

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - JULY 8, 2019

On the 8th day of July, 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; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Linda Garcia Haynes**, Executive 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; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager, County District Attorney's Office; **Dana Justice**, Paralegal, County District Attorney's Office; **Jacky Cockerham**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Ronell Burke**, Animal Control Supervisor; **Taylor Levine**, Intern-County/District Attorney's Office;

Long-Term Recovery: **Will Whitson**, **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: Betty Stiles; Richard Karowski; Steve Woods;

GrantWorks: Robin Alexander, CDBG-DR Application Writer and Project Manager, Austin, Texas;

Texas General Land Office: Simone Sanders, Administrative Assistant V;

Rockport Center for the Arts: Luis Puron, Executive Director;

Aransas County Historical Commission: Betty Stiles, Chair; Mike Geer, Vice Chair; Sandra Gregory Bridges, Treasurer; Collin Jackson, Secretary; Other members: Jerry Brundrett; Sandra Garrison; Barbara Gurtner; Collin Jackson; Non-Voting Advisors: Pam Wheat Stranahan, (2018 Chair); Linda Garcia Haynes, (2018 Secretary); Non-Voting Parties: Monica Burdette, Texas State Historical Commissioner;

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

Richard Karowski: I come to you today about two properties on Allen M. Parks out in Copano Cove, one of them, which I think is

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the worst, I think the address is 260 Allen M. Parks. After the hurricane there is still a dilapidated house on there and then one trashed out RV came on the property and since Harvey I think there is about eleven or twelve dilapidated, broke down, RV's. This past week there was an RV that was parked on Sage Brush and it was there for like four or five days and the County put a red tag on it and then Friday, when I went to work, I noticed it was gone, then I noticed that RV was on that property (meaning 260 Allen M. Parks?). Yesterday my wife saw one of the guys, the squatters that are there, there are three or four squatters that are living there, they have no septic, they have no electricity, I think they are running on generators and this place is an eyesore and a hazard and the people on there are questionable. They have cars coming in all hours of the day and night, there is a lady that lives on there that rides a bike, with a basket on it, all around Copano Cove, she leaves the property with nothing and comes back with a lot of things in her basket. This puts our street in danger, I move out there in 2014 and I have complained to Environmental and I've also complained about the people who live across the street from me, they cite them, they take them to jail, they get out and it starts all over again. The modular home that they were living in has been unlivable since the hurricane, broken out windows, they have since brought in another modular home in the back and then they brought in a third one in the back. I've been attacked by their dogs, I called Environmental, they came and picked them up, it's just that most of the residents are trying to get the Copano Cove area back and it's just a few of these residents out there who don't give a damn, excuse my language. **Judge Mills:** Thank you for bringing this to our attention, we can't discuss it today

but I promise you we will look into it. **Mr. Karowski:** I understand, it's just when I saw that broke down RV on Sage Brush and then I saw it on the other property, I mean there are at least eleven of them and I think the address is 260, the neighbors right next to them, just west of them are at 240, and I would like to get a private audience with you and talk more about this. **Judge Mills:** All right. **Mr. Karowski:** I thank you for your time. **Judge Mills:** Thank you.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Presentation from the County Judge of the 2018 Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission to the Aransas County Historical Commission in recognition of its outstanding reservation work accomplishments.
2. Presentation and donation of a bronze hand, flagpole holder to Aransas County from Steve Woods of Steve Woods Design.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

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

3. Minutes from the Budget Workshop Meeting of June 17, 2019 and the Regular Meeting of June 24, 2019.
4. Accepting a donated bronze hand, flagpole holder with monetary value of \$998.00, given to Aransas County by Steve Woods of Steve Woods Design.
5. Official Public Bond Continuation Certificate for Elizabeth Guerra, Aransas County Human Resources Assistant.

(Inserts)

6. Official Public Bond Continuation Certificate for Michele Bennett, Aransas County Elections Administrator.
7. Official Public Bond and Oath for Peggy Smalley Schaefer, JP #1 Court Clerk.
8. Official Public Bond and Oath for Emma Thomas, JP #2 Court Clerk.
9. Official Public Bond and Oath for Lisa Ramon Gonzales, JP #2 Chief Court Clerk.
10. Accepting and awarding Environmental Health Control Vehicle Bids.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES**

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign an amendment to the Thompson Consulting Services, LLC Professional Services Agreement for PPDR (Private Property Debris Removal) Monitoring Services to clarify that this Agreement does not replace our Thompson Consulting Services, LLC Debris Monitoring Agreement, that they are two separate agreements and both are in effect.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a Contract for Engineering Services with Hanson Professional Services, Inc. for

(Inserts)

engineering services associated with Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Disaster Relief (DR) for the reconstruction of Banty Lane to pre-hurricane conditions.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

- 13.** Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a Professional Services Agreement with Hanson Professional Services, Inc. for engineering services to provide additional drainage and other customary improvements to Banty Lane above pre-hurricane conditions.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

- 14.** Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing Road and Bridge to contract with SJS Industrial LLC for roadside ditch maintenance services not to exceed \$47,876. Commissioner Chaney pointed out, for the record, Mr. Reid did get three bids prior to this contract being awarded.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

- 15.** Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a new order with Thomson Reuters to change County District Attorney's existing Option 1A WestLaw subscription to an Option 2 WestLaw subscription, to add online access to O'Connor's publications and reduce

(Inserts)

its need for print copies.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE**

**16.** Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the June 2019 Indigent Health Care Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**17.** Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Resolution #R-24-2019, a Resolution approving and authorizing execution of an investment agreement for participation in the Lone Star Investment Pool, designating the Pool as an agency and instrumentality, approving investment policies of the Pool, appointing authorized representatives, and designating investment officers.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**18.** Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve and authorize the County Treasurer to sign an Investment Agreement between Aransas County and the Lone Star Investment Pool.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve new Veteran Service Officer job description. No new monies.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. 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.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

22. General discussion of the 2020 Budget with elected officials and department heads.

**Judge Mills:** I think it's coming along, we will sit down with the Auditors one more time and see what else we can do. Anybody have any questions for the Auditors? (none)

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &**

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

**Linda Doane:** We received a refund from Texas Association of Counties in the amount of \$11,647.35 and we received a refund from our unemployment fund in the amount of \$11,647.00. Our rates for the unemployment has gone down, a 5 point decrease which has a potential savings of \$4,553. **Commissioner Smith:**

This is the projected rate? You say it went down a half a percent but what is the projected for the future? **Suzy:** It



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went from .0017 to .0012. **Commissioner Chaney:** I just want to thank the persons working on the agendas, for getting away from Acronyms, so that 40 years from now people won't wonder what something like PPRD is, anyway thank you, I think that makes it a lot more professional.

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:20 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



VALERIE K. AMASON,

EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT