

ORIGINAL

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - JANUARY 25, 2016

On the 25th day of January, 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; **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; **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 Vyoral**, Road Administrator; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Pat Rousseau**, Human Resources Director; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager for the County Attorney's Office; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **David Reid**, Drainage Engineer; **James Jackson**, Environmental Health Director; **Tom Callan**, Director At Large, Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Marsha Hendrix**, Fulton Mansion Site Manager; **Diane Probst**, Area Chamber of Commerce, President/CEO; **Kathy Roberts Douglas**, Chief Executive Officer for the Texas Maritime Museum; **Luis Puron**, Executive Director of the Rockport Center for the Arts; **Sandy Jumper**, Director of Tourism; **De McLallen**, Aransas County Appraisal District Chairman of the Board of Directors; **Ronell Burke**, Chief Animal Control Officer; **C. J. Wax**, City of Rockport Mayor; **Brian Olsen**, Unopposed Candidate for Precinct 3

Commissioner in upcoming Primary and General 2016 Elections;  
**Thea Edmundson**, County Resident; and **Al Johnson**, Area Builder.

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**

Aaron Horine with Coast & Harbor Engineering appeared to give update on the Cedar Bayou Vinson Slough Restoration Project. All data is back after the first year of monitoring and we have some great news. An interesting thing to note is how much the bayou has moved during that time. Even though it has moved it is still open and still flowing. Research has shown that there has been an increase in species of fish, blue crabs, bird sightings of Whooping Crane and Piping Plover and newly established nurseries in nearby seagrass beds where there were none before.

Sedimentary migration after one year equals about 670 feet and they are hoping they will not have to re-dredge for another seven to nine years. Going forward they will be gathering information on costs and available funding sources to maintain the project.

(Insert)

**CONSENT ITEMS**

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

1. Minutes from the Regular Commissioners' Court Meeting of January 11, 2016.
2. Public Official Bond on Christy Lee Gibson, Deputy County Clerk.
3. Official Blanket Bond for Aransas County Tax Assessor-Collector.
4. Official Blanket Bond for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 Court Clerks.
5. Order #0-01-2016 allowing retail fireworks permit holders to sell fireworks to the public in celebration of Texas Independence Day from February 22 through March 2, 2016.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**APPOINTMENTS**

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve appointments to the 2016 Aransas County Historical Commission.

Question. Commissioner Stiles abstained. Motion carried.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the appointment of Early Voting Clerks for the March 1, 2016 Joint Primary Election.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the appointment of Rick McKinney to the Aransas County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

#### COUNTY REPORTS

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the Rockport Area Chamber of Commerce Fourth Quarter 2015 Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Funds Expended.

Question. Commissioner Stiles abstained. Motion carried.

It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the Rockport Center for the Arts

(Inserts)

Fourth Quarter 2015 Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Funds Expended.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the Maritime Museum Fourth Quarter 2015 Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Funds Expended.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the Fulton Mansion Fourth Quarter 2015 Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Funds Expended.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**BIDS, CONTRACTS & LEASES**

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to accept bids for 2016 Road Materials.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to **TABLE** authorizing the County Judge to sign an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the City of Rockport and the Town of Fulton for Animal Control.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve authorizing the Environmental Health Department to Abate Public Nuisance at 206 Lazy Lane, Rockport, TX.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve adopting the Adoption of Revisions of the Aransas County Floodplain Management and Watershed Protection Order and the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map to be effective February 17, 2016.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing the Transfer Station to dispose of 10 used 40 yard containers as scrap metal.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE ITEMS**

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing Aransas County on behalf of the Aransas County Historical Commission to accept a donation of \$50.00 to be credited to the Historical Commission's 2016 Budget.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve going forward with the Aransas Pathways Work Program as outlined and the Capital Budget for 2016 with or without the acquisition of Grant funds.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

21. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the Treasurer's Report for December, 2015.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

22. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the Treasurer's Fourth Quarter 2015 Investment Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

23. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Line Item Transfers.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

24. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Accounts Payable

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)



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

**Kristen Barnebey** reported on the progress of her office as requested by the Commissioners' Court. Since June, 2015 they have been working on issues such as budgets, staffing, confidentiality measures for auditing purposes, safety, painting and new light bulbs. We are now fully staffed with four attorneys, two paralegals, one office manager, one investigator and two front desk personnel, one of which is also a victims coordinator.

We have done all kinds of training for getting prepared in handling felony cases and we have implemented new smart boards in the courtrooms. We negotiated computer programs with Tyler Technologies. We have been cleaning out the Grand Jury room and worked on heating & cooling. We have been working on getting the County Contracts together in one location. We've also taken on working on law suits and educating our Jury Pool. We still have a lot of work to do, but we will keep working through issues such as CJIS which has fallen behind in Aransas County and we are working with the City of Rockport on this also.

We have had to take twenty five boxes of felony cases and computerize those files. We are also working on Community Outreach resources.

**Commissioner Stiles:** Our Sheriff has been involved with our neighborhood watch program out in the Holiday Beach and the Lamar area. Sheriff, you are going to put on two training sessions?

**Sheriff Mills:** Yes on February 1st and February 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center in the Sheriff's Office.

**Michele Bennett:** I just want to report that we received a letter from the Secretary of State approving our countywide polling places indefinitely.

**Commissioner Stiles:** We are going to have our Lamar Volunteer Fire Department La Mardi Gras fundraiser on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February and I encourage everyone to come.

**Pat Rousseau:** For our countywide safety training, we will have our consultant down here from the Texas Association of Counties.

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*The Court entered into closed session at 11:05 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 12:02 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:*

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18. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve hiring James A Dodson for the period of February, March, April until the Election in May as a consultant for Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 12:04 a.m. on a motion made by  
Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney.*

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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