

MINUTES OF THE ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 16, 2021

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 16th day of August, 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; Patricia Randall, Chief Deputy Treasurer; Jaime Blackburn, Executive Assistant to County Judge; Tracy Orr, Administrative Assistant to County Judge; Jacky Cockerham, County Auditor; Tana Taylor, First Assistant Auditor; Latisha Murphy, Assistant Auditor; Linda Doane, HR Director; Elizabeth Guerra, HR Assistant; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Rhonda Konieczny, Executive Assistant to the Sheriff; Collin Jackson, IT Director; David Reid, County Engineer; Kat Comeaux, Development Services Coordinator; Mike Geer, Airport Manager; Lori Cesar, Animal Control Director; Rene Butler, Facilities Director; John Strothman, Long-Term Recovery; and Kim Foutz, Long-Term Recovery.

Members of Other Governmental Entities or Community Groups and Interested Parties present in person or via Zoom were: John "JD" Debler, Benefits, Life & Health Agent, GSM Insurors; Terry Hunsicker, who resides at 311 McLester; and Mike Probst, Editor and Publisher, The Rockport Pilot.

**Aransas County Citizens present** in person or via Zoom were: **Carolyn Smith and Bobbie Mills.**

**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 Commissioner Chaney. **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**

Monica Moore, Aransas County resident who has lived on A-1 Hill (in Aransas Pass) for 15 years, expressed a variety of concerns for her street: an eyesore at A-1 Hill Road, problems with full culverts and poor drainage (she wanted to know if the area is now considered a flood zone), and the lack of lighting on her street at night. She also asked questions about the leash law and decibel sound limits.

**PRESENTATIONS**

There were none.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

There were four items under the Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes from the August 6, 2021 Budget Workshop Meeting
2. Minutes from the August 9, 2021 Regular Meeting
3. Donation of \$90 from Amy Ross to Aransas County Animal Control
4. Donation of \$10 from Teresa Odem to Aransas County Animal Control

A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve the Consent Agenda item.

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

It is so ordered.

COUNTY ROADS

5. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign the Stipulation, Agreed Settlement, and Consent Order offered by the Railroad Commission of Texas, Damage Prevention Docket No. 071255 Enforcement Action Against Aransas County Road & Bridge for a Violation of Underground Pipeline Damage Prevention Commission Rule 16 Texas Administrative Code 18.4(a) which occurred on or about November 2, 2020, at 3641 Copano Drive (FM1781), Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, and authorize payment in the amount of \$1,000 as payment of administrative services. Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

It is so ordered.

6. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to disapprove platting 311 McLester Road into Lots 1-9, Block 1, Hunsucker Acres. Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve a request for variance on County subdivision regulations on minimum lot size at 102 Copano Ridge Road, to replat three lots and a portion of an abandoned right-of-way into three single-family lots.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed on a 4:1 vote with Commissioner Rousseau dissenting.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

8. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the flood and drainage improvements in the East Linden Street, Ruby Allen Ditch, and Traylor Ditch (Traylor Avenue) Projects and street improvements in the Loop 1781 Project, which will involve engineering and constructing drainage and street improvements utilizing Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) #20-065-098-C270 grant funds allocated to Aransas County by the General Land Office.

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

It is so ordered.

9. A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing County Judge to sign an Interlocal Agreement between Aransas County and City of Rockport for the East Linden Street, Ruby Allen Ditch, and Traylor Ditch (Traylor Avenue) Projects, which will utilize Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Grant #20-065-098-C270.

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

It is so ordered.

10. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the flood and drainage improvements in the Southeast and Southwest Aransas County Projects, which will involve the construction of drainage improvements by utilizing Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) #20-065-098-C270 grant funds allocated to Aransas County by the General Land Office (GLO).

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

It is so ordered.

11. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing County Judge to sign Interlocal Agreement between Aransas County and City of Aransas Pass for the Southeast and Southwest Aransas County Flood and Drainage Projects, which will utilize Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Grant #20-065-098-C270.

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

It is so ordered.

12. A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve replacing supplemental dental and vision benefits through Ameritas with the proposed dental and vision plan through Unum, at the proposed rates, and authorizing the County Judge to execute all necessary documents.

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

It is so ordered.

**PLANNING AND BUDGET OFFICE**

13. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve a 7.5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for all appointed officials and employees to be included in the 2022 budget.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried on a 4:1 vote with Commissioner Rousseau dissenting.

It is so ordered.

[Item 13 looks like it is the same item that was voted on last week; however, last week's motion (and vote) didn't quite match up with the actual agenda item.]

14. A motion was made by Judge Mills and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities.

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

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS**  
**WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

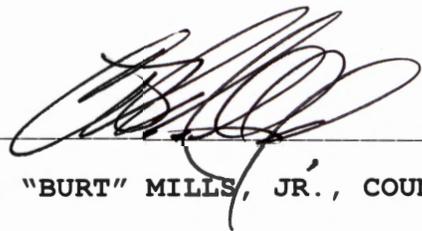
**County Clerk Carrie Arrington**, who is also a resident who lives in the Fulton Beach Road area, stated she had two things to address about Fulton Beach Road:

1. Going forward, I request that the County ask the GLO and whichever other entities send out mailings to people who are affected by potential plans concerning Fulton Beach Road to not only send their mailings to people with Fulton Beach Road addresses but also to the people who live in the neighborhoods adjacent to Fulton Beach Road. There are a lot of neighborhoods that are very affected by Fulton Beach Road - neighborhoods which lie between Fulton Beach Road and Business 35 - that also share the connection to Fulton Beach Road, many even have common areas and piers area along the road. Those people have been excluded from the mailings even though they are definitely affected so I am asking that that be done.
2. A couple of weeks ago, Commissioner Laubach read into record a suggestion that a citizen, Kathy Kane, had for Fulton Beach Road to encourage additional speed limit signs. I know Kathy personally, I see her as I walk the road as well, and I think

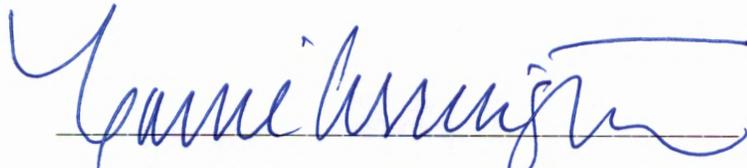
she has every good intention for the road; but, personally, although I would like to see the traffic to be slower as well, I'm not sure that signs are going to make that happen. I'd really like to encourage law enforcement - both from the City and County - to be out there patrolling from time to time and ticketing the 10 year olds speeding by in golf carts and the people who are going incredible fast. I do think her idea of restricting 18 wheeler traffic from the Fulton Beach Road is a good one so we don't have big rigs speeding by like they do when they're bringing in carnival equipment to OysterFest.

If adding speed limit signs would truly make people slow down, I would be in favor of them - but I think that the people who are going to be obeying the speed limit are already obeying it. Maybe randomly patrolling it a bit might help change people's minds about how fast they want to go.

**No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:28 a.m.** on a motion duly made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Laubach.



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



CARRIE ABBINGTON, EX-OFFICIO CLERK  
OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT

