

MINUTES OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
REGULAR MEETING - MAY 22, 2017

On the 22th day of May, 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 **Alma Cartwright**, County Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Kristen Barnebey**, County Attorney; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Lynn Doane**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **Sue Pash**, Deputy Treasurer; **Suzy Wallace**, Interim County Auditor; **Jackie Cockerham**, Assistant Auditor; **Emily Colmenero**, Assistant Auditor; **Pat Rousseau**, Human Resources Director; **Elizabeth Guerra**, Human Resources Assistant; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Diana Espinoza**, Drainage Engineer; **Rene Butler**, Maintenance Director; and **Iris Sanchez**, Library Director; **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: **C. J. Wax**, Mayor; and **Barbara Gurtner**, Ward 4;

**Russell Cole**, Local Resident

**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**

Kay Adams presented the court with an update on the Wing Rescue Center.

In a year's time we have purchased, with a loan from one of our supporters, an acre of land in Aransas County, moved a donated building on the property, completely rebuilt it and we are currently fencing the entire property to make it secure.

One of our supporter's sandblasted and re-coated cages, previously donated by the County, so we now have twelve very nice cages.

We raise money through fundraisers, we go to market days, and our big wing ding last year was a big success.

We just renewed a bird rescue service contract with the Navigation District and have applied for a permit to handle injured and orphaned birds locally, right now we are still transporting them. We are lacking a flight cage but we have the footer in place and are working with a Houston Company to get some scratch and dent material to finish it.

For the year 2016, beginning in April, we have had 485 calls in the Aransas County area and have rescued 402 birds. This year, to date, we have had 175 calls, 26 of those in Aransas County and in May alone we had 59 calls and 55 rescues.

We also sponsored a birding group last year with children from the Fulton Learning Center. They drew bird pictures and we helped them get a book printed, then organized a book signing for them back in February. All the books were sold out in half an hour, they were so excited, so we are planning to do another book next year.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

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

1. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 8, 2017, the Workshop Meeting of May 9, 2017 and the Special Meeting of May 12, 2017.
2. Approve 2018 Aransas County Official Holidays.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**COUNTY ROADS**

3. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to **TABLE** granting 105 Lakeshore Drive a variance from Article 5, Section B4c of the Floodplain Order which prohibits manufactured homes in a FEMA Coastal "A" zone.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

(Insert)

It is so ordered.

4. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve a conceptual plan for the King Road Subdivision.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE**

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve revised Job Descriptions for the following positions in the Indigent Health Care Department: Supervisor/Claims Specialist, Service Clerk Position 1 and Service Clerk Position 2. There are no changes to Group, Step or Salary Amounts.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve an increase in pay for Director of Public Facilities from pay group 18-1 to 18-5, which is in the 2017 budget.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve the proposed new job description for Lead Maintenance Technician. This position will upgrade one of the regular Maintenance Tech positions.

(Inserts)

The new pay group for Lead Maintenance Tech will be Pay Group 13, step will remain the same. There is money available in the salary line for this upgrade.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the promotion of Deputy Treasurer-IHC Service Clerk to Chief Deputy Treasurer, at the currently budgeted Group 16, Step 4 rate.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve a pay group change for an individual in the County District Attorney's Office to facilitate what would be a normal merit step increase if there was a step beyond Step 15 in the pay group.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve the April 2017 Treasurer Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Budget Line Item Transfers.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Accounts Payable.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Commissioner Stiles announced that there are now lights on the Copano Bridge.

Suzy Wallace read the fee report.

Suzy Wallace introduced her new employee, Emily Colmenero.

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*The Court entered into closed session at 9:30a.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 9:49 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:*

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(Inserts)

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:50 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen.*

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

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