

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - DECEMBER 10, 2018

On the 10th day of December, 2018, 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; **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 District Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Diane Dupnik**, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1; **Amanda LaFerney**, Chief Court Clerk, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1; **Peggy Schaefer**, Court Clerk, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Linda Garcia Haynes**, Executive Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Jacky Cockerham**, Assistant County Auditor; **Lois White**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **Laura Kirchens**, Deputy County Treasure;

Long-Term Recovery: **William Whitson**, Long Term Recovery Specialist;

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

Geanie Morrison, Republican State Representative for District 30;

City of Rockport Council Members: **Barbara Gurtner**, Ward 4;

Aransas County Historical Commission: **Pam Stranahan**, Chair;

Carol Thompson, Treasurer; **Linda Garcia Haynes**, Secretary; Other members: **Jerry Brundrett**; **Vickie Moon-Merchant**; **Sherri Collins**; **June Gregory**; **Barbara Gurtner**; **Janet Gaskamp**; **Robin Jones**; **Carla Krueger Rinche**; **Lloyd Matthews**; **Betty Stiles**, Court Appointed Liaison;

Steve Smith, General Assignment Reporter for the Rockport Pilot Newspaper;

Charles Smith, Retired Commissioner Precinct 3;

Kevin Jamison, Director & Vice-President of Elsley, LLC, Residential/Commercial Housing Plans & Builder/Developer;

Ronny and Tracy Goodwin, Residents;

The Meeting was convened at **8:30 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

Preston Gage, resident at 11 Clam Drive, Rockport, TX: I live on Copano Ridge and back in September I had appealed to the court for water canal clean-up, I just want to thank all of you who helped to make that happen.

PRESENTATIONS**1. Special Presentation of Appreciation:**

Linda Haynes: The History Center has been a phenomenal educational experience for this county and the board has been wonderful. I know when I worked on it, it was just remarkable and these people here today have just done such an outstanding job. Those members that are going off of the Board include Lloyd Matthews, Robin Jones, Janet Gaskamp, Carla Krueger Rinche, and Vicki Moon Merchant. For those who don't know, Vicki and her husband are accomplished square dancers, (Linda then presented her with a picture she had taken of them in their square dance attire). I want to say that Vicki has accomplished so much during her tenure as president, in fact too much to list them all at this time, but I would like to highlight just a couple of her achievements, she did develop an operations manual and enlivened exhibits with video and computer technology which made the programs so much more interesting for the children and visitors. She began a collectors corner, a Sunday afternoon program to let local antique collectors lecture on their vintage collections, and it's been so successful. Most importantly, she spread the center's prestige and reputation by presenting at the National Conference of American Association for State and Local History. Vicki, along with all of her outgoing board members, have worked very hard and diligently, each in their very own unique way, volunteering hundreds and hundreds of hours towards making the history center a formidable presence in our community. The Commissioner's Court and all of us here today wish to express our sincere thanks.

Vicki Moon Merchant: Read the quarterly report, she then introduced the incoming Board members for 2019: Robert Lawrence, President; Lhea Oliva, Vice President; John Bimrose, Treasurer; and Donna Wilson, Secretary.

Judge Mills: I'd like to personally thank you and all of your outgoing board members for all you've done for this county and the History Center.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

2. Minutes from the Public Meeting and Regular Meeting of November 26, 2018.
3. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certification for Continuing Education for Commissioner Betty Stiles and Commissioner Lendon "Jack" Chaney at the 2018 Legislative Conference August 29-31, 2018, Austin, TX.
4. Resolution #R-21-2018, a resolution of Aransas County, Texas authorizing the award of a professional service provider contracts for Hurricane Harvey related Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Programs administered through the following agencies: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Texas Department of Emergency Management, Texas General Land Office, Texas Water Development Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
5. Resolution #R-23-2018, a resolution approving the Long Term Recovery Plan.

(Inserts)

6. New 2019 Appointments for the Aransas County Historical Commission.
7. Official Bond Continuation Certificate for David Reid, P.E., County Engineer.
8. Official Public Blanket Bond for County Deputy Clerks.
9. Declaring Sheriff's list of property as surplus to clear for sale at public auction.
10. Adding the following statement to the Aransas County Airport Rules and Regulations regarding hangar development: On areas of the airport which have been designated for Corporate Hangar Development, see Corporate Hangar Requirements. All other undeveloped areas will be considered for smaller hangars on a case by case basis. The process for consideration will be based on best interests of the airport and will begin with the Airport Manager, then the Airport Advisory Board, and finally the Aransas County Commissioners Court. For more information about areas designated for Corporate Hangar Development, see the airport manager.

11. Pulled for discussion.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. Resolution #R-20-2018, a resolution of Aransas County, Texas in support of the beneficial use of dredged material to restore dunes and the beach at San Jose Island **was pulled for discussion pending the outcome of further discussion concerning the Port of Corpus Christi. No action taken on this item.**

(Inserts)

COUNTY REPORTS

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to outgoing members of the
13. Friends of the History Center and approve the Quarterly Report for the Friends of the History Center.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY ROADS

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve accepting and awarding Road Material Bid.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to disapprove county incentives for first time purchases of land or lots in Aransas County to be used as single residence housing and developing a countywide incentive plan. Items to be discussed include incentivizing the purchase of lots for new housing, potential economic development considerations and whether to create a plan that would be reviewed periodically and the criteria for acceptance under the plan.

Question. Motion carried with Commissioner Chaney opposing.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the November 2018 Indigent Healthcare Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve Resolution #R-22-208, a resolution of authorization for Prosperity Bank Signature Authority and Electronic Banking Services.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve Aransas County Fund Balance Policy.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Aransas County Cash Handling Policy.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Aransas County Fraud Prevention and Detection Policy.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

21. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve Aransas County Fixed Asset Methodology Policy.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

23. 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.

(Insert)

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &

DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

Suzy Wallace: I would just like to let everybody know that we have a new face in our Auditor's office, Sue Pash is now going to be responsible for Accounts Payable as our new Assistant Auditor, so if you see here in there just wish her well. Also as we near the end of the year if you could please look at all of your expenditures and make sure that you get everything submitted and turned in so that we can get it processed in a timely manner.

Commissioner Chaney: I'd just like to say that I'm real proud of all the county employees, this year has been really busy and I've heard more compliments this year than I've heard in the past. We've really pulled together as a team and I, for one, really appreciate that.

Linda Doane: I just have a Kudo's for the County Employees, this year we qualified for the 2018 Risk Management Safety Award, we can apply for that, we'll find out who wins those in February, but the County's loss ratio for 2018 was 2 percent which is almost unheard of, Congratulations to all the employees who are working so hard at being safe.

Peggy Shaefer: For my commissioner, Mrs. Betty Stiles, she's going to be greatly missed on the bench up there but I'm sure she will stay involved, she's that kind of lady, we appreciate all of the hard work she's done, (presented wooden county seal plaque). Betty hit the ground running even before she was Commissioner, I've been there with her most steps of the way, joining in on all kinds of projects, we're going to miss you, thank you so much for your service and all of your hard work and dedication.

Judge Mills: We have a special guest here today, Representative Geanie Morrison is also here also to make a presentation to our outstanding commissioner.

Geanie Morrison: Well, I just want to honor this lady I have known for probably 30 years, I have worked with her on so many occasions and so many projects, everything from political to her official capacity and just being a wonderful friend for many years. I have a Resolution for you from the House of Representatives that I would like to read to you and to

everyone. "Whereas, Betty Stiles is concluding her tenure as Precinct 4 Aransas County Commissioner in 2018 providing a fitting opportunity to recognize her exceptional record of service; and Whereas, a native of Washington DC, Mrs. Stiles has lived in Texas since 1970 and in Aransas County since 1981 as she began her term as Precinct 4 Aransas County Commissioner in 2012. In addition to her work with the Commissioner's Court she has served on the boards of the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of Goose Island State Park and as Treasurer of the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class; Whereas, Mrs. Stiles was a founding member of The Rockport Rockettes, a local group that has provided charitable support to numerous organizations. She has also been involved with the Aransas County Historical Commission, the History Center for Aransas County, the Lamar Women's Club, and the Lamar Community Service Organization. Long active in the Republican Party she has served as Treasurer for the Texas Republican County Chair Association as Republican County Chair from 2007 to 2011 and as a Presidential Elector in 2012; and Whereas, Betty Stiles has contributed immeasurably to her community and in so doing she has earned the admiration and appreciation of countless area Texans; now Therefore be it Resolved, that Betty Stiles be honored for her outstanding service as the Aransas County Commissioner, Precinct 4 and that she be extended the sincere best wishes for the future.

Betty Stiles: I've done this for six years and I've loved it, at times I haven't, Harvey notwithstanding, but it's been a pleasure to work with staff, Valerie Gonzalez and David Reid, I don't know how you ever put up with me, you know, you just did, I know I drove you crazy all the time. John Strothman, I told

him the other day, I said, "You're going to be so glad to see me out of here" and he said, "No, not really". Sheriff Mills, what can I say, you've been a friend for a long time and I pray for your Mom, I hope everything's good with her. Mike Gere, you're the love, I just do, I can't tell you enough how much, Charlie Smith said this to me one day, and thank you for being here Charlie, he said "One thing you have to do if you don't do anything else, you have trust staff, don't try to do their job for them and I hope I have never tried to do that, I probably stuck my nose in a little further than I should have but still, I took that advice at heart, thank you for that. This court, with the exception of today David, but we have been so cohesive with most of our decisions, I mean we've not butt heads too often and that's not easy to say after six years of being on this court twice a month. I think we've gotten along extraordinarily well and I can't thank you enough, this is a great group of men that I've been the token female on for six years, but I just want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. Will Whitson, you've worked so hard for Long Term Recovery, Valerie Gonzalez, the debris, I can't say enough of what great things you've done for this county, and so, hang in there and keep us going, please, anyway I want to thank you.

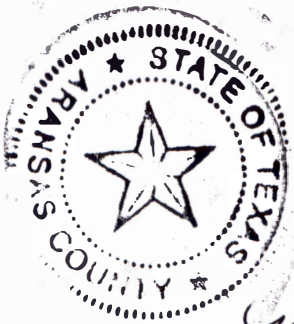
Judge Mills: Thank you, I just want to say, the six years that she has been on here has been very interesting, she's quite the leader, she can push you where you don't want to be pushed to get things done, she's been very good to work with, I'm going to miss her.

Betty Stiles: Thank you.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:05 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen.



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



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