

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 31, 2015

On the 31st day of August, 2015, 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 Kristen Barnebey, County Attorney; Jeri Cox, Tax Assessor-Collector; Pam Heard, District Clerk; Michael Geer, Airport Manager; Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer; David Reid, Drainage Engineer; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Linda Garcia, Executive Assistant to the County Judge; Timilu Latham, Chief Deputy County Treasurer; Pat Rousseau, Human Resources Director; Roman Cortez, Deputy Chief/Jail Operations and Grievance Officer; John Strothman, Pathways Project Manager; and Keith Barrett, Harbor Master, ACND#1;

The meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m., at which time a quorum was declared by County Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were none.

PUBLIC HEARING/CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Public comments regarding the proposed County Clerk's Records Technology and Infrastructure Fee, Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 118, Subchapter B, Section 118.026, to fund technology and infrastructure for the maintenance of county records and the operations of the County Records System.

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Minutes from the Public Hearing and Regular Meetings of August 24, 2015; and the Joint Special Workshop Meeting of August 25, 2015 with correction on page nine. Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

2. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to **Table** request by County Clerk to approve Records Technology and Infrastructure Fee for the Maintenance of County Records and the operations of the County Records System pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 118.026 until further knowledge is obtained on eligibility. Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the following consent items:

3. Report Receipt of and Record in the Minutes of the Commissioners' Court Certificate of Black Hat Certification Court Completion for Advanced Practical Social Engineering for Collin P. Jackson, IT Director.

4. Allowing Historical Commission to place a Marker on Airport Property recognizing The Air Force Missile Defense Radar Facility.

5. Commissioners' Court Order #0-18-2015 Setting Fees for Sheriff and Constable Services.

6. Receive and Record in the Commissioners' Court Minutes the District Judges' Minute Order for Aransas County appointing Lezlie M. Kirk as the County Auditor for a 2-Year Term effective August 7, 2015, and approve setting her salary.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE ITEMS

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to **Table** the "2014" Fiscal Year Comprehensive Financial Audit of Aransas County as presented by Michael A. Arnold, CPA.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the request of IT Director to reclassify his assistant IT Job description to the budgeted pay grade approved in the 2015 budget. Previously approved job description had a pay grade of eighteen(18) and the revised pay grade is a twenty (20).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the Aquarium Budget request for additional Hot Funds and raising it from 4% to 10% (from \$15,000 to \$38,000) in the "2016" budget.

Question.

Commissioner's Chaney and Casterline voted against and Judge Mills voted in favor.

It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing The Grant Connection, on behalf of Aransas Pathways, to apply for available grants to Fund Improvements on the Connie Hagar and the Holiday Beach Birding Locations.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the Navigation District (ACND#1) Tax Rate Levy for "2015" (Total Effective Rate of \$0.52511/\$100 Value).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve budget line item transfers. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve accounts payable. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to **Table** approval on the proposed "2016" Budget. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

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

Lezlie Kirk read fee report.

Pat Rousseau provided the court with previously requested information on "per diem" rates in other counties and government entities.

(Inserts)

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

Commissioner Chaney commented that he attended a conference this last week and there was a presentation given by an Emergency Coordinator for Hays County concerning the terrible flooding they had to deal with. He stated he would like to see Aransas County get more prepared for Emergency situations by implementing public workshops. He suggested that they might be able to get the Emergency Medical Director to have some training sessions.

Pat Rousseau reported on the successful renewal of Easy Premium Only Plan for next year which allows the employees to select certain qualifying Insurance Premiums that they can take out Pre Taxed. For the previous tax year the County and its employees saved about \$117,000, of that the employees saving \$92,000 and the County saving \$25,000, that's in reduced taxes that we don't have to pay because those premiums are legally coming out before income tax or social security taxes are calculated.

Mike Geer reported that this past Saturday the Texas Speed Syndicate from Houston visited the Airport and gave a demonstration involving three vehicles from the Motor Car Exhibition and we closed the runway for about three hours. They got out there and showed us what they are proposing. They would like to come back on November 8th with about 30 cars and do a demonstration for the commissioners. A sanctioned event could be set up annually in our slow month of February, with FAA approval, which needs the creation of a local significance status to rate the approval. We started a petition and are trying to get about 200 signatures to present to the Court for a vote and then will submit to the FAA for approval to shut down part of the airfield

for the event. Commissioner Smith stated he would like to work with Mike on the local significance procedure.

Judge Mills stated that Judge Dupnik's mother passed away and the funeral is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. today.

PRESS QUESTIONS

Norma Martinez, Managing Editor of the Rockport Pilot:

Official action on the Budget scheduled to be approved on September 14, 2015, is everything pretty much set, or will there be any changes?

Judge Mills stated that it is pretty much set unless someone comes up with something next week.

The court entered into closed session at 9:40 a.m. to discuss and review potential litigation issues and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1)(a); and to discuss real estate negotiations, including Pathways Projects pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072; and resumed Open Meeting at 10:17 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

CONTRACTS, LEASES & AGREEMENTS

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve going forward on conceptual

acceptance of the transfer of property along Southwind Lane for drainage easement, not accepting the road for maintenance, and including reimbursement of total costs for drainage improvements along this road.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:18 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Smith duly seconded by Commissioner Stiles.

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

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