

MINUTES OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
REGULAR MEETING - DECEMBER 12, 2016

On the 12th day of December, 2016, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' 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; **Leslie "Bubba" Casterline**, Commissioner, Precinct 2; **Charles Smith**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Betty Stiles**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Richard P. Bianchi**, County Court at Law Judge; **Kristen Barnebey**, County Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Lezlie Kirk**, County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Michele Bennett**, Elections Administrator; **Linda Garcia**, Executive Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Timilu Latham**; Chief Deputy County Treasurer; **Julie Gifford**, Indigent Health Care Caseworker; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Pat Rousseau**, Human Resources Director; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Diana Espinoza**, Drainage Engineer;

Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present were **C. J. Wax**, Mayor, City of Rockport; **Patrick Rios**, Ward 3 City Council Member & Mayor Pro-Tem; **Diane Probst**, Area Chamber of Commerce, President/CEO; **Pam Stranahan**, President, **Vicky Merchant**, Secretary/President Elect, **Kam Wagert**, Vice President; and **Linda Garcia**, Board of Director

Member, representing Friends of the History Center for Aransas County; **Brian Olsen**, Precinct 3 Commissioner (Elect); and **Mike Probst**, Editor and Publisher of the Rockport Pilot Newspaper;

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**

There were none.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Ginger Easton Smith, Bethany Jackson and Darla Zuniga presented the court with updates on Agrilife Extension Activities. Some of the projects they have been teaching the 4-H Youth include Archery, Food & Nutrition, Clothing & Textiles, Photography, Kayaking, Recycled Art, Livestock Judging and Public Speaking. During the Annual Agricultural & Homemaking Show this year in San Patricio County thirty-two children are entering the livestock contests and about forty are entering homemaking events.

A huge part of 4-H is community service. We organized a beach clean-up event; a bake sale at Moore-Than-Feed with proceeds being donated to Coastal Bend Troop Support; first responder baskets were delivered to the Fire Department, Police Department and Sheriff's Department; and a school supplies drive which we donated to the Louisiana flood victims.

The 4-H clubs also had a Fun Camp this summer, we learned about our bays, things that live in our bays and how to take care of them, we learned about our flower gardens, we

took a tour of the airport, held an aquatic science event where our kids got to dissect squids and baby sharks. Our Extension office also participated in a "Healthy South Texas" program which targets lowering the risk of diabetes, obesity and other chronic diseases. We also stress the importance of eating more nutritious meals and getting more exercise. We also have two Youth Ambassadors who reach out to the schools and talk about nutrition. In our Master Gardener sixteen week training program we had seventeen interns graduate the course this year with a ceremony on December 20, 2016.

2. Mott McDonald addressed the court concerning the Aransas County Coastal Resiliency Initiative (ACCRI). This initiative embodies protection of our resources. There is approximately 80 miles of shoreline in Aransas County with six inland bay systems. We are focused on restoration, conservation and economics along with enhancing water quality and shoring up our coast lines. Some areas of concern in Aransas County are Bay Shore Drive's erosion which needs to be stabilized along with Fulton Beach Road and Shell Ridge Road, Little Bay's lack of circulation, continued monitoring and maintenance of Cedar Bayou, the need to rebuild Rookery Island and erosion issues at Newcomb's Point in Lamar, which is a Whooping Crane Habitat. The Texas General Land Office's Coastal Resiliency Master Plan helps provide funding for projects such as beach and oyster reef restoration.

(Inserts)

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve

1. Minutes from the regular meeting of November 28, 2016.
2. Public Official Bond Continuation Certificates on James Weston, Deputy Sheriff and Sharon Loflin, DPS secretary.
3. Resignation of Charles Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 3, effective December 18, 2016 and appointing Commissioner Precinct 3 Elect, Brian Olsen, on December 19, 2016.
4. Appointment of Leslie "Bubba" Casterline as County Judge Pro-Tem to serve as presiding officer of the court in all matters which require the action of the County Judge in the event of the County Judge's absence or recusal effective as of December 19, 2016.
5. Resolution #R23-2016 in opposition of re: SearchTX.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to **TABLE** authorizing the County Judge to sign the 2017 Intoxilyzer Program Interlocal Agreement with San Patricio County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith that we **not** change our retirement window

(Inserts)

at this point, but I would request that we look at increasing our cost contribution rate.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**COUNTY REPORTS**

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2016 Report from the Friends of the History Center for Aransas County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**COUNTY ROADS**

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve allowing David Reid to assemble a Comprehensive Development Manual, including all county development regulations and other local, state and federal regulations that may have jurisdiction after working out an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Rockport.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE**

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve accepting and recognizing a donation of \$1,000 from Hildegard Kaigler to be used at the Linda Castro Birding and Nature Venue.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

(Inserts)

It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to **TABLE** transferring all interest earned on the Special Forfeiture Fund from the General Fund to the Special Forfeiture Fund, in lieu of the fact that the County Attorney's office is requesting interest be paid at the disbursement of these funds, and further that all future interest earned be posted directly to the Special Forfeiture Fund.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Indigent Health Care Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2016.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Accounts Payable.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Lezlie Kirk read the Fee Report.

Judge Mills announced, in reference to Agenda Item #3, the resignation of Commissioner Charles Smith, stating that this would be the last meeting he would sit on. He read off accomplishments made by the court, (see insert attached), during Commissioner Smith's ten year tenure and then jokingly the last accomplishment was the recent removal of two palm trees.

**REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST  
REGARDING WHICH NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

There were none.

(Insert)

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:40 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.*

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

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VALERIE K. AMASON,  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT