

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
WORKSHOP MEETING - JANUARY 7, 2011

On the 7th day of January, 2011, there was a Workshop Meeting of the Commissioner's Court in the Courthouse, Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, with the following members present: C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., County Judge; Jack Chaney, Commissioner Precinct 1; Charles Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 3; Howard Murph, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and June Gregory, Deputy, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were Richard P. Bianchi, County Attorney; Jerry Brundrett, County Surveyor; James Jackson, Environmental Health; David Vyoral, Road Administrator; David Reed, Drainage Engineer and Ginger Smith, Extension Agent.

The Meeting was convened at 2:00 p.m. at which time a quorum was declared by County Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

ARANSAS COUNTY LIVE OAK TREE ORDINANCE #1-2010

Opening the public discussion were Judge Mills and Commissioner Murph. Commissioner Murph was instrumental in having a tree ordinance developed for Aransas County due to the clear cutting of live oak trees by developers. The tree ordinance was passed in the Texas Senate and House allowing Aransas County to develop it's own ordinance. Ordinance #1-2010 was developed by a chosen committee who developed this ordinance now being presented for public input and for future approval or disapproval by this Court.

Judge Mills stated that he had received numerous emails in support of this ordinance and he read an email from Cecelia Shannon supporting this ordinance.

Thorough discussion was on the definition of clear cutting and identification of the species of live oak trees to be included in this restriction. In Sec. 4, number (2), (a), (3) consensus is that this statement needs to be removed. Also, the size of trees to be removed, and the diameter size and quantity of replacement trees came up for discussion. A problem to be addressed is the leaving of a tree or replacement of trees within a one-fourth acre of space.

A statement by Jerry Brundrett, County Surveyor, was that this ordinance as written is very loose, particularly No. 5 in Sec. 4, regarding Commercial Development Mitigation Policies. Adelaide Marlatt of the Rockport City Council, believed that

this ordinance as written will not stop the cutting of windswept oaks and this ordinance needs to be stronger.

County Attorney Bianchi, addressed the need to implement fees for applications and for those seeking variances to the ordinance, to be paid through the environmental department.

In ending this public workshop, it was proposed that the ordinance be presented as is to the Court for approval. If this proposed ordinance passes, needed adjustments can be presented to the Court at a later date.

No further business presenting, the workshop ended at 3:32 P.M.

C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., COUNTY JUDGE

PEGGY L. FRIEBELE, COUNTY CLERK &
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT