

ORIGINAL

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING - SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

On the 25th day of September, 2017, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Courthouse, 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; **Suzy Wallace**, Interim County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Lynn Doane**, 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; **Pat Rousseau**, Human Resources Director **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Interim Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Diana Espinoza**, Drainage Engineer; **Michele Bennett**, Elections Administrator; **Iris Sanchez**, Head Librarian; **Roman Cortez**, Deputy Chief/Jail Operations and Grievance Officer;

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

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

Todd Kocian, Citizen;

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

There were none.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

1. Consolidation of all Election Day vote centers for the November 7, 2017, Constitutional Amendment Election with Election Day Voting to be held at the Elections and Voter Registration Office located at 602 East Concho Street in Rockport, Texas.
2. Pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code Sec. 292.001, the Aransas County Commissioners Court finds it necessary to designate 3316 Hwy 35 N, which is in the Town of Fulton, Aransas County, Texas, as an AUXILLIARY COURTROOM FOR THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COURTS OF ARANSAS COUNTY until further notice.
3. Using County facilities for Camp Harvey including the part time childcare for the area citizens to help parents recover from Hurricane Harvey.

(Inserts)

4. Court Order #0-15-2017 Setting Fees for Sheriff and Constables.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY REPORTS

5. Sheriff Mills reported that during Hurricane Harvey we lost the 200 ft. Radio Tower behind the Sheriff's Office and we also lost the use of the Tower located at 9th and Hardee Streets. We have a temporary 100 ft. Tower in the back parking lot of the court house, however, it has very limited range capabilities. Our tower was only insured for \$40,000 and replacement is estimated at \$400,000. Not only do we need a new tower, but a new radio system because we are currently working with a patchwork system of radios. This afternoon they are going to move that 800 Megahertz System tower over on the Hwy. 35 Bypass and put it up on the water tower. On January 1, 2018 our current vendor will no longer support our current vendor with that 800 system. As we go forward we are going to need to replace the radios in our cars, I have 17 units that had significant damage and we lost the radios in all of them. If you go with a VHF, it's about half the cost, but the dual band radio is in the range of the 800 Megahertz and if we are going to spend the money we need to get a better system. These dual band radios run about \$7,000 per unit for the vehicles.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS & GRANTS

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to **TABLE** authorizing the County Judge

(Inserts)

to sign an Agreement with Commercial Metals for removal of Refrigerants. (This item was previously tabled at the September 11, 2017 Commissioners' Court Meeting) Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve the County District Attorney's annual MSA Contract with Thomson Reuters for continuation of its attorney and paralegal WestLaw subscriptions. Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the addition of a cell phone allowance in the amount of \$420.00 per year for the Executive Assistant - Road & Bridge. The amount to be paid for the remainder of 2017 will be prorated accordingly. There is money available in the salary line for this addition which is consistent with cell phone allowances paid to other R & B employees. Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.
9. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve August 2017 Indigent Health Care Report. Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve County Indigent Health Care Program End of Year Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve August 2017 Treasurer's Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. There were no Budget Line Item Transfers.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Accounts Payable 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

Judge Mills: I have to brag on Valerie Gonzalez, since she's not here, she did her paperwork so well that I received a check for \$5,062,500 for debris pickup. So far Crowder Gulf has picked up 284,000 cubic yards and TxDOT has picked up 36,000 cubic yards.

Iris Sanchez: The Library will have a Camp Harvey Day Care for a couple days a week for three weeks. Kristen just informed me earlier that she's been getting donations such as changing

(Inserts)

tables, diapers and baby food, so we'll be doing that and we will start registration tomorrow.

Commissioner Olsen: I would like to say that the highway from the bridge, through the airport, through Fulton, is really looking great. Valerie's done a great job with the help of TxDOT to clear ingress and egress throughout the City looking much better.

Sheriff Mills: We received a check this morning, a donation of \$1,000 for the Sheriff's Office from Deputy Reserves & Constables Association in Garland, Texas. The Communications Board met last week on radios & whole systems involving DPS to send out to communities. They often make recommendations along with restoration and restoral and they will take a vote on the offer. So we're getting outside opinions, we will get this recommended information to the City Council and the Commissioners' Court for consideration.

Jerry Brundrett: I just want to report that all of the County Surveyor's Records are safe within a concrete vault and I would also say that I would like to offer my services in the planning of the Clerk's offices in the new courthouse, we really need to put some thought in building a fire proof, storm proof, secure place for these records because a lot of these records don't exist anywhere else, they are historic records that need to be protected.

Alma Cartwright: On October 4th we are still going forward with our Employee County Health Fair, it's not going to be the big hullabaloo that we usually have, but we are going to offer the immunizations through Walgreen's, thanks to Iris we are going to have it in the Library. Anyone who can't make it can go to

Walgreen's and present their paperwork and get the shots there. I also want to report on the D Snap in the parking lot, they were averaging about 900 people a day, yesterday when I went down there they were predicting 1500-1700 people. Today is the last day, but I did find out that they opened the doors to Nueces County residents also because the American Bank Center had 15,000 people waiting in line. I did tell them I wanted a number for how many Aransas County residents applied.

Todd Kocian: I worked at the pod as a volunteer over at the old H. E. B. parking lot with the DPS Emergency Management Team, headed up by Josh Tanner. I had the opportunity to come in contact with representatives from the Corpus Christi Ice Rays and they presented me with over 200 tickets for a free Ice Rays season opener game that is honoring First Responders, Law Enforcement and Volunteers. I turned the tickets over to Sharron Loflin, at our local DPS office, to make distribution of the tickets. The game is September 29, 2017 and they are taking donations to benefit the Hurricane Harvey Relief effort.

Collin Jackson: Coming back to the radio tower Sheriff, they will be moving that equipment to the water tower today.

Suzy Wallace: Read fee report. She also announced that training for FEMA Reports is being scheduled, so if you are interested contact Jackie Cockerham or myself for time, date and place.

Pat Rousseau: I met with a couple of folks at the Library who were here to instruct on filling out the ICS214 forms. My department has been helping with departments that have massive numbers of people and sheets to fill out.

REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

REGARDING WHICH NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

There were none.

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

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

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