



# MINUTES

## Aransas County Commissioners Court

9:00 AM – Monday, August 8, 2022

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met in **Regular Session** on Monday, August 8, 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

1. On behalf of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the Commissioners' Court presented the 2021 THC Distinguished Service Award to the Aransas County Historical Commission (ACHC), in recognition of its outstanding local preservation efforts, accomplishments, and civic contribution. Only 82 of the 254 counties in Texas were approved for the 2021 award.

This annual award is always quite an accomplishment; but, in 2021, it was even more so since the pandemic really limited public programming. Several ACHC officers and members—Betty Stiles, Mike Geer, Dave Hattman, Jerry Brundrett, and Collin Jackson—were there to receive it for the organization.

Afterward, Ms. Stiles, ACHC Chair, relayed that this is the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the Aransas County Historical Commission has received the State's annual distinguished service award. Then, she ceremonially gave Aransas County a giant presentation check, in the amount of \$71,775.00, representing the worth of the 2,871 volunteer hours given to the County in 2021 from the historic community.

### VI. Consent Agenda

2. Minutes from the August 1, 2022, Regular Meeting

3. Certificate from the Texas Association of Elections Administrators and the Election Center certifying Julie Gifford, Assistant Elections Administration, has completed the required recertification coursework to remain the 136th Certified Registered Election Official in the State of Texas
4. Certificate from the Texas Association of Elections Administrators certifying Kevin Stroud, Elections Administration, as the 185th Certified Registered Election Official in the State of Texas

**Motion** by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Consent Items; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

## VII. County Reports

5. Burn Ban

**Motion** by Commissioner Casterline to approve Order No. **O-19-2022**, an Order of the County of Aransas, Texas, Prohibiting Outdoor Burning for a period of up to an additional 30 days due to the existence of conditions that have created a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

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

6. Texas Maritime Museum Report

**Motion** by Commissioner Rousseau to **TABLE** the 2nd Quarter 2022 Report for the Texas Maritime Museum; seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

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

## VIII. County Elections

7. Scheduling the General Election

**Motion** by Commissioner Rousseau to approve Order No. O-17-2022, ordering the General Election to be held November 8, 2022, for the purpose of electing county and precinct officers and providing notice of the election; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

8. Appointment of Election Judges and Alternates

**Motion** by Commissioner Rousseau to approve Order No. O-18-2022, an Order of Appointment of Judges and Alternates, for a one-year term to begin September 1, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

## IX. County Roads and Floodplain

### 9. Road Closure

**Motion** by Commissioner Casterline to approve the preliminary closure of approximately One Hundred and Sixty (160) linear feet of Rattlesnake Point Road situated adjacent to the Redfish Shores Planned Urban Development (PUD); seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

## X. Contracts, Agreement, Grants, and Leases

### 10. Sign Purchase

**Motion** by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the Purchase of Two (2) Ver-Mac Signs for \$36,400.00 to be funded with grant funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act, and authorizing County Judge to sign all necessary documents; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

### 11. Portion of COG's Cost of Professional Services

**Motion** by Commissioner Casterline to approve committing \$6,764.00 to the Coastal Bend Council of Governments toward the cost of the Professional Services of Cobb-Fendley to serve as a consultant for the Coastal Bend Council of Governments, responsible for completing and submitting a grant application to the National Telecommunication and Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce for participation in the Middle Mile Grant Program, with the goal to expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of internet access and to promote broadband connectivity; which grant program will award selected entities funding for up to Seventy Percent (70%) of an eligible project in an amount between \$5,000,000.00 and \$100,000,000.00; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

### 12. Wacker Neuson Double-Drum Roller

**Motion** by Commissioner Laubach to approve the purchase of a Wacker Neuson double-drum roller from Texas First Rental, LLC through the BuyBoard, a cooperative purchasing group, for the amount of \$17,600.00, and authorize County Judge to execute necessary documents; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

**13. New Holland Cab Tractor**

**Motion** by Commissioner Laubach to approve the purchase of a 2022 New Holland Cab Tractor from Equipment Depot through the BuyBoard, a cooperative purchasing group, for the amount of \$53,530.00, and authorize County Judge to execute necessary documents; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

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

**14. Resolution No. R-18-2022**

**Motion** by Commissioner Rousseau to approve **Resolution No. R-18-2022**, a Resolution of Aransas County, Texas, certifying that the County has made a grant to Aransas County Council on Aging, an organization that provides home-delivered meals to homebound persons in the County who are elderly and/or have a disability, and certifying that the County has approved the organization's accounting system or fiscal agent; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

**15. Amendment to County's Lease**

**Motion** by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the Amendment to the Harbor Oaks Village Shopping Center Lease Agreement which acknowledges that ILS Rockport, LLC has purchased the property and assumed the Lease, which incorporates changes previously approved by the Commissioners Court, and sets forth the dates for the third extended lease term; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

**XI. Planning and Budget Office**

**16. Mental Health Leave for Peace Officers**

**Motion** by Commissioner Chaney to approve a Request the Approval and Adoption of a New Employee Handbook Policy regarding Mental Health Leave for Peace Officers; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

**17. Revision to Vacation Leave Policy**

**Motion** by Commissioner Chaney to approve a Request for Policy Revision to the Employee Handbook's Vacation Leave Policy; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

**Vote:** Motion carried 3-2; it was so ordered (Rousseau and Laubach dissenting).

**18. Revision to Emergency, Bereavement, and Funeral Leave Policy**

**Motion** by Commissioner Casterline to approve a Request for Policy Revision to the Employee Handbook Provision regarding Emergency, Bereavement, and Funeral Leave; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

**19. Revision to Vesting Requirements Policy**

**Motion** by Commissioner Laubach to approve a proposed Employee Handbook Policy Revision to include the specific Vesting Requirements for the County's Retirement System to reduce the vesting period from ten (10) years to eight (8) years, and to approve other changes intended to clarify language and organize information; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

**20. Revision to Military Leave Policy**

**Motion** by Commissioner Laubach to approve a proposed Policy Revision to the Employee Handbook regarding Military Leave; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

**21. Indigent Health Care Report**

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

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

**22. Discuss and Receive Budget Concerns from the Public—including HOT allocations—and Schedule 2023 Budget Public Hearing**

**Motion** by Judge Mills to schedule the 2023 Budget Public Hearing for August 22, 2022 at 8:45am; seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

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

**23. 2023 Salary for District Court Reporters**

**Motion** by Commissioner Laubach to approve 2023 Salary for District Court Reporters as set out in the 2023 District Wide District Court Budget; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

**24. Publish Delinquent Taxpayers' Names**

**Motion** by Commissioner Rousseau to approve a Proposal to Publish Delinquent Taxpayers' Names; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

**25. Budget Line Item Transfers**

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

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

**26. Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities**

**Motion** by Commissioner Chaney to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities; seconded by Commissioner Casterline. (Auditor Cockerham mentioned the \$162K check for Road and Bridge's budgeted backhoe.)

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

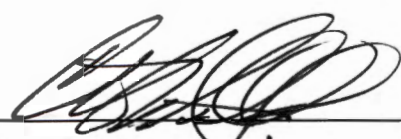
**XII. Commissioners, Elected Officials & Department Heads – No action will be taken**

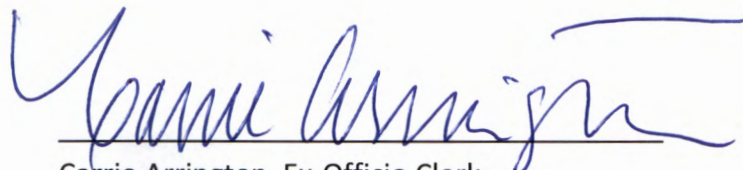
**Commissioner Chaney:** *In speaking with people in my precinct, it seemed that a number of them didn't know much about Medicare Part C\*, and I bet it's the same in the other precincts, so I've asked someone to come speak with us about Part C at our next Regular Meeting. So, if you know people who are 65 and older, let them know about this presentation because it will be good information for them.*

*[\*Medicare Part C (also called Medicare Advantage) is a type of Medicare plan that uses private health insurance to cover all the services someone would receive under Medicare Parts A and B.]*

**XIII. Adjournment**

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:50 AM 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

