

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - JUNE 10, 2019

On the 10th day of June, 2019, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Commissioners' Courtroom, 2840 Hwy 35 N, 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; **Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Kristen Barnebey**, County District Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Latisha Murphy**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Katherine Comeaux**, Development Services Coordinator; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Michele Bennett**, Elections Administrator; **Iris Sanchez**, County Librarian; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager, County District Attorney's Office; **Jacky Cockerham**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Ronell Burke**, Animal Control Supervisor; **Lois White**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **Mike Kuertz**, Veteran's Service Officer;

Long-Term Recovery: **Kim Foutz**, **Randall Freeze**, Long Term Recovery Specialists;

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

City of Rockport Council Members: Barbara Gurtner, Ward 4;

Aransas County Citizens: Debbie Griffith;

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.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

1. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 28, 2019 and the Special Meeting of May 31, 2019.
2. Public Official Bond and Oath for Charles Smith, County Commissioner, Pct. 3.
3. Public Official Bond Continuation Certificate for Rick McLester, Aransas County Fire Marshall.
4. Public Official Bond Continuation Certificate for James Weston, Aransas County Deputy Sheriff.

(Inserts)

5. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, a certificate from the Texas College of Probate Judges for Valerie Amason, County Clerk, for successfully completing the Continuing Judicial Education program in Galveston, Texas May 30-31, 2019.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY APPOINTMENTS

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve naming and appointing the County Judge as Initial Director to serve on the Board of the Aransas County Alliance Local Government Corporation for Aransas County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve appointing Commissioner Laubach, Pct. 4 as the Court Liaison to the Aransas County Historical Commission to replace Commissioner Olsen, Pct. 3 who resigned from the County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously minus Commissioner Laubach, being a non-vote.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

COUNTY POLICIES

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the proposed Rules of Conduct Policy for the Aransas County Public Library that discusses guidelines and appropriate behavior in the Library.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY REPORTS

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve accepting the retirement resignation of Mike Kuertz, Veterans Service Officer, effective September 01, 2019 and advertise for the position.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY ROADS & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve amending Order #0-06-2019, an Order that Mimosa Street be changed honorably to Galindo Lane. On May 25, 1994 Commissioners Court approved an Order that Mimosa Street be honorably changed to Galindo Lane in honor of PFC Guadalupe Galindo, Jr., who gave his life in defense of his Country on August 24, 1969 in Vietnam. To date, the street signs/street name change were never changed as ordered.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorization to reduce the speed limit on Windjammer St. from 30 mph to 25 mph with the caveat that no change has been made in the Transportation Code preventing the Commissioners Court from doing so.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve request for variance on acreage requirement to replat Lots 4 & 5, Block "J", Bahia Bay, Unit 2 into Lot 1, Block 1, Horvath Hacienda with the caveat that a signed statement be drawn and signed by the owners holding Aransas County harmless from legal repercussions as to violating any restrictive covenants. The reason for replat: The owners of 207 Land's End own the adjacent vacant lot. The owners are requesting a variance to combine both lots into a single lot. The reason variance is required: Aransas County currently requires that lots with public water and septic have a minimum of half an acre. The proposed lot will be .275 acres.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Insert)

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve request for variance on acreage requirement to replat Lots 22, 23, & 24, Old Tasselfoot Village, Unit 1, into Lots 22-R & 24-R, Old Tasselfoot Village, Unit 1 with the caveat that a signed statement be drawn and signed by the owners holding Aransas County harmless from legal repercussions as to violating any restrictive covenants. The reason for plat: The property owner wishes to replat three lots into two lots. An existing residence is on Lot 22, and the proposed replat would result in a larger lot for the existing residence and create a larger corner lot. The reason variance is required: Lot Size & Utility Connections - Aransas County currently required that lots with public water and septic have a minimum of half an acre. The proposed lot will be .275 acres.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve allowing Environmental Health to abate and then obtain a lien against the property located at 23 Nassau, Rockport, Texas 78382, Key Allegro Unit #1, Block 3, Lot 36, due to the health and safety of Aransas County residents, per the County's Abatement of Public Nuisance Ordinance and Section 343 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Insert)

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign an Engineering Services Agreement by and between Aransas County and John D. Mercer & Associates in order to render certain engineering services in connection with the TxCDBG Project (Texas Community Development Block Grant), Contract Number 7218085, administered by the TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture) for Sanitary Sewer Improvements.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign Intergovernmental or Contract Agreement(s) between Aransas County and Texas A&M College of Medicine, TDEM & or GLO and pay an initial fee of \$45,000 up to \$150,000 if necessary, to initiate a study to support the establishment of a Micro-Hospital Facility in Aransas County as soon as possible through the use of CDBG-DR funding.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Resolution #R-23-2019, a Resolution of Intent to pursue a grant application process for creation of a Micro-Hospital to serve the medical needs of Aransas County.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to **TABLE** approving the County Judge to sign a contract with SJS Industrial, LLC for the replacement to the Southern Breakwater at St. Charles Bay Boat Ramp Facility.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign an Amendment to our current Agreement with Allegiance Ambulance which reflects the coverage changes between the County and the City of Rockport due to jurisdictional changes.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a Lease Agreement with TFP Properties III, L.L.C., for the continued lease of Aransas County's temporary courthouse space at 2840 Hwy 35 N, in Rockport, TX.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

21. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement with Mark

(Inserts)

III Systems, Inc. covering their work at the Aransas County Detention Center.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

22. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a new one-year Contract Labor Agreement with Randy Bingham, PA-C, Inmate Care Service Provider, per Texas Department of State Health Services Tuberculosis Standards for Texas Correctional and Detention Facilities.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

23. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the May 2019 Indigent Health Care Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

24. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the distribution of \$126,299 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Revenue Sharing Act annual payments to Local Governments for lands under their administration for Fiscal Year 2018 received in 2019.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

25. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve and authorize the County Judge to eliminate and possibly replace AFLAC (account #OXAVO) as of the end of the current Plan Year, September 30, 2019. This is a Supplemental Coverage which is 100% employee paid and Portable coverage (meaning employees may opt to continue their coverage on their own without payroll deductions).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

27. 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.

(Inserts)

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &

DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

Judge Mills: Fee Reports?

Suzy Wallace: No fee report to read.

Commissioner Smith: Judge, I'm looking at the Legislature's closing out, they continue to feather their nest, in my opinion,

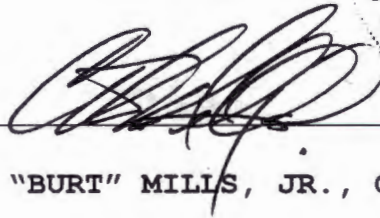
and at the same time have passed rules limiting the County's ability to raise revenues. A report put out by the Texas Association of Counties, Texas Association of Treasurers, and Texas Association of County Auditors documented that the costs of doing business is impacted by unfunded and underfunded mandates. These mandates are things that the Legislature has passed, they think are great ideas, they expect the County to fund them and yet on the one hand they give us no help on that and these expenses continue to increase at the rate of 5 or 6 percent per year. These mandates in our case, I think the largest of them is the Judicial System, they comprise almost 50% of our budget, our General Fund that is. So it's going to be kind of tight in the future, going forward out there, until the Legislature figures out what Counties do, how we do it, and how we fund it. So that's my comment, and this report did point out that it's critical that Elected Officials and others inform the public of what's going on and this is an issue with me, a big issue, and it should impact everybody here, we all pay taxes.

Judge Mills: Thank you Commissioner, I do have a letter here that I would like to read commending Ronell Burke at the Animal Shelter. **(See insert)** The enclosed check is \$500 dollars for the Animal Shelter, I don't know how we are going to do that. Mrs. Burke, congratulations. (Applause) I guess we'll give the check to the Treasurer.

Alma Cartwright: It will have to be officially approved at the next Commissioners Court meeting.

Judge Mills: Alright, if there's nothing else.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:26 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney.



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



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