

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - NOVEMBER 13, 2017

On the 13th day of November, 2017, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court at the Aquarium at Rockport Harbor Education Center, 706 Navigation Circle, 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**, Interim County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Latisha Murphy**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **Sue Pash**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Jacky Cockerham**, Assistant County Auditor; **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; **Stephanie Abbott**, Deputy District Clerk; **Iris Sanchez**, Head Librarian;

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

City of Rockport Council Members: **C. J. Wax**, Mayor; **Barbara Gurtner**, Ward 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

Linda Brown: There is a home located at 315 Oak Street, this home has been a health hazard for over five years, probably closer to seven or eight, it has been abandoned and the grass is overgrown, the entire back side of the house is out and has been for a long time and has even more damage since the hurricane. The owner lives in New York and has not been here for over ten years, she would have it demolished but she does not want to spend what it costs to do it. My husband is disabled and needs to be in a safe place, this is not a safe place and we have repeatedly complained and sent letters to the environmental agency and nothing happens. I've talked to Mr. Casterline, I've talked to Mr. Chaney and hopefully we can get something done.

Robert Opem: I was here about item #15. Judge Mills: Do you want to wait then. **Robert:** Yes.

Kellie Randall: I live in Copano Cove, like many others I have questions about the rebuilding rules for existing homes. I know that you have rules that require higher elevations for new construction and I am fine with that, my question is about people rebuilding their existing homes and it really comes down to two things. Why will the County not allow people rebuilding to do it by FEMA guidelines who need to buy flood insurance? Why

does the county have an extra height requirement? You should consider changing the rule for people who have existing structures, so they don't have to spend a lot of extra money to rebuild. The County is going to have to spend money too when you build the new Aquarium, I assume it's going to have to meet the same rules, and it's going to cost a lot of money. Same with the bait stands, why not temporarily change the rules for existing buildings only, how will that hurt the County? We sure know it's going to hurt the people who are trying to rebuild. It's hitting them in the pocketbook in a big way, the fact is insurance settlements are not covering the extra expense to tear down the existing structure to correct the elevation and rebuild to meet the current regulations. Building to meet the FEMA & TWIA guidelines should be sufficient. Why not tell us why you cannot do this, why not put this on your Agenda so we can talk about it and you can talk about it with us? We deserve answers.

Wendy Laubach: I just want to ask a question of Ms. Randall if I may, just a clarification of what she asked about, I'm wondering what the difference is between the FEMA elevation levels and the County's rules? **Betty Stiles:** Six inches. **Wendy:** So what FEMA wants, the county wants another foot and a half, is that accurate? **Commissioner Casterline:** Yes. **Wendy:** Ok, thank you.

Rose Hoffman: My question is about putting the mobile homes on the restricted lots. Is the county going to suspend the restrictions and allow the mobile homes, is the County going to remove these after the eighteen months? Also, how do you tell the difference between a FEMA mobile home and just a looq-a-like home that somebody moved in and are taking advantage of the situation?

Bobby Petty: I am with the US Small Business Administration, Office of Disaster Assistance and for those that don't know the SBA is giving out several different kinds of loans to homeowners and businesses affected by Hurricane Harvey. Thus far for all the State of Texas in connection with Hurricane Harvey, the SBA has loaned out 2.27 billion dollars. The County of Aransas, and I apologize I'll have newer numbers about 4:00 p.m. today, the last calculation was 45.2 million dollars that has been loaned to home owners here in Aransas County. We're looking at about a 23% return rate for applications that have been sent back in. The deadline for filing, if you have not filed yet, is November 30th and the best way to do it is go to the tent located at 1000 East Concho and the hours are Monday - Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sundays from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

1. Minutes from the Emergency Meeting of September 2, 2017, the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2017, and Emergency Meeting of October 30, 2017.
2. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the Minutes of Commissioner' Court Continuing Education Credits for Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer, as follow: 2017 County

(Inserts)

Treasurer's Continuing Education Hours; 2017 County Investment Academy Continuing Education Hours; 14 Hours County Investment Academy attendance at June Conference; and 2017-2018 Public Funds Investment Act Continuing Education Hours.

3. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the Minutes of Commissioner' Court Continuing Education Credits for Pam Heard, District Clerk, and a Certificate of Completion to the Texas District Court Alliance 17th Annual Workshop held in October 17-19, 2017.
4. Joint Proclamation #P-10-2017 recognizing November 25, 2017, as "Small Business Saturday" in the Rockport-Fulton Area.
5. This item went into closed session.
6. Front Steps to the Aquarium at Rockport Harbor Education Center, 706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, TX be designated as the area where sales of real property are to take place under §34.01 of the Property Tax Code.
7. Canvass Ballots from the November 7, 2017 Constitutional Amendment Election.
8. Discuss, accept, and recognize a donation of \$50.00 from Robert W. Dietze on behalf of the late Ralph Pyle to Aransas County Animal Control to be used to purchase Simparica.
9. Accept donated gift cards from Gulfport Mississippi, Radical Christian Ministries among others. Total value to be distributed to the Sheriff Office Staff will be \$1,910.00, also reporting \$2,500 in HEB gift cards to be distributed to citizens impacted by Hurricane Harvey at the discretion of the Sheriff's Officers.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

COUNTY COURTROOMS

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve leaving the status of the Aquarium at Rockport Harbor Education Center, 706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, TX as an auxiliary courtroom for District Court and discuss the District Judges' communications regarding Aransas County defendants and trial settings in Aransas County.

Question. Motion carried with Commissioner Chaney, Casterline and Olsen voting for. Commissioner Stiles and Judge Mills voted against the motion.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS & GRANTS

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign TNT Mobile Home Service Lease Agreement covering approximately 5,665.5 square feet of Airport land, on a month-to-month basis from Aransas County, to be used as a supply staging area for setting up FEMA trailers for the Coastal Bend.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. This item went into closed session.

13. This item went into closed session.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve authorizing the County Judge to

(Inserts)

sign the Rebuilding Texas Libraries Grant Application for the Aransas County Public Library.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve lowering the minimum fee for building permits to \$50.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve revised Job Descriptions for District Clerks based on changes in responsibilities. There are no changes to Group, Step, or Salary amounts. Job Descriptions attached.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve 2018 Fee Schedule for Transfer Station and Environmental Health.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve October 2017 Indigent Health Care Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

19. There were no Budget Line Item Transfers.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen 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

Commissioner Olsen: I had an issue in my Subdivision which is in City of Rockport and obviously in my precinct, we had some concrete that needed to be picked up and we thought TXDot was going to do it since they had cleaned up the debris. They didn't pick it up and finally a County truck came in to pick it up and I was driving through the subdivision to see and I pulled up to the truck as one of our County employees was in the back of the truck, sort of fidgeting around with the lift, and low and behold Valerie Gonzales was on the ground with the line and hook picking these things up with her employee. I wanted to point out once again that Valerie is the debris goddess. We couldn't do it without you Valerie, thank you.

The Court entered into closed session at 10:23 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 10:51 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Proclamation Disaster Declaration and Order #PO-01-2017 authorizing and ratifying the County Judge to continue and renew the Declaration of Disaster for seven day periods as prescribed by Texas Government Code §418.108(b) and clarifying the jurisdiction and authority of the County Judge to be inclusive of the incorporated and unincorporated areas.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign a Letter Agreement with JAX Engineering, Inc., to provide a construction manager, Patrick Greenwood, and construction management services to assist with debris removal in Aransas County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign a Letter Agreement with Sid W. Richardson Foundation for a \$35,000 grant to provide funding to engage a construction site manager for six to eight weeks.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:53 a.m. on a motion made by
Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen.*

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

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