



MINUTES

Aransas County Commissioners Court

9:00 AM – Monday, April 11, 2022

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met in **Regular Session** on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 9:00 AM, in the Aransas County Courthouse, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, Texas.

Present: **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

Absent:

I. Call to Order & Pledges

The meeting convened at 9:00 AM, followed by pledges to the American and Texas flags.

II. The Invocation was given by County Surveyor Jerry Brundrett.

III. Roll Call was taken. **A Quorum was declared**, and the following proceedings were had and done, to wit:

IV. Citizens to be Heard – There were none.

V. Presentations –

- Megan Glidden** and **Ginger Easton Smith** (Texas A&M AgriLife) introduced several members from the newest class (Class XXV) of Leadership Aransas County and gave background information on the class's selected service project: a new 4H pavilion on Ag Extension property, which would involve tearing down the old pavilion, elevating part of the existing concrete, then constructing the new pavilion. The class stated they have a goal of raising \$35,000-\$40,000 for the project, and have raised in excess of \$15,000 so far. They announced they have a board member who set up a \$10,000 matching fund to match project donations, dollar for dollar, and invited everyone to come to their upcoming (third) fundraising event—a Chili Cook-Off and Goat Poop Bingo at Legends on Saturday, April 23rd.
- Jace Tunnell**, Director of the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve and Reserve Director of University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI), discussed a project he and two UTMSI colleagues, Dr. Zhanfei Lui and Dr. Kristin Nielsen, put together to investigate the potential contamination of Port Bay and the associated ecological and human health risks with regard to the proximity of the Sherwin Alumina storage ponds to Port Bay, the hydrology of the area, and the intensity of the storm surge and winds. Mr. Tunnell stated that it is critical to address the lack of background data,

particularly with regard to the presence of contaminants—such as mercury and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)—in Port Bay sediments and he outlined a six-month project, beginning June 2022, with an estimated budget of \$28,192, to measure and characterize the presence of mercury, PAHs, uranium, radium, nutrients, and chlorophyll *a* in water, sediment, and oyster samples.

VI. Items for Deliberation and/or Action

Consent Agenda:

3. Minutes from the March 28, 2022 Regular Meeting
4. Proposed Aransas County Official Holidays for 2023
5. Proposed Aransas County Transfer Station Official Holidays for 2023
6. Donation of a goat shelter to Aransas County Animal Control from Sam Schiwart
7. Donation of 2,000 pounds of dog food and cat litter from People Assisting Animals – Corpus Christi, the Humane Society of the United States, and Chewy to Aransas County Animal Control
8. Donation of kitten supplies (valued at \$45) from Karen Small to Aransas County Animal Control
9. Donation of a VSSI sliding kennel door (valued at \$2,500) from Dr. Kimberly Harrell of Bay Breeze Animal Clinic to Aransas County Animal Control
10. Donation of kitten supplies (valued at \$45) from Faye Gibson to Aransas County Animal Control
11. Donation of 20 kongs (dog toys valued at \$200) for kennel enrichment and 10 Kuranda beds (valued at \$1,375) from Animal Rescue Aid to Aransas County Animal Control
12. Donation of paint (valued at \$212) from Sherwin Williams and Manager Ecelia Ramirez to Aransas County Animal Control

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the Consent; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

County Reports:

13. Proclamation #P-02-2022 Fair Housing Month

Motion by Judge Mills to approve Proclamation #P-02-2022, recognizing the month of April as Fair Housing Month; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

14. Proclamation #P-03-2022 Beach Safety and Rip Current Awareness Month

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve Proclamation #P-03-2022, recognizing April 2022 as Beach Safety and Rip Current Awareness Month in Aransas County; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

15. Proclamation #P-04-2022 Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month

Motion by Judge Mills to approve Proclamation #P-04-2022, recognizing April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month; seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

16. 1st Quarter 2022 Report for the Rockport Center for the Arts - Tabled

County Roads & Floodplain:

17. Order #O-07-2022 – Struck (not ready)

18. Order #O-08-2022 - Struck (not ready)

Contracts, Agreements, Grants & Leases:

19. Contract Award – ARPA Generator Project

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve awarding the contract to International Consulting Engineers (ICE) for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Generator Project and authorizing County Judge to sign all necessary documents; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

20. Contract Amendment – Cedar Bayou Project

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve the proposed amendment to the contract dated January 25, 2021 with JM Davidson Construction LTD to complete the Cedar Bayou project by October 15, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

21. Newcomb Point Project

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve authorizing County Judge to use \$50,000 from the GoMesa Funds to pay one half of the match for Newcomb Point; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

22. Request to Solicit Request for Proposals

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve the proposed contract with Allstate Towers, Inc., for the construction of the Rockport Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) Radio

Tower and other improvements at 130A State Rd 188; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

23. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Dredging Project - Engineering Contract

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve the proposed second amendment to the Mott MacDonald Engineering contract for construction over-sight for the remaining dredging at Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough. The project is funded by FEMA-PA #85937 and contract for the amount of three hundred ninety two thousand forty seven dollars (\$392,047.00); seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

24. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Dredging Project – TPWD Interlocal Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve the proposed continuation for 2022 of the Interlocal Agreement between Aransas County and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for the contribution of \$1 million toward the completion of Cedar Bayou Dredging Project; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

Planning & Budget Office:

25. Indigent Health Care Report

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve the March 2022 Indigent Health Care Report; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

26. Scrap Metal

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve a request to declare the copper coils and material from the Detention Center heater project surplus and allow Public Facilities to dispose of scrap metal to be salvaged and sold as recyclables; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

27. Budget Line-Item Transfers

Motion by Commissioner Chaney to approve Budget Line-Item Transfers; seconded by Commissioner Casterline. (Per Auditor Cockerham, there were none.)

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

28. Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities; seconded by Commissioner Chaney. (Per Auditor Cockerham, it includes the

\$93,000 for the termination of the Texas Department of Agriculture Grant and the \$50,000 approved to go to Texas Parks and Wildlife.)

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

VII. Reports from Commissioners, Elected Officials & Department Heads – No action will be taken –

David Reid, County Engineer, gave a PowerPoint update for the 2022 CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Projects for street and drainage improvements to project areas throughout Aransas County. He showed the location maps for each of the eight projects and provided the following information on them:

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Project Amount</i>	<i>Estimated Start</i>	<i>Percentage of Plan Completion</i>
<i>Copano Heights (roadway)</i>	<i>\$1.6 million</i>	<i>September 2022</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>Holiday Beach (drainage)</i>	<i>>\$4.2 million</i>	<i>November 2022</i>	<i>90%</i>
<i>East Linden Street (drainage)</i>	<i>\$4.6 million</i>	<i>September 2022</i>	<i>90%</i>
<i>Loop 1781 (roadway)</i>	<i>\$4 million</i>	<i>November 2022</i>	<i>90%</i>
<i>Rattlesnake Point Road (roadway)</i>	<i>\$4.5 million</i>	<i>September 2022</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>Ruby Allen-Traylor Ditch (roadway)</i>	<i><\$10 million</i>	<i>September 2022</i>	<i>90%</i>
<i>Southeast Aransas (drainage)</i>	<i>\$5 million</i>	<i>October 2022</i>	<i>90%</i>
<i>Southwest Aransas (drainage)</i>	<i>\$6.4 million</i>	<i>September 2022</i>	<i>90%</i>

Mott MacDonald is the engineering firm for the eight projects and the proposed improvements include: improved shoulders, improved driving surfaces, super-elevated curves, and improved roadway drainage to reduce overtopping and standing water.

When asked about how these projects were selected, Reid stated that low to moderate income was the driving criteria for these projects, coupled with trying to solve some problems that they knew were existing. He recalled that around 70% of the money that they were given needed to be in low to moderate income areas. If we didn't have the low to moderate income criteria, there would probably be some other places that we would spend the money on but these areas are certainly in need also.

Lori Cesar, Director, Animal Control, informed the group that it was National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week and asked people to acknowledge her officers this week when they see them out and about.

VIII. Adjournment

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:52 AM on a motion duly made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Chaney.



C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., County Judge



Carrie Arrington, Ex-Officio Clerk
of the Commissioners Court

