

MINUTES OF THE ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

REGULAR MEETING - APRIL 26, 2021

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 26th day of April, 2021, the Honorable Commissioners Court of Aransas County, Texas, met in Regular Session, at the Aransas County Courthouse, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, 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 Carrie Arrington, County Clerk.

Other County Officials/Department Heads/Staff Members present in person or via Zoom were: Alma Cartwright, Treasurer; Pam Heard, District Clerk; Tracy Orr, Administrative Assistant to County Judge; Jaime Blackburn, Executive Assistant to County Judge; Jennifer O'Steen, Assistant County Attorney; Jacky Cockerham, County Auditor; Tana Taylor; First Assistant County Auditor; Latisha Murphy, Assistant Auditor; Linda Doane, HR Director; Elizabeth Guerra, HR Assistant; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Rhonda Konieczny, Executive Assistant to the Sheriff; Richard Bianchi, County Court at Law Judge; Collin Jackson, IT Director; Jerry Brundrett, County Surveyor; Anna Marshall, County Tax Assessor-Collector; Lupita Wells, Chief Deputy Tax Assessor-Collector; David Reid, County Engineer; Mike Geer, Airport Manager; Rene Butler, Facilities Director; John Strothman, Project Manager; Kim Foutz, Long-Term Recovery; and Iris Sanchez, Library Director.

Members of Other Governmental Entities or Community Groups and Interested Parties present in person or via Zoom were: Ginger Easton Smith, Christy Hutt, Linda Frank, and Melody Waggoner, Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension and Master Gardeners; Paul Bonnette, PGAL, Inc.;

**Larry Irsak**, Architexas; **Diane Probst**, **Sandy Jumper**, and **Evelyn Guidry**, Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce; **Betty Stiles**, Aransas County Historical Commission; **Justin Parkoff**, Texas Maritime Museum; and **Mike Probst**, Editor and Publisher, The Rockport Pilot.

**Aransas County Citizens present** in person or via Zoom were: **Michael Bishop**; **Mike Fields**; **Allan Smith**.

The Meeting was duly convened at 9:00 a.m., followed by pledges to the American and Texas flags and an invocation given by County Surveyor Jerry Brundrette. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared by Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done, to wit:

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were none.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Ginger Easton-Smith** with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension introduced Master Gardener **Melody Waggoner** who, along with Master Gardeners **Christy Hutt** and **Linda Frank**, gave a presentation to thank the County, this Court, and Regional Pool Alliance the help they received to get their greenhouse rebuilt after Hurricane Harvey. They showed "then" and "now" pictures of their greenhouse, garden, and landscape. They also shared pictures and information on their Plant Sale, Brown Bags, and Quarterly Workshops.
2. **Paul Bonette** with PGAL and **Larry Irsak** with Architexas gave an update to the Court on the design work completed to date on the new County Courthouse. They submitted a schematic design narrative and discussed parts of it as they showed the site plan, floorplans, and renderings.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Minutes from the April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting.
4. Official Public Bond and Oath for Lupita Ann Wells, Chief Deputy Tax Assessor.
5. County Judge's Judicial Education Record, showing education requirements completed for reporting period 9/01/2020-8/31/2021.
6. Acceptance of an \$80 Donation to Aransas County Animal Control from Francis Garrity.
7. Acceptance of a donation of a 5.5 ft x 10 ft Square Carry-on Trailer to Aransas County Animal Control from the Humane Society of the United States.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the consent items.

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

It is so ordered.

COUNTY REPORTS

8. A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the 2nd Quarter 2021 Expenses for Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce, County Hotel Tax Account. **Diane Probst** and **Sandy Jumper** presented the information. Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.  
It is so ordered.
9. A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the 1st Quarter 2021 Report for the Historical Commission. **Betty Stiles** gave the report.

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

It is so ordered.

10. A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve the 1st Quarter 2021 Report for Texas Maritime Museum. **Justin Parkoff** gave the report.

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

It is so ordered.

11. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the 2020 Annual Aransas County Library Report submitted by Library Director **Iris Sanchez** in support of the library's annual application for Accreditation and membership in the Texas Library System.

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

It is so ordered.

**CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES**

12. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve giving 30-day Notice for Termination of an Existing Rental Contract with Ecolab covering an old, outdated dish-machine at the Aransas County Detention Center.

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

It is so ordered.

13. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney authorizing the County Judge to sign a new

rental agreement with North Star Leasing at the rate of \$117.00 per month. Sheriff Mills explained why he preferred to go with this rental agreement as opposed to making an outright purchase or acquiring the new dish-machine through a lease to own contract. Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign Change Order #2 for Cedar Bayou Project. This is to realign the discharge pipe on San Jose Island at the request of the Bass Organization.

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

It is so ordered.

15. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement for Architectural, Engineering, and Administrative Services for the Aransas County Courthouse/Downtown Anchor Project between Aransas County and PGAL, Inc. to clarify provisions related to compensation, to increase compensation for schematic design services by \$60,000.00, to authorize additional compensation in the amount of \$100,000.00 (to be paid upon project completion due to project delays and changes in project scope), and authorize the County Judge to execute necessary documents.

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

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET

16. A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the updated job descriptions for Corporal Jailer, Sergeant Jailer, and Jailer Commissary to bring job descriptions more in line with department requirements and duties. (No new monies.)

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

It is so ordered.

17. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the Budget Line Item Transfers and Amendments. Auditor Jacky Cockerham stated there were none.

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

It is so ordered.

18. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities.

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

It is so ordered.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

Judge Mills called for reports from elected officials and department heads.

**Commissioner Chaney:** Judge, I've taken a lot of phone calls lately on the County's preparation for Hurricane Harvey and the ice storm and other disasters. It appears to me that - while we have come a

long way, very successfully, in being ready for this type of problem now - one of the things I don't think we've done a good job on (and I'd like somebody to volunteer to help me with this) is to get more localized communication.

There are so many people who still don't know about Code Red and things like that. I would like for us to figure out where we could start putting some things out either monthly or quarterly and just talk about the things that are available to the citizens of Aransas County for unusual things. I don't know whether it'd be a newsletter or what but posted on website.

And, the second thing is: I think something that is very important is to be able, when communications are available to the county, to be able to communicate with loved ones in and out and around in other areas of the state and the nation. Now, I realize we've got the fiber optics coming through and I think that's going to help us a lot in that situation but, again, in our long-term emergency management planning, I really would like to see us start looking at some more localized facilities for communications where people can go and in precinct 1 and 1A, for example, we really have no place to shelter there.

These are all things that I would like in the next several years - to start looking and I think we're already on that path but I just think we need to do that. Thank you. Oh, and thanks, everybody, for your kind words with my injury.

**Judge Mills:** All right. Anyone else?

**Commissioner Laubach:** I just want to wish a happy birthday to

**Commissioner Casterline:** Thank you. I'm older than most dirt that I see. [laughter]

**Judge Mills:** All right. With that being said, do I have a motion to adjourn?

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:33 a.m. on a motion duly made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.



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



CARRIE ARRINGTON, EX-OFFICIO CLERK  
OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT

