

MINUTES OF THE ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

SPECIAL MEETING - MARCH 15, 2021

On the 15th day of March, 2021, 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 in person, via ZOOM, or via YouTube: **C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.**, County Judge; **Jack Chaney**, Commissioner, Precinct 1-1A; **Leslie Casterline**, Commissioner, Precinct 2; **Pat Rousseau**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Christy Gibson**, Chief Deputy County Clerk.

Other County Officers present in person, via YouTube, or via Zoom, were: **Alma Cartwright**, County Treasurer; **Tracy Orr**, Administrative Assistant to County Judge; **Jennifer O'Steen**, Assistant County Attorney; **Jacky Cockerham**, County Auditor; **Tana Taylor**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Latisha Murphy**, Assistant County Auditor; **Linda Doane**, HR Director; **Elizabeth Guerra**, HR Assistant; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **David Reid**, County Engineer; **Kat Comeaux**, Development Services Coordinator; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **John Gutierrez**, Chief Deputy Uniform Operations; **Gavin Harrison**, Sheriff's Office Training Coordinator; **Mike Geer**, Airport Manager; **Lori Cesar**, Animal Control Director; **Rene Butler**, Facilities Director; **John Strothman**, Project Manager; **William Whitson**, Long-Term Recovery, and **Kim Foutz**, Long-Term Recovery.

Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present in person, via YouTube, or via Zoom, were: **Mike Probst**, Editor and Publisher, The Rockport Pilot.

Aransas County Citizens present in person, via YouTube, or via Zoom, were: **Mike Fields**, **Allan Smith**, and **Katy Jackson**.

The Meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. at which time roll call was taken and a quorum was declared by Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done, to wit:

**PRESENTATION**

William Whitson and Kim Foutz gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the provisions of a proposed RFP (Request for Proposal) for a medical facility operator/manager relating to the County's Micro-Hospital/Medical Services Facility being built with grant funds. The stated purpose of the presentation was to discuss the work which has been accomplished to date and to receive authorization to proceed with the RFP.

**ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION**

1. A motion to table authorizing the issuance of a Request for Proposal for a medical facility operator/manager per General Land Office (GLO) Contract No. 20-065-098-C270, Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Casterline. Question. The motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.
  
2. A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Amendment #3 to the GrantWorks, Inc. Grant Administration Contract, incorporating the Medical Facility Project and associated Administrative Services into the existing contract and adding \$444,765 in Administrative Fees per GLO Contact No. 20-065-098-C270, Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR).  
Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

3. A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to accept the 20'-wide drainage easement, granted by Oyster Land, LLC, embracing 0.105 acres of land out of a 2.83 acre tract, Section 74, Sixth Subdivision of the Taft Farm Lands, Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

4. A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Master Agreement for Mutual Aid by and between the Coastal Bend Council of Governments (COG) and Aransas County. Then, it was noted by Commissioner Rousseau that the commissioner packets only contained the odd numbered pages so Commissioner Laubach moved to table the item until next meeting and Commissioner Chaney provided the second.

Question. The motion to table carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

5. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve a five percent (5%) salary increase for detention center employees only as prescribed by the Auditor's office and take up the rest of the possible salary increases at budget time. After some discussion, Commissioner Casterline amended his motion to approve a ten percent (10%) salary increase for jailers. Commissioner Rousseau, who served on the committee to look into the salaries of our law enforcement, wanted to approve a 10% salary increase for both jailers and deputies. Commissioner Chaney wanted to deal with the two areas as separate items, first the jailers then the deputies and withdrew his second, however, we only have one agenda item for the Sheriff's Department and/or Detention Center's Consideration of Salary Proposal as it relates to

staffing. Further discussion ensued and Sheriff Mills talked about his lack of ability to attract candidates to apply for the jailer positions because of the salaries he has to offer, the number of staff positions he is down in that area because nine employees at the jail have resigned to move elsewhere because of the pay, and to the high overtime he has had to pay because he continues to be down staff at the jail. That being said, he also stated that he felt it would be a problem for the jailers to receive a 10% increase without giving an increase to the deputies, given the differences and hiring requirements of the two positions. Commissioner Casterline called the question, and Commissioner Chaney added a second for Commissioner Casterline's motion on the floor to approve a ten percent (10%) salary increase for jailers.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

6. A motion was made by Judge Mills and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities. Ms. Cockerham also stated that they are all normal, basically invoices that weren't ready for last meeting and needed to be paid.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**The Court went into closed session at 10:50 a.m.** for an attorney consultation pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 551 and **returned into open session at 11:15 a.m.**

**No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 11:17 a.m.** on a motion duly made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.



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



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

