, part of Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Hurricane Harvey application, contingent upon review by legal counsel.

Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing County Judge to sign an Engineering/Architectural/Surveyor Services Agreement with Mott MacDonald, LLC. for Aransas County's Fulton Beach Road Elevation and Beach Nourishment Project, part of Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Hurricane Harvey application, contingent upon review by legal counsel.

Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to officially enter into the record that this Court approved the bid of Prosperity Bank as Aransas County Bank Depository on September 28, 2020, and now designates Prosperity Bank as the County's Depository Bank for a period of four (4) years, effective November 10, 2020, and

to authorize the County Judge to execute the Depository Contract and Collateral Agreement for this new four year term. Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

**PLANNING & BUDGET**

- 21.** Following Alma Cartwright's presentation, a motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the September 2020 Monthly Treasurer's Report. Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.
- 22.** Following Alma Cartwright's presentation, a motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve the 3rd Quarter Treasurer's Investment Report. Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.
- 23.** Following a discussion lead by Judge McGinnis and Linda Doane on the need to combine the part-time JP2 Pre-Trial Supervision Officer position and the part-time Court Clerk position into a single new full-time position, a motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to eliminate the two heretofore mentioned part-time positions, and to approve a new job description for JP2: Pre-Trial Supervision Officer & Court Clerk, pay group 11. Question. Motion carried by majority with Commissioner Chaney abstaining.  
It is so ordered.
- 24.** Tana Taylor reported no Budget Line Item transfers or amendments. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve (no) Budget Line Item Transfers and Amendments for this period. Question. Motion carried unanimously.



It is so ordered.

25. Tana Taylor also stated that our Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities were all normal for the period. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Accounts Payable, Payroll/Payroll Liabilities, and related Fee Report. Question. Motion carried unanimously.

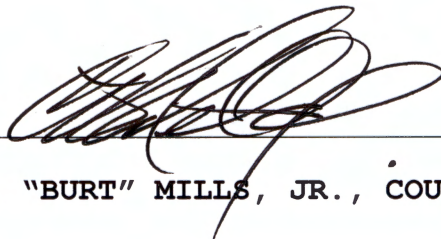
It is so ordered.

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

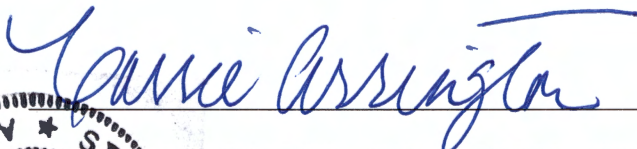
Tana Taylor reported that the County is down \$211,000 in fee collections year-to-date.

Sheriff Mills reported that Leo Trejo will be replacing outgoing (retiring) Executive Director, Coastal Plains Community Center, Mark Durand.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:26 a.m. on a motion duly made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.



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



CARRIE ARRINGTON, EX-OFFICIO CLERK  
OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT

