

MINUTES OF THE ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 30, 2021

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 30th 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 were: Patricia Randall, Chief Deputy County Treasurer; Tracy Orr, Administrative Assistant to County Judge; Jacky Cockerham, County Auditor; Tana Taylor, First Assistant Auditor; Jennifer O'Steen, Assistant County Attorney; Linda Doane, HR Director; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Collin Jackson, IT Director; David Reid, County Engineer; Lora Rios, Juvenile Case Manager; and John Strothman, Long-Term Recovery.

Members of Other Governmental Entities or Community Groups and Interested Parties present in person: Thayna Rollins and Darla Zuniga of Aransas County Area Go Texan.

Aransas County Citizens present in person: Carolyn Smith.

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 Jack 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

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were five items under the Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes from the August 23, 2021 Regular Meeting
2. Minutes from the August 23, 2021 Public Hearing on the 2021 Tax Rate
3. Minutes from the August 23, 2021 Public Hearing for the 2022 Budget
4. Donation of \$250 from Aransas County Area Go Texan for the Aransas County Juvenile Case Management Program's GED program

The wording of the motion for this item above differs from the wording on the agenda for it. The agenda item read that the donation recipient was Juvenile Probation instead of Juvenile Case Management Program; however, the necessary wording change was included in the motion to approve the Consent Items below so the above wording reflects that change.

5. Certificate of Completion awarded to Judge C.H. Mills, Jr. from the V.G. Young Institute of County Government for successfully completing 9 hours of educational training

A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the Consent items with the correction on item 4.

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

It is so ordered.

COUNTY ROADS

6. Not an action item. Discussion of various bids received on 08/17/2021 for backhoe/loader. There were three bids submitted. The low bid that met all of the specifications was from Holt Cat. That bid was \$137,000.

7. A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the bid selected for backhoe/loader in an amount not to exceed one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000).

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

It is so ordered.

8. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing Road and Bridge to advertise a request for bids for an excavator/track hoe.

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

It is so ordered.

The wording of the motion for this item above differs from the wording on the agenda for it. The agenda item read Request for Quote (RFQ) instead of Request for Bids; however, the necessary wording change was included in the motion to approve the item so the above wording reflects that change.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

9. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve an Interlocal Agreement between Aransas County and Coastal Bend Council of Governments for E9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point Services for the period of September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2023.

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

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

10. A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve 2022 Salaries, Expenses and other allowances of Elected Officials.

Commissioner Rousseau wanted to make sure that the budget reflected her request to take a 5% COLA instead of the 7.5% COLA. She also questioned the wording on the budget which reflected that the COLA would be the first one received by elected officials since 2020. Commissioner Laubach said she thought she heard that they hadn't received a COLA in two of the last four years but she didn't remember which years. Commissioner Casterline said that it could have been that some didn't take it. Commissioner Laubach wanted to be sure that the budget reflected that, per her request, she was not receiving any COLA increase. Tana Taylor confirmed that both Commissioner Laubach's COLA request and Commissioner Rousseau's COLA request were reflected correctly in the budget.

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

It is so ordered.

11. A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve adopting the 2022 Budget - THIS BUDGET WILL RAISE MORE TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES THAN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BY \$369,338.00 OR 2.87%; AND, OF THAT AMOUNT, \$413,470.48 IS TAX REVENUE RAISED FROM NEW PROPERTY ADDED TO THE TAX ROLL THIS YEAR.

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

It is so ordered.

12. A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve adopting the proposed tax rate of \$0.392917 per \$100.00 Value as the 2021 Tax Rate.

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

It is so ordered.

13. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve adopting the 2021 Tax Roll and Levy.

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

It is so ordered.

14. A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve Resolution #R-22-2021, a Resolution for the 2021 Tax Roll, Levy and Rate.

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

It is so ordered.

15. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve ratifying the Property Tax reflected in the 2022 Budget.

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

It is so ordered.

16. A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers and Amendments. (There were none per Auditor Jacky Cockerham.)

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

It is so ordered.

17. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities.

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

It is so ordered.

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

County Clerk Carrie Arrington: Judge, will you read number four on the Consent Agenda to acknowledge the \$250 donation and the donor for the record and also acknowledge the donors here in court since they're with us this morning?

Judge Mills: I don't know how I skipped that. I'm sorry. Yes, I will. We received a \$250 donation today and will the donors please come forward?

Thayna Rollins: Yes, sir. My name is Thayna Rollins and I'm the ambassador for Aransas County Area Go Texan and every year we try to give back to the community. We were able to give two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors and now we just wanted to present a \$250 check to the Juvenile Case Management program for their GED Program. [Darla Zuniga with Aransas County Area Go Texan was also present.]

Judge Mills: Thank you. And, again, I apologize for not doing this sooner.

[Auditor Cockerham brought something to Judge Mills.]

Judge Mills: Alright, it's been brought to my attention that we need to go back to item 12. It wasn't quite done right.

Judge Mills provided the amended motion for item 12: I make a motion to adopt the proposed tax rate for no new revenue, M&O Rate of \$0.331713 per \$100 value and Debt Rate of \$0.061204 per \$100 value. It was seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

Commissioner Laubach: And, are we okay that that's not how it actually read on the agenda?

Assistant County Attorney Jennifer O'Steen: Yes, I think that because the motion was made to amend the item and redo your vote, I think we're okay so long as the item on the agenda had the correct number for the overall tax rate - which it does - so we are fine to move forward.

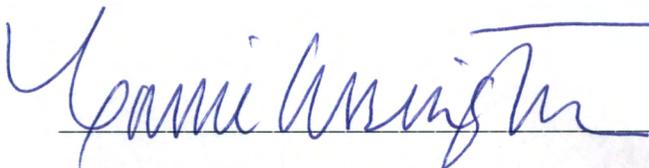
Question. A roll call vote was taken and the amended motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:18 a.m. 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

