

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 31, 2020

On the 31st day of August, 2020, there was a Regular 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; Leslie "Bubba" Casterline, Commissioner, Precinct 2; Charles Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 3; Wendy Laubach, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and Valerie K. Amason, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present in person, via YouTube, or via Zoom, were Kristen Barnebey, County District Attorney; Jeri Cox, Tax Assessor-Collector; Alma Cartwright, Treasurer; Pam Heard, District Clerk; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Anna Marshall, Chief Deputy Tax Assessor-Collector, Tax Assessor-Collector Elect; Tracy Orr, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; Jacky Cockerham, County Auditor; Tana Taylor; First Assistant County Auditor; Latisha Murphy, Assistant Auditor; David Reid, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; Katherine Comeaux, Development Services Coordinator; Michael Geer, Airport Manager; John Strothman, Pathways Project Manager; Rene Butler, Facilities Director; Collin Jackson, IT Director; Elizabeth Guerra, Human Resources Assistant; Carrie Arrington, Office & Contracts Manager, County District Attorney's Office; Michele Carew, Elections Administrator; Lori Cesar, Animal Control Director;

Long-Term Recovery Specialists: William Whitson;

Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present:

Aransas County Citizens: Amanda Oster, County/District Attorney, Elect; Pat Rousseau, Commissioner, Pct. 3, Elect; Allan Smith;

The Rockport Pilot Newspaper: Mike Probst, Editor and Publisher;

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

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Pat Rousseau: I just want to reflect on something that occurred during the last Commissioners' Court meeting. One of the items on the Agenda was to consider the resignation of the County Clerk and the item right after it was to consider the appointment of a replacement and those were both done. The thing that I would like to reflect upon is, when Brian Olsen resigned as County Commissioner, and I realize it's a different office, but he gave notice several weeks before he was leaving and there was a month period where people could apply, interview, and be considered, before the appointment. I know in other positions, where a County Official has resigned, there was a protocol for that appointment, it just seems that this had undue haste. I'm not speaking against the appointee, I hope that appointee does well, and the County moves forward, and things are good, and if not there will be another election. I just want to stress that when I was running for office I talked about accountability, building trust, and communicate openly, and those are things that the voters consider very important and I wish the Commissioners would reflect on that. Thank you for your time.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve:

1. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 24, 2020.
2. Minutes from the Public Hearing of August 24, 2020.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY ELECTIONS

3. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to TABLE Michele Carew's resignation.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

4. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to TABLE changing Kevin Stroud, the current temporary Elections Coordinator (whose salary is being paid out of a CARES Act Grant through November 30, 2020), to permanent, full-time employee status, same step and grade.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve 2021 Animal Control Fees, increasing the adoption fees by \$5.00 to offset the spay/neuter costs.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

COUNTY ROADS & FLOODPLAIN

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the final plat for Southwind Harbor subdivision development on Cape Velero Drive.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing County Judge to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with the United States Marshal's Service for Detention Services. The agreement is for the housing, safekeeping, and subsistence of Federal detainees at a Per Diem rate of \$76.00 and a Guard/Transportation hourly rate of \$19.00.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign a contract with Waypoint Business Solutions, LLC (Waypoint) to upgrade the County's virtual server environment and perform the work detailed and described in response to the County's 2020 RFP for Hypervisor Infrastructure and Migration project.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Order #0-15-2020, ordering a Child Safety Fee of \$1.50 to be imposed under Transportation Code, Sec.502.403 to local vehicle registrations to be used for the provision of child safety measures in Aransas County, effective January 1, 2021.

Question.

Pat Rousseau: Some of the information that the Sheriff and Commissioner have given has answered some of the questions I had but I just want to clarify then, so this new fee will be used in the capacity for providing a crossing guard and other...

Commissioner Laubach: Traffic assistance at Live Oak Elementary.

Commissioner Chaney: We've had some major issues.

Commissioner Laubach: That's what the order reads.

Pat Rousseau: And if it were going to be changed from that usage, then it would be brought to court?

Judge Mills: Right.

Pat Rousseau: Ok, thank you.

Commissioner Casterline: Sheriff, I have a question, since she brought that up. Are you going to put a crossing guard, have you ever had a crossing guard?

Sheriff Mills: Yes sir, every year when we start out there we end up with five and six officers at the first of the year, placed all the way back to Market because the traffic will back up to the by-pass. But we have officers that do stop the traffic because people do still park out on the edge of that median.

(Inserts)

Commissioner Casterline: I realize that but that's not a good crossing guard, in my recollection, I don't know that you've ever had a crossing guard and it sounds to me like, in this order, that maybe you're going to have to put a crossing guard, so maybe you need to clarify that. I just don't want you to get in trouble for not having one...

Commissioner Laubach: It says it's available.

Sheriff Mills: We have officers that are dedicated in a vest that are stopping traffic for parents and children crossing the street in the crosswalk.

Commissioner Laubach: It sounds like a crossing guard.

Sheriff Mills: To me, yes we do provide that out there, we're not just ushering traffic in and out of the parking lot. We're trying to keep it moving there with the assistance of school personnel. They are opening doors and getting the kids out, but our focus is on trying to keep the traffic moving. But at the same time we do realize that people are going to stop out in that median and they need assistance crossing the street and if we don't stop it, and then start it again, then they will wait on somebody fifty feet away backing up in the line. So we do provide that.

Commissioner Casterline: Ok, I did just want you to clarify that, I knew you patrolled it heavily but...

Sheriff Mills: No, there's two locations where there is officers and then Chief Zapata in the afternoons has gone out there and usually man's it, because pick up is on a standard deal and they're not parking and taking the kids in, as they do in the morning, so we don't have the traffic flow issue in the afternoon like we do in the mornings.
Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing County Judge to sign an Engineering Services Agreement with Mott MacDonald for flood and drainage activities specified and approved under Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR), awarded to the County through GLO Contract No. 20-065-098-C270, covering damages sustained from Hurricane Harvey.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

11. Report on Re-Calculation of 2020 No-New-Revenue, Voter Approval and Debt Tax Rates using Certified Values from Chief Appraiser. (Jeri Cox explained the new proposal.)

12. Discussion and possible action by record vote on Proposed 2020 Tax Rate.

Jeri Cox: It needs to go in the record that we are proposing a different debt rate and M&O rate.

Commissioner Smith: The M&O rate is going up by less than a tenth of a cent and debt rate is going down by the same amount.

Jeri Cox: Yes.

(Inserts)

Motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to propose the Re-Calculated No-New-Revenue Tax Rate 0.433543 Itemized as:

0.314028 Ad Valorem M&O (Maintenance and Operations);

0.046757 Ad Valorem Debt I&S (Interest & Sinking);

0.061938 Road & Bridge/Flood Control M&O (Maintenance & Operations);

0.01082 Flood Control Debt I&S (Interest & Sinking); for
a Total of 0.433543.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Discuss, and approve, or disapprove scheduling a Public Hearing on proposed 2020 Tax Rate.

Jeri Cox: Judge this is not necessary because you did stay with the No-New-Revenue-Rate, so we do not have to have a public hearing on the rate.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve September 14, 2020, the regularly scheduled Commissioner's Court meeting at 9:00 a.m., as the date and time to Adopt the 2021 Budget and 2020 Tax Rate.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers and Amendments of which there were NONE.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

August 31, 2020

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &

DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

There were none.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:36 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Chaney.



Valerie K. Amason

VALERIE K. AMASON,

EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.

The seal of Arkansas County, State of Texas, is circular. It features a five-pointed star in the center, surrounded by the words "ARKANSAS COUNTY" and "STATE OF TEXAS".

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