



MINUTES

Aransas County Commissioners Court

9:00 AM – Monday, August 22, 2022

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met in **Regular Session** on Monday, August 22, 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. **Aaron Horine**, P.E., Coastal Engineer and Principal **with Mott MacDonald**, presented **County Judge C.H. "Burt" Mills, Jr. and the Project Team** (composed of Mills and John Strothman, Aransas County Project Manager, plus Horine, Luis Maristany, P.E., Derek Salazar, E.I.T., and Thomas Everett, P.E., all of Mott MacDonald) **with Western Dredging Association's 2022 Environmental Excellence Award for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change for the Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough Reopening Project in Aransas County.**

2. **Danielle Hale**, Board Member with Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group, and **Christopher Brandt**, Executive Director of **Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group (CBDRG)**, provided information about the organization and what they do. CBDRG is an established network of business, non-profit, faith-based and government organizations partnering to support long-term disaster recovery efforts in the 11 county region of the Coastal Bend (the region mirrors that of the Coastal Bend Council of Governments).

They spoke specifically about the goals of CBDRG and what the organization did to provide and coordinate long-term disaster aid following Hurricane Harvey—case management services, construction or home repair assistance, volunteer and

household donations coordination, and spiritual/emotional care—to low income and/or socially vulnerable (elderly, single head of household with minor children, disabled, honorably discharged US Veterans) community members of the six affected counties (Aransas, Bee, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio).

The two also came to gain support for an Agreement for Mutual Aid Assistance between Aransas County and CDRG. So, at the end of their presentation, Judge Mills moved to the associated agenda item 12. Afterwards, we returned to the Consent Agenda and continued with the rest of the meeting in regular order.

VI. Consent Agenda

3. Minutes from the August 15, 2022, Regular Meeting
4. \$100 donation for supplies from Lillian Beasley to Aransas County Animal Control
5. Donation of a memorial bench (valued at \$2,047.85) from Aransas Bird and Nature Club for Debra Corpora in memory of Sam Corpora to Aransas County Pathways

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

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

VII. County Reports

6. Online Continuing Education for Commissioners

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve Order #O-20-2022, an Order Authorizing Online Instruction for the Continuing Education of County Commissioners, except for a County Commissioner in the First 12-month Period of the Commissioner's First Term; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

7. Rockport Cultural Arts District Report

Motion by Commissioner Laubach to approve 2nd Quarter 2022 Report of the Rockport Cultural Arts District; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

VIII. County Roads and Floodplain

8. Order #O-21-2022 (Prohibit On-Street Parking by Live Oak Learning Center)

Motion by Commissioner Laubach to approve Order #O-21-2022, an Order to Prohibit On-Street Parking on the Portions of Griffith Drive adjacent to Live Oak Learning Center; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

9. Proposed Conceptual Plan (Hwy 35-Bus North in Aransas Pass and SH 188)

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve Conceptual Plan for a Planned Unit Development proposed by SAA EVI Partnership, LLC which will be located at 3402-3430 Hwy 35-BUS, 3432-3444 Hwy 35-BUS, and 151-237 SH 188; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

There was some confusion about north versus south on the Business 35 portion of the address, so the motion was amended several times. That confusion was cleared up by County Surveyor Jerry Brundrett and resulted in the below amended motion.

Amended Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve Conceptual Plan for a Planned Unit Development proposed by SAA EVI Partnership, LLC which will be located at 3402-3430 Hwy 35-BUS North (in Aransas Pass), 3432-3444 Hwy 35-BUS North (in Aransas Pass), and 151-237 SH 188; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

10. Boardwalk at St. Charles Bay Replat

Motion by Commissioner Laubach to approve a replat of Reserve "E", Block 2, of the Boardwalk at St. Charles Bay (a Planned Unit Development) into three lots, Lots 1E, 2E, and 3E; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

IX. Contracts, Agreements, Grants, and Leases

11. Budget Adjustment to CDBG-DR Contract #20-065-098-C270

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve a budget adjustment in the County's General Land Office (GLO) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Contract #20-065-098-C270, to move funds in the amount of \$54,457.00 from the Holiday Beach Construction budget to the Copano Heights Construction budget, in order to complete the Copano Heights Construction Project; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

12. Mutual Aid Assistance Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Laubach to **TABLE** approving an Agreement for Mutual Aid Assistance between Aransas County and the Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

Vote: Motion to TABLE carried 4-1 (Judge Mills dissenting); it was so ordered.

X. Planning and Budget Office

13. Treasurer's Report

Motion by Commissioner Casterline approve the County Treasurer's Report for July 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

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

14. County Clerk's Annual Plan for Archive Records

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve County Clerk's Annual Plan for Funding the Preservation and Restoration of Archive Records; seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0, with Commissioner Rousseau abstaining; it was so ordered.

15. Continuation of Established Records Archive Fee

Motion by Commissioner Laubach to approve continuing the established County Clerk Records Archive Fee of \$10.00 for instruments filed into the County's official records which is necessary for funding the ongoing preservation, maintenance, and accessibility of our County's historical records as authorized under the Local Government Code Section 118.025; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

16. Request for Proposal for County Clerk Records Plan

Motion by Commissioner Laubach to approve a request to solicit Requests for Proposals for County Clerk's Long Term Plan for Imaging, Indexing, and Preservation of County Clerk Archive Records; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

17. Schedule Public Hearing

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to schedule the 2023 Budget Public Hearing for August 29, 2022 at 8:45am; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

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

18. Officials Salaries and Expenses in Budget

Motion by Commissioner Chaney to TABLE any action on elected officials salaries and expenses to be included in budget; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

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

19. Budget Line Item Transfers

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

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

20. Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities; seconded by Commissioner Casterline. (Per Auditor Cockerham, this included a \$2M transfer from 2021 tax notes fund to Downtown Anchor Project fund to cover two (2) invoices from Teal Construction.)

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

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

Commissioner Jack Chaney complimented the Sheriff and deputies for the fine job they do directing traffic control they do at Live Oak Learning Center. He also asked that the deputies wear reflective gloves so they are more visible.

Commissioner Pat Rousseau repeated her former announcement about Jace Tunnel being at our meeting on August 29th to update us on the proposed testing of the Copano Red Beds by Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve for us and the Navigation District. **Commissioner Casterline** interjected a clarification that the testing is not for the red beds—it's for Port Bay and Copano Bay.

Commissioner Chaney asked if we had any progress on the Emergency Services.

Collin Jackson, IT Director, stated that we are one (1) week away from the time when he has to submit our County's compliance with HB 3834 (Cybersecurity Training). So far, everyone's in compliance with this State requirement—although his team is still tracking down a few new hires.

Commissioner Rousseau reported that the Public Utility Commission voted to increase the Texas Universal Service Fund surcharge (on telephone service) from 3.3% to 24% and went into effect on August 1. So, if you see an increase on your phone bill this is why.

XII. Adjournment

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:25 AM on a motion duly made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney.



Carrie Arrington, Ex-Officio Clerk
of the Commissioners Court

