

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - APRIL 23, 2018

On the 23rd day of April, 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; **Kristen Barnebey**, County Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Latisha Murphy**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Jacky Cockerham**, Assistant County Auditor; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **Iris Sanchez**, Head Librarian; **John Gutierrez**, Chief Deputy Sheriff; **Mike Koerner & Kim Foust**, Long-Term Recovery Specialists;

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

City of Rockport Council Members: **Pat Rios**, Ward 3 and Mayor Pro Tem;

Chamber of Commerce: **Diane Probst**, President/CEO;

Rockport Center for the Arts: **Luis Puron**, Executive Director;
Paula Dean, Board Member;

Rockport Maritime Museum: **Kathy Roberts-Douglas**

Charelene Drake; Frances "Sisco" Willison; Lynn Baskind; Friends of the Pool.

Cindy Duck, President of the Executive Committee for The Education Foundation supporting the Aransas County ISD;

Wendy Laubach, 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

- Lynn Baskind** - Friends of the Pool for their Duck Race, "SINKO DE QUACKO": The Duck Race is on May 5th this year and we're corrupting that Cinco De Mayo title to honor our ducks in need, that's our pool. We hope that you will all buy a ticket, tickets are \$5, first prize is a \$500 American Express gift card, 2nd place is a \$150 Wal Mart gift card and ice chest cooler, and 3rd place is a \$100 Wal Mart gift card and ice chest cooler. Also, this year we are selling hand painted design by local artists hats and tote

bags, only available at the pool, at the race, so I hope you guys come for our close line sale, it's a real big "quacker" day. We're glad to say that the Rockport Center for the Arts is going to be doing one of their Free Family Saturday events that day at the pool, we also have a bake sale going on. Our big news is, much like other organizations in town, we have an unexpected donation from Olympic swimmer, Michael Phelps, his foundation donated a thousand dollars-worth of his memorabilia for us to auction off, it has to be a live auction, it had to be in May, so that's why we are doing Cinco de Quacko in May. We have engaged a live auction and MC, country boy, Don Williams with KFTX 97.5 radio, he's going to do some spots for us and bring his own sound system. We also have a water balloon toss, you can be a tosser or you can be a target. We'll have in water demos, Water Zumba, Aqua Zumba, Mermaid Meagan will be there on her paddle board, life guard demonstrations and the Shark Swim Teams will be a big part of our day, they will be our propellers for the ducks, no more of the little ladies on noodles swimming in the water, so this race is going to be really short because it's going to be really fast. These guys are also going to have some preliminary races so we can see what they are about. We hope you all buy a ticket, it's at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning for Cinco de Quacko, thank you.

- 2. Kim Foutz** - Long Term Recovery about the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan: I'm going to start out with "Why did we want a plan?" The plan provides us with a united path for recovery resilience, and also "How are we going to move forward with Economic Development?", not just

from where we were, but moving forward. There are a wide variety of projects and one thing I do want to emphasize about this plan, it's a plan, that doesn't mean everything has to be executed, that doesn't mean everything has to be made a certain priority, lots and lots of discussion goes on behind each of these action items. Throughout the recovery, both in the emergency situation and in long term recovery, we've had a motto "One Path, One Voice", this gives us a vehicle that we can work on projects together, investigate them, and determine if they are viable for the community, and then the best option for moving forward. It also allows for us take a look at it for planning purposes and joining in collectively to allocate resources for projects that are selected. One of the other things that it does is, it gives us the backing to go out and apply for grants. A good example right now, which is very imminent, is our Economic Development Projects, the Economic Development Administration Projects that are going to be submitted. For Rockport, there is the Rockport Center for the Arts, a very beautiful facility that the Center for the Arts has put together, we have some concepts and some details on what those improvements might be. They've also graciously incorporated other types of parts into the design so that we will be able to hold seminars and conferences and different types of events to attract visitors to the community. The other project that's pending is Paws and Taws for Fulton which was a selected project for that grant, I've done some of these grants before, and one thing is they really want to know that the entire community support the project, they like to see it Multi-Jurisdictional, through this disaster they like to see

things for recovery and how are we going to be more resilient from an Economic Development point of view. And so this is our plan as well as the Council of Governments has a Regional Economic Development Plan. Both of those plans will support and justify the application for those projects. We started having our workshops December 11th and 12th and what we ended up doing was we brought in a consultant, free of charge, the Economic Development Administration, again they want good planning, they made resources available to us to have a facilitator come in and work through that community dialogue. The first meeting was very global, we talked about challenges, kind of categorized things, identified trends, what we need, and what we are willing to do to help participate. There were a number of different categories and stakeholder groups were brought in, there were four specifically, tourism, downtowns, community being like government, churches, real estate, and schools, and industry appropriate for Rockport-Fulton. When our facilitator came back she did a reconnect meeting, kind of went over what was discovered, and then then worked closely to put together some short term teams that could create some short term wins, so those teams have been meeting as a result of that since that time on a weekly basis working for the community. The stakeholder groups started creating some of the long term goals. The consultant also did a SWOT analysis for us and identified some needs and issues in the community that we could leverage and create some long term goals from that data. President and I sat down, took all of the information that we had received, all of the public input, and we started drafting some potential goals by category.

We did some kick-off meetings, provided you with the initial draft, we put it on the Chamber and Recovery websites, and we have been taking public comment for three months. We have done public presentations outlining this process, we've talked to the Navigation District, the County Commissioners, Town of Fulton, City of Rockport, Rockport-Fulton ISD, and the Chamber Board of Directors. All of the entities have provided me with a copy of their resolution that they have adopted the plan. We had a multi-jurisdictional workshop where we talked about the priorities and reached an agreement so that we are leveraging our resources. There were 11 strategies and about 93 action items, this is a five to ten year project so every year we will be coming back and looking at it, finding out where we are in the plan, maybe putting a group together to work the plan to represent each of the communities. Because there were so many action items we took the 11 strategies and prioritized the top three. The themes in the strategies are economic vitality and resilience, image and identity, and stability and quality of life. I'm only going to go over the top three priorities, the rest are listed in the power point and everyone is welcome to a copy of that. The first strategy was that we re-build and build local attractions and venues. That will involve doing an assessment of what we had, how that's coming back, do we need to make some improvements, and do we need to add to our offerings for venues, do we need to create a leveraged area where we put together, in the same area, the city and the county facilities, as they rebuild? The second priority is diversifying the economy and what I call, having the

necessary infrastructure, water, sewer, and electricity. This kind of takes it at a higher level, part of what's recommended is alternative or additional target industries that the workforce is compatible with and reflects some of the goals that you want as far as diversifying the economy. So there's things like doing a workforce needs assessment and development, what do we have, what do we need, how are we going to get them back, and how are we going to get them the skill sets that they need? Also, look at our readiness and take some actions towards that, do we have sites, some basic things that site selectors look at, if you do not have them and you don't advertise them on your website, site selectors don't even look at you. They are working behind the scenes with thousands of cities and counties all over the United States, they have their client and they go on-line and if you don't make that first cut, because you've done everything that you need to do to be ready to recruit a business, you don't even get the phone call. So, we want to get the phone call, we want to do our homework and be ready for that. Looking at other things like health care gaps and needs, other services needed to support business and visitors, which include airport, fire, transportation, as examples. Third, this is kind of supportive of the top two, which is enhance our marketing and promotion program. That process has already started, we've got some generous donations from ICF and Jeff Hunt, towards targeting and branding. There are some other efforts in here that we can bring in, free of charge, to help with that effort as well, and so we are real excited about that. The next step is to consider adopting the plan, I do want to emphasize the final copy of the plan will be

brought back, it's going to look more like a typical plan with some background, some metrics, and any kind of attachments that need to go with it. We will ship this plan over to the COG, so that they can adopt our plan into the regional plan and then apply for the grants. As you know, that Community Development Block Grant Program has posted their notices for that, we are reviewing it right now, we have a summary available of what is proposed, in that there is planning and economic development funding.

Commissioner Casterline: What's the time frame that you're really needing this?

Kim: All of the other entities that I have listed have passed the resolutions, we prefer that we have them all before we turn in the final PDA grant application, just so we can show that the community is united.

Commissioner Casterline: My concern is, some of the things on the list, I think we need to have a little more detail, they are pretty general, and then the big one on there is the City Hall/Courthouse project, I think that is just to say that is nowhere near a reality and that could be changed, I think that everyone needs to be closer to the same page than what I think we are right now.

Kim: So one of the things that we could do is look at some of the language because this is really just supposed to be just a broad brush of things that we are exploring. For instance, sites for business, we don't have any earthly idea of where that would be, what it would look like, what assets, what's out there, none of that work has been done. So one of the things that we could do address your concern is let's explore, look into it, it may end up being that

it's official, maybe when we get into the details, we find out it's not.

Commissioner Chaney: One of the things that we were looking for was some sort of definitive action, in which we could have a clear path to where we were going, we talk about definitive action and a broad brush, I realize that in five or ten years from now things change, things that have to be adopted, but there are some issues in there that we need to figure out, what is it that we are really talking about, to make it broader in the system is more ambiguous and there's less chance of actually working with a standard order.

Commissioner Stiles: Kim, my concern too is that it is very City bound, I mean, pretty much focused and not much county involved in it, is that a true statement in your opinion? Because, we have Goose Island State Park, and other things out there that need to a part of the Economic Development Plan in my opinion.

Kim: Well, I guess I would say, let's look at what the top three were identified by in the Multi-Jurisdictional group, attractions and venues are all over the board, the county, both cities, we don't get into specific details about which venue and what additional resources might be made. One that's clearly at the top of the list is the Aquarium and that's an endeavor that the county has. The pathways project, that is a major, major, venue in different ways and it is actually listed in here. Diversifying the economy, it's probably broader than you're even thinking about, because one of the things in economic development is regionalism and you have to have a certain mass in order to be able to recruit the types of businesses that you want and that means it's not just necessarily Aransas County, it

may be other surrounding counties, or cities. Right now, the regionalism is done through Corpus Christi and I just saw a presentation on the MSA, it's done. If you have some unique needs, wants, and assets, they may not be compatible with those, so you're really going to have to start talking about leveraging your resources more and more and that definitely would not just include cities. Cities don't do economic development by themselves anymore, they can't, they don't have the workforce that businesses are looking for now.

Commissioner Chaney: We certainly want to enhance the city and the town and everything else around here but there is a lot of area that needs economic development that is not in the City, and diversity, to me, is not going back to exactly what you had but expanding to the things that you don't have when you talk about a five year window in which you have a lot of stuff coming around. I don't think there's anybody here in the City that wants to do any other, just the green type businesses for Aransas County. There's a lot of stuff going on and we have billions of dollars that are out there to be spent and we need to something other than just tourism.

Kim: And that's the number two priority right now that was set by the group.

Commissioner Olsen: You know, I participated in the group and we did discuss a lot for the County, participation and what the needs were, we did agree on that, we were not alone and the Cities agreed as well, there is a lot of the County that will get exposure with this.

Kim: And there may be some ideas that have come up in the past, but keep in mind, the individual and the group that's

facilitating it including the Economic Development person, we're kind of looking at it from a 20,000 foot level and we may not necessarily have all of the history, or some of the projects that you felt were important that need to move forward easy and we should add those, that's part of this and why the other entities emphasized that we need to look at this every year. How are we doing, what did we miss, because new opportunities are going to come up and some of the things in here may not be as viable or may not be as attractive as those other opportunities that come in. We are in a pretty volatile situation right now, as far as the economy and everything, but part of that creates new opportunity and we can certainly incorporate some of those.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

3. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2018.
4. Proclamation #P-02-2018 designating the month of May as Elder Abuse Prevention Month for Adult Protective Services.
5. Resolution #R-07-2018 a Resolution of the Commissioners' Court approving and adopting the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Action Plan.
6. Request for Proposals/Qualifications and Bid Process to include Federal Procurement Standards.
7. Official Public Bond Continuation Certificates for Amanda LaFerney, Justice Court Clerk, Pct. 1, and Sharron Loflin,

(Inserts)

Deputy Sheriff.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY REPORTS

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve 1st Quarterly 2018 Report for the Texas Maritime Museum.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve 2nd Quarterly 2018 HOT Report the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve 1st Quarterly 2018 HOT Report for the Rockport Center for the Arts.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign the 2017 Annual Report for the Aransas County Library.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve and recognize the Aransas County AGT for their donation of \$250 to the

(Inserts)

Juvenile Assistance GED Program.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS & GRANTS

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a Memorandum of Agreement between Aransas County Independent School District and Aransas County. ACISD is applying for federal 21st CCLC grant funds from TEA to provide out-of-school programs in 10 Title 1 schools across the district.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve establishing a Petty Cash Change Fund for the County Treasurer's Office with the initial funding being \$100.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the March 2018 Treasurer's Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Treasurer's 1st Quarterly Investment Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve the County Treasurer's request to request funds from the State for the Unclaimed Property Capital for Counties, and to allocate any such funds received, to be split equally between the Literacy Programs offered at the Aransas County Public Library and the Aransas County Children's Foundation (per LGC 381.004).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers of which there were none.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

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

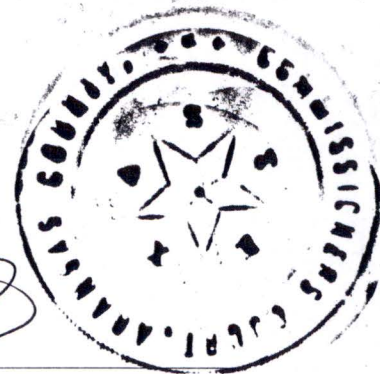
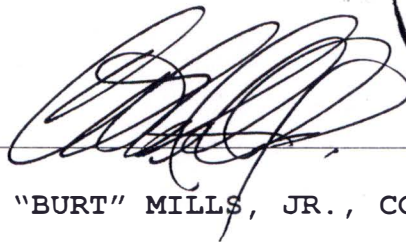
Pam Heard: My office, for Passports, had a 100% compliance rating from the U. S. Department of State, we usually do but I was kind of worried this year because we had to do some things a little bit different because of the Hurricane, but we got the 100%. Also, I just wanted to remind everybody that there is going to be a Kite Fun Fly this weekend, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Navigation District Festival Grounds and it's put on by the Cultural Arts District and also the Coastal Bend Sky Pirates. It ought to be fun, they've got professionals, amateurs, and children, so bring a chair, come on out and have fun.

Commissioner Chaney: I just wanted to say, I drove my precinct the last three or four days and I only saw two piles of debris, I just want to thank our Environmental people and the Road & Bridge Department for really getting on that. I think I've only had one call on debris in the last three weeks and it was in Bubba's precinct.

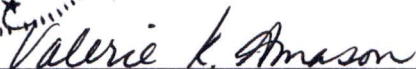
Commissioner Casterline: There's people hauling over in my precinct, they're bad.

Commissioner Stiles: We had a big clean up on our Park Road 13, our Lamar Women's Club along with some youngster volunteers and it really looks beautiful.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:58 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.



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



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