

ORIGINAL

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING - SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

On the 11th day of September, 2017, 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; **Brian Olsen**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Betty Stiles**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Kristen Barnebey**, County Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Jeri Cox**, Tax Assessor-Collector; **Suzy Wallace**, Interim County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Lynn Doane**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Jacky Cockerham**; Assistant County Auditor; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Pat Rousseau**, Human Resources Director; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager for the County Attorney's Office; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Rick McLester**, Emergency Management Coordinator; and **Richard P. Bianchi**, County Court at Law Judge.

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

Mike Probst, Editor and Publisher of the Rockport Pilot Newspaper; **Betty Collier**, Grantworks, Inc. Director of Client Relations, Rockport/Fulton Field Office; **Keith Barrett**, Aransas

September 11, 2017

County Navigation District Harbor Master; and **Roy Sarver**, citizen.

The Meeting was convened at **9:30 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

Judge Mills: We only had two citizens lose their lives in Aransas County, but we had one AEP worker lose his life working in Bloomington, so let's remember what a great job they did, when they came in they said four to six weeks and they did it in two, they are great people. We haven't had anyone sign up, but I do have someone I'd like to give a presentation, Rick McLester, and he likes to talk.

PRESENTATIONS

Rick McLester, Emergency Management Coordinator: As a governing body, we need to focus on where we are today, as you get more desk time, it's time to start doing paperwork, the documentation that we need to get funding. Now, thanks to the Port of Corpus Christi, while we got a \$70,000 dollar donation from a small city in New Jersey, the Port of Corpus Christi Chief was there and while we did not get cash, we did get someone just as valuable. I want to introduce Danielle Hale, she's a local here, she started here but she has made the rounds in Texas, she has been through several storms and she has been deployed to people in cities just like us. The Judge has asked her to focus on what's important right now, as far as the paperwork.

Danielle Hale, Manager of Emergency Management at Port of Corpus Christi Authority: FEMA is an amazing organization, but it has

its purpose and its focus, so we are dealing with four legs of FEMA right now, Emergency Response; National Flood Insurance; Individual Assistance; and Public Infrastructure. As things progress, additional programs will become available and this is a year's long process for all of our citizens who are underinsured or completely displaced due to disaster. Government is intended to be fair, consistent and a custodian of our tax dollars, people just have to be patient and go through the necessary processes to obtain the help they need. What I'm here to talk about today is Public Assistance, those things that restore our government. Eligible entities include the City, County, School District, Navigation District, Non-Profits such as some of your Churches in town. FEMA is already here, they need numbers to contact these entities because the Federal Government is already earmarking and setting aside a certain package for Aransas County and the sooner we get that dollar amount submitted to them, the quicker they earmark that money for us. As a Governmental entity, the things you have to focus on are the things that you are constitutionally responsible for. There are processes that you have to follow in expediting permitting, property development in special flood hazard areas, septic inspections, condemnations, clearing debris, and as long as you are following the correct processes, FEMA is going to be good to us as a community. Things that FEMA needs today, we need estimates on storm related damages, post related damages may not be covered, such as the airport road being torn up by the trucks hauling debris. Things related to the disaster, it has to be pictured, it has to be documented, your maintenance records, all of those things that prove your pre-disaster conditions, your Sheriff's cars, your communications equipment.

You are also insured and very well for a lot of your public buildings, so we have to start working through this. Your departments have been displaced, they need to document what they have done, they need to start cost projecting what they need and that's a lot of work, but if FEMA wants it broken down by parks, roads, bridges, stormwater, and there are other categories. You are going to have to break it down by what is covered by insurance or third party claims, because you may be doing work that is going to be billed to some other entity and then you're going to have the aggregate over here which is potentially FEMA reimbursement. You'll have three pots of money that you're going to pull from, you're going to have a total package down here of what your problem is in Aransas County to re-build to pre-disaster, that's the number the Feds need and they need it quick because they're going to do a progressional earmark and they are going to set it aside for you and then start backing up and working with you through the process to get you as much money that you have rightfully coming to you. But if you're not following the 200CFR procurement process, they've actually sent out a letter yesterday that's going to allow us to do some more emergency bids for the next couple of weeks that are outside that 200CFR. You've got some pre-bid disaster contracts, there is a lot of really good stuff in there, some of what I'm talking to you about as far as the documentation, and your Thompson Contract that you've activated for debris monitoring, there's lots of other opportunities to get those consultants to come in here and help you, right now the time is of the essence. The Federal Government has opened up money like we've never seen before, 100% for debris removal, 100% for emergency protective

measures for a period of time, we've got to be throwing everything we've got at it right now.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

1. Proclamation declaring Aransas County a disaster area and extending the state of emergency and all emergency powers.
2. Minutes from the Commissioners' Court Public Hearing of August 21, 2107, Regular Meeting of August 21, 2017 and Workshop Meeting of August 1, 2017.
3. District Court Technology Fund and Fee, 2018 for the preservation and restoration of the District Clerk's Records pursuant to Texas Government Code Sec. 51.305 and request approval of funding a records management expenditure in an amount up to \$22,535 and appropriate budget line item transfer from reserves.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS & LEASES

4. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code Sec. 292.001, the Aransas County Commissioners Court finding necessary and designating Aquarium Education Center, address 702 Navigation Circle, Rockport, Texas 78382, which in within the city limits of Rockport, Aransas County,

(Inserts)

Texas an AUXILLIARY COURTROOM FOR THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COURTS OF ARANSAS COUNTY until further notice.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign Inter-Jurisdiction Mutual Aid Agreement between Aransas County and the City of San Antonio for assistance to the Aransas County IT Department pursuant to Chapters 791, 418, and 421 of the Texas Government Code and Chapter 362 of the Local Government Code.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to **TABLE** discussion, approval, or disapproval of contract for sale of Airport Housing Compound at Davis Loop at a price of \$350,000 to Danny Adams and authorization of the hiring of a realtor to accomplish the sale.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign a contract for Texas Reads Grant.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by

(Inserts)

Commissioner Olsen to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign an Interlocal Agreement to become part of Harris County Department of Education's (HCDE) Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Resolution #R-20-2017 supporting the submission of two TXCDBG - Colonia Construction Fund grant applications and authorizing the County Judge to act as executive officer and authorized representative in all matters pertaining to these applications.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign 2017-2018 Interlocal Agreement with the City of Rockport for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) - Colonia Construction Fund for the Doughty & Mathis/Manning and Bellevue/Guy Epps Colonias within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign 2017-2018 Interlocal Agreement with the City of Rockport for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) - Colonia Construction Fund for the Doughty & Mathis/Manning

(Inserts)

Colonia within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to **TABLE** authorizing the County Judge to sign an Agreement with Commercial Metals for removal of Refrigerants.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Airport Project Participation Agreement TxDOT CSJ No. 17HGRCKPT.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve authorizing the County Judge to cancel American Heritage/Allstate Insurance, Case #A7490 policies as of the end of the current Plan Year, September 30, 2017. The two participants have elected not to continue coverage.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve a Resolution authorizing the submission of two applications to the Texas Department of

(Inserts)

Agriculture - Community Development Block Grant - Colonia Construction Fund to extend water lines in the Bellevue/Guy Epps Subdivision and extend sewer lines in the Doughty Mathis Subdivision.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. No action was taken on the discussion, approval, or disapproval of changes and/or clarification of the Aransas County personnel policies in regard to the closing of county offices, recall of employees, time period of evacuation and compensation of employees.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to TABLE discussion, approval, or disapproval of an Interlocal Agreement between Aransas County, the city of Rockport, and Town of Fulton regarding the payment for debris brought to the landfill and division of payment for the debris by population.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to TABLE discussion, approval, or disapproval of an Agreement for Cooperative Purchasing for Services Bid by another Governmental Entity between the Aransas County, the City of Rockport, the Town of Fulton, the MUD Districts and any other governmental entities to be used in conjunction with Thompson Consulting Services.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign emergency contracts for Fiber Services to the Airport and the Temporary Courthouse.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to disapprove Interim Guidelines for Post-Hurricane Construction, Flood Plain Order to remain as it was.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

22. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve adopting Elected Officials Salaries for 2018.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

23. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve adopting the 2018 Budget.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

24. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve that the Property Tax Rate be increased by the adoption of a Tax Rate of 0.403315, which is effectively a 3.86 percent increase in the Tax Rate. The individual rates will be: 0.281598 County Advalorem Maintenance & Operations; 0.052278 County Interest and Sinking; 0.046307 County Farm to Market Road Maintenance & Operations; 0.008915 County Flood Maintenance & Operations; 0.014217 County Flood Interest & Sinking.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

25. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve the 2017 Tax Roll and 2017 Tax Levy.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

26. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Resolution #R-19-2017 Tax Roll, Levy and Rate.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

27. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Aransas County Navigation District (ACND) Tax Rate Levy for 2017 (Total Effective Tax Rate of \$0.050768/\$100 Value).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

28. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve ratifying the Property Tax increase reflected in the 2018 Budget.
Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

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

Judge Mills: In the last two weeks I've seen some amazing things, how people have stood up and done their job and done it well, I'm not going to mention them all because there were many of them, I just want to personally thank each and every one for what you've done for the County in this past couple of weeks.

Jack Chaney: I think we need to do a proclamation at some point to appreciate all the many, many service utility companies that helped us.

Betty Collier: I think we all need to give a round of applause to you Judge.

Jack Chaney: I will say this, every time I went to the EOC, he was always there.

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

There were none.

September 11, 2017

*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:30 a.m. on a motion made by
Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen.*

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

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