

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - NOVEMBER 25, 2019

On the 25th day of November, 2019, 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; **Charles Smith**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Kristen Barnebey**, County District Attorney; **Jeri Cox**, Tax Assessor-Collector; **Richard Bianchi**, County Court at Law Judge; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **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; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager, County District Attorney's Office; **Jacky Cockerham**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Lori Cesar**, Animal Control Director; **Lois White**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **Tana Taylor**, Assistant County Auditor; **Sue Pash**, Assistant County Auditor; **Gavin Harrison** Training Coordinator for the Sheriff's Office;

Long-Term Recovery Specialists: **Kim Foutz**, **Randall Freeze**;

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

City of Rockport Council Members: Pat Rios, Mayor; Barbara Gurtner, Ward 4;

Aransas County Citizens: Jason R. Woods; Pat Rousseau; Nancy Bolting; Evelyn Guidry;

Chamber of Commerce: Diane Probst, President/CEO;

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:

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

**Pat Rousseau:** Good morning Commissioners, Judge, I am Pat Rousseau in Whistlers Cove and I formerly worked for Aransas County as HR Director, I have been reading about the creation of the Floating HR Position, pros and cons, and I've come to speak against that. Before I was here and while I was here, and I know things can change, we did use a couple of Temp Agencies to fill positions as needed, the reasons for doing that is you have control over what your costs are going to be, you set what the hourly rate is and you tell the Temp Agency what you are willing to pay, and then they recruit the person that you need. You do pay them an overhead commission but it's much less than what you pay a full-time employee, because as you know, if you have a full-time employee, you have vacation pay, sick pay, holiday pay, the retirement contribution, you have the employer's share

of payroll tax, if they are injured on the job it goes against your worker's comp contribution rate and if for some reason they do not work out in that position and you let them go then you have the unemployment compensation to pay, which also raises the tax rate eventually for the County. If you hire someone you have the opportunity to preview resumes in advance or just tell them, this is what we want just send us whomever you can find that fits these qualifications, but different departments have different needs, some just need a person to answer the phone, some need them to file, to alphabetize, someone who can do Excel, spreadsheets, some need someone who can do word documents, and if you don't have any departments in need and you hire someone, you have that person sitting around on the County's budget and earning a salary, so that is my recommendation. Thank you.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Presentation from ACTS Aviation, LLC owner - Cody Stewart:

**(See Power Point attached)**

**CONSENT ITEMS**

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

2. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 12, 2019.
3. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certificate of Participation from the V. G. Young Institute of County Government/Texas A&M Agrilife Extension awarded to C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., County Judge,

for successfully completing 10.00 hours of educational training the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas Conference October 07-10, 2019 in Galveston, Texas.

4. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a Certificate of Participation from the V. G. Young Institute of County Government/Texas A&M Agrilife Extension awarded to Charles Smith, Precinct 3 County Commissioner, for successfully completing 10.00 hours of educational training the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas Conference October 07-10, 2019 in Galveston, Texas.
5. Official Public Bond Continuation Certificate for David Reid, County Engineer.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

#### COUNTY REPORTS

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve and present Joint Proclamation #JP-01-2019 for Small Business Saturday.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve and recognize accepting a donation of \$1,572.25 for a Memorial Bench in memory of Ed Boyd from James Smith and friends.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**(Inserts)**

COUNTY ROADS

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Order #O-22-2019, an Order to Close, Abandon, and Vacate a 20-foot Alleyway in Block 191, Manning Addition, Aransas County, Texas.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign an Interlocal Agreement between Aransas County and Lubbock County Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases for Fiscal Year 2020.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Sheriff's Office requesting approval for Stone Garden Equipment bids and accepting the bid from NVD.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a one year Interlocal Agreement with San Patricio County regarding the Intoxilyzer Program and Technical Services.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

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12. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a two-year cooperative Community Service Agreement with 36<sup>th</sup>, 156<sup>th</sup>, & 343<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Districts Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) to provide a framework through which probationers can complete court-ordered community service.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a customer service agreement with Republic Services for Transfer Station's plastic recycling.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE**

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the October 2019 Treasurer's Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Discuss, approve, or disapprove creating two Long Term Recovery Senior Advisor positions and approve the job description to continue the Long Term Recovery efforts for Aransas County **went into closed session.**

(Inserts)

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Judge Mills to approve creating a new Full-time Floater Position in Human Resources to cover temporary needs for administrative and clerical jobs in lieu of using temporary agencies to be paid for by departments requesting assistance [Tabled on October 28, 2019 and November 12, 2019].

Question. **Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Casterline voted against the motion. Motion carried with three voting for the motion.**

It is so ordered.

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Policy Committee's proposed amendment to Employee Handbook Policy 1B-23-Nepotism to the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) recommended wording for easier understanding of the policy. Amendment does not change the policy, but does provide a clearer and more concise understanding.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the County's monthly 2019 financial support to Code 3 Emergency.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

**(Inserts)**

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith 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**

**Suzy Wallace** read the fees report.

**Judge Mills** announced that Suzy Wallace will be retiring on December 13, 2019, that we would all miss her, and that she has made Aransas County proud.

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*The Court entered into closed session at 9:47 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 10:05 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:*

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15. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve creating two Long Term Recovery Senior Advisor positions and approve the job description to continue the Long Term Recovery efforts for Aransas County.

**(Inserts)**



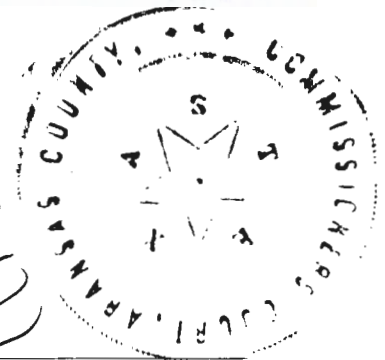
Question. Commissioner Laubach voted against the motion and Commissioner Casterline abstained. Motion carried with three voting for the Motion.

It is so ordered.

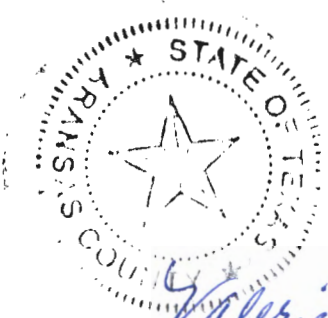
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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:06 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.*

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



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