

MINUTES OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - MAY 14, 2018

On the 14th day of May, 2018, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Commissioners' Courtroom in the County Courthouse, located at 2840 Highway 35 North, 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 **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Richard P. Bianchi**, County Court at Law Judge; **Kristen Barnebey**, County Attorney; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Latisha Murphy**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **Sue Pash**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Misty Kimbrough**, Collections Specialist; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Rene Butler**, Maintenance Director; **Debbra Simank**, Administrative Assistant to Environmental Health Director;

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

City of Rockport Council Members: **Pat Rios**, Mayor; **Barbara Gurtner**, Ward 4;

**Marsha Hendrix, Ph.D.**, Director/Site Manager for the Fulton Mansion;

**Kenneth C. Burns**, AIA, Burns Architecture, LLC;

**Russel Cole**; Primary Candidate for Commissioner, Pct. 4;

**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. **Richard P. Bianchi** and **Misty Kimbrough** were present to advise the Court on procedures for new Legislative changes for required Non-Monetary options to discharge Court Costs, Fines and Fees (Excluding Restitution and OMNI fees).

**Richard:** I just wanted to briefly inform the court on Legislative changes that were made to the collection of court ordered fees, there are new alternative methods of payment for indigent persons which includes a work program for doing community service, we want to give the County first choice to utilize this program and so if any departments have any use for these folks please let us know. We are also working on a program that we hope to implement in June for GED classes in which those who never received a high school diploma could do this and earn credit towards their probation and/or court costs, fines, and fees.

**Misty:** Our goal is for indigent persons only to be able to use this means of credit, if they are not indigent then by all

means they need to pay their fees. To qualify for indigence they must be either a full time high school student, receiving food stamps, in a temporary assistance program for needy families, receiving Medicaid, etc. They must present proof of this and I then present it to the Judge and he makes the decision of whether they meet the specifications for indigent status.

**2. Kay Adams** was present to give the court an update on the Wings Rescue Center.

**Kay:** We are thrilled at this point seeing that the birds are slowly coming back to Aransas County, I am currently raising fifteen baby birds in my home. We have rescued 81 birds to date and we are also seeing birds in this area that we have never seen before, this may be due to the hurricane blowing them in here. We did not have a lot of damage to our center I am happy to report, we are up and running and still building cages. I just want to thank the court again for their support and would like to add that we have also received a lot of support from our community.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve:

**3.** Minutes from the April 16, 2018 Multi-Jurisdictional Intergovernmental Workshop & Special Meeting; April 23, 2018 Regular Meeting; April 30, 2018 Special Meeting; and the May 7, 2018 Special Meeting.

(Inserts)

4. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a certificate of course completion for Acknowledgment of Paternity Recertification for Valerie K. Amason, Aransas County Clerk.
5. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, an award presented, at the GCAT Conference, May 5-9, 2018, to Misty Kimbrough by the Governmental Collectors Association of Texas for the "Most Innovative Program" (the organization selected as having the most improved collections by developing and implementing innovative procedures, systems, or techniques in the past year).
6. Official Public Bond Rider for Richard P. Bianchi, County Court at Law Judge.
7. Reappointment of Rick McLester as Aransas County Fire Marshall for a period of two years ending May 14, 2020.
8. Proposed Aransas County Official Holidays for 2019.
- 9. Pulled for discussion.**
10. Accepting donated tools with an estimated value of \$1,254.00 from Mr. Kissinger to the Aransas County Airport.
11. Accepting a donation from the County and District Clerks Association's Outreach Committee, a donation for the County Clerk and District Clerk Deputies.
- 12. Pulled for discussion.**  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney to approve the Proposed Official Holidays for 2019 Aransas County Employees and the Alternate Proposed Official Holiday 2019 Schedule for the Transfer Station changing Christmas to December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to appoint Brian Olsen, Commissioner Precinct 3; Linda Doane, HR Director; Suzy Wallace, County Auditor; Rene Butler, Maintenance Director; and Valerie Gonzalez, Environmental Health Director, **and adding to the original agenda item that the Judge appoint two other individuals to said committee who are not in management positions and who are not in the same departments as the ones listed above;** to serve on a committee to review and recommend updates and revisions of the Aransas County Personnel Policies with assistance from the county's TAC HR Representative and then present recommendations to Commissioners Court for approval.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**COUNTY REPORTS**

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2018 HOT Funds Report for the Fulton Mansion.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve and recognize accepting an awarded Grant, #20180663, in the amount of \$20,000.00 which represents a grant from the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund at the North Texas Community Foundation to provide funding for the 10% match required for the state grant for rebuilding the public safety communication tower that was destroyed by Hurricane Harvey. This grant is at the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bass and the Sid W. Richardson Foundation.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY ROADS

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve an Order Closing, Abandoning and Vacating a 20-foot alleyway in Block 334, in Manning Addition, Aransas County, Texas.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS & GRANTS

16. Authorize the County Judge to sign and enter into a joint contract with the City of Rockport to hire Justin Hudman as a local TWIA Consultant to the State legislature. **This item went into closed session.**

(Inserts)

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve changing the County from Neopost Mail Machine System back to Pitney Bowes with savings of \$126/month and \$9,738 over the period of the lease.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve renewal of the program agreement with TAC (TX Association of Counties) for Affordable Care Act Reporting and Tracking Service (ARTS).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE**

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve April 2018 Indigent Healthcare Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterlie to approve paying an invoice for Laserfiche services and software purchased in August 2017 from ImageTek, but not installed until 2018 due to Hurricane Harvey.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

21. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Budget Line Item Transfers. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

22. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Accounts Payable with one additional check to pay the City of Rockport water bill in the amount of \$364.33 and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

**Valerie Amason:** I just wanted to show everyone the award that Misty received at the GCAT conference mentioned in the Consent Items, we are so proud of her.

**Suzy Wallace** read the fee report.

**Commissioner Chaney:** I went to the pool this weekend and I met a visiting family who were amazed at the cleanup that has happened here. I asked them if there was something special about Rockport that was destroyed that they really missed and they said the Aquarium. I told them it would probably be a while before that would be rebuilt.

(Inserts)



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*The Court entered into closed session at 9:22 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 9:53 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:*

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16. Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to table this item until the City Council has an opportunity to meet. No second made on this motion.

Sub-Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to go ahead and hire the consultant to go ahead and protect us or do as much as he can for us at the State Legislation on the TWIA issue contingent on the City of Rockport being in partner with us.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:55 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.*

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May 14, 2018



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



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