

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 14, 2017

On the 14th day of August, 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; **Leslie "Bubba" Casterline**, Commissioner, Precinct 2; **Jack Chaney**, Commissioner, Precinct 1; **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**, County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Linda Garcia**, Executive Assistant to the County Judge; **Lynn Doane**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Jacky Cockerham**, 1st Assistant Auditor; **Tana Taylor**, Internal Auditor; **Sue Pash**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Pat Rousseau**, Human Resources Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Diana Espinoza**, Drainage Engineer;

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

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

Friends of the History Center: **Vickie Moon Merchant**, President; **Lucretia Wright Jones**, Treasurer; **Linda Garcia Haynes**; **Leah Oliva**;

**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**

**Aaron Horine**, Mott MacDonald Engineering - Progress Report on the activities of the Coastal Resiliency Initiative.

I've got a lot of good news to bring as to our efforts this past two years and it's really been a strong fight that we've put to bring everyone together and to go after these funding opportunities. We've really made some great strides and I think without the Resiliency Initiative going after some of these dollars and getting some of these folks such as the GLO involved and the knowledge of our projects, that wouldn't happen. So quickly here I'm going to go over some of the items that make up what the Resiliency Initiative is. The purpose is to coordinate those efforts which means Aransas County, Navigation District, City of Rockport and what we do is pull together and look at coastal priorities for Aransas County, knowing that the coast, the water, and the habitat is very strong for the economy and we have to maintain those if we want people to come visit and support our livelihoods here. So, we've got projects totaling about \$36 million and there's a lot of money there that needs to come from somewhere. So what we are doing to take that burden off of the county, is to attract public grant funding for

coastal resiliency. The team is led by Judge Mills and we also have many political leaders in the communities, public officials, experts such as UTMSI over in Port Aransas, and the big one is the public, to get that input. So what our expectations of pulling all of this together, is to actually get that prioritized list of critical projects that's important to everyone and then maintain that collaboration. So what we're looking at is, what is going to be the direct benefit of the coastal Aransas County? So we look at three areas that we are trying to cover with all of these projects is restoration, conservation, protection of coastal habitats, and natural resources, so this makes up the environmental portion. Then there is the economics side where we look at projects that would help with job creation, protection of that local infrastructure, utilities, streets from erosion and then promoting local tourism. And then last, involving the community, getting that public support and getting everybody familiar with our projects and the effort that is going on with the initiative. So what we look at, as far as all of these projects are related, is altered or lost habitat, impacts to water quality, quantity, erosion, and then being a resilient coastal city means being prepared for a coastal storm surge potential. We've gotten the most important projects to the county and to all the members of the committee and broken them down into two tiers. Tier I, having the most research done on them so far, those being Little Bay, Bay Shore Drive, Fulton Beach Road, and Cedar Bayou. Tier II, which still are very important projects, but we're just trying to build up information now to get those projects moving along. Those are Newcomb's Point, Shell Ridge Road, Cove Harbor and Lamar Beach Road. So, overall, the initiative update comes to mainly the

funding opportunities that we are going after. Right now, the Restore Act which is BP Oil Spill Fund, right now for Bucket 1, they just departmentalized that spill fund to go to different areas, so Bucket 1 right now, the remaining repairs to Bayshore Drive, we have been selected and moved through that process. Out of about 214 projects put in out of that restore act, Bayshore was one of the 14 or so, that were selected. So it looks like now we are going to get Bayshore funded to do the remaining repairs. The new Bucket 3 is going to be coming out this summer giving us an opportunity to get all of our projects in there. Also, for CEPRA, a grant funding program run by the Texas General Land Office, the Navigation District, with the help of Greg Harlan, put in an application to start taking boring samples in Blevins Channel and in Little Bay, to start to characterize that material to be dredged as the first steps in the Little Bay project. There are also a couple of little grants that we are going to go after. A big part of what I've been pushing, and pushing on John here, is public outreach, so he's helped me to actually sit down with the Chamber of Commerce and look at areas where we can get the word out. What we've tried to do is attend local workshops, put on local workshops, and we've looked at potentials like Hummerfest, Seafair, we've got a brochure that's almost ready for distribution and talking to the Chamber about having a table at the luncheons, and also the social media aspect of it. So, one of the projects in our initiative is Fulton Beach Road and I want to highlight this one because we just sent a letter in to the Corp, requesting that the permit, which expires in December, be extended for another five years. What that will do for us, is allow us to go into preliminary and the final design, I'm talking with John about at

the moment, and then we will tie that in with the Aransas County Pathways and bring those two entities together. One reason that I do bring up Fulton Beach Road, is that Texas General Land Office has their own Coastal Resiliency Master Plan and Fulton Beach Road made in their Tier 1 projects, so there's a lot of attention on Fulton Beach Road, and that is great. We've got a large number of projects and we can't take care of them all at once, but we've got to take little bites and take care of one at a time. What we're talking about is a long term initiative here. Also, related to the Coastal Resiliency Master Plan is, Judge Mills and myself are part of the Coastal Resiliency Advisory Group, run by Commissioner George P. Bush, and I'm also on the Technical Advisory Group for the GLO, and talking to them recently, they are going to have new sessions to provide more feedback. It's probably going to go into a similar Resiliency Master Plan, either that or an update to it, but it good because we will have someone in our port to be able to push for our projects, even more. So, if we look at long term planning, we need to continue management, we've been at it for two year, a lot of people are beginning to look at some of our projects, particularly, the important folks who make the decisions at the Texas GLO and TCQ, so we need that initiative recognition to continue. Also, we are bringing in new folks from agencies in the local region and getting different input. We have monthly meeting and I would like to invite you to come and be involved.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

1. Minutes from the Commissioners' Court Regular Meeting of the Workshop Meeting of June 26, 2017 & the Regular Meeting of August 7, 2017.
2. Resolution #R-16-2017 authorizing publications of delinquent taxpayers' names.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

#### COUNTY REPORTS

3. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report for the History Center.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

#### COUNTY ROADS

4. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve petition of Troy Parnell to close, abandon, and vacate an unimproved roadway in between Lot 111 and Lots 112, 113, & 114 in Coleman Fulton Pasture Company Subdivision, but retaining a Utility Easement.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

#### CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS & GRANTS

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to TABLE Resolution #R-17-2017 designation a planning service provider for the 2017 Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning and Capacity Building

(Inserts)

Fund application and project implementation.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Resolution #R-18-2017 designating John D. Mercer & Associates, Inc., as the engineering service provider for the 2017-2018 Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Colonia Fund-Construction application and project related engineering services.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE**

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve authorizing the County to accept the proposed upgrade plan and rates from Ameritas for Vision Insurance for Plan Year 2017-2018. Copy of proposed rates and summary of benefits attached.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve multiple Step Increase for Deputy Treasurer-IHC Service Clerk, following a 30 day introductory period performance review, increasing pay grade from 10-3 to 10-6, which was already budgeted for 2017.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

9. Report receipt of the 2016 General Tax Fund Levy from the Aransas County Indigent Health Care Program Fiscal Year September 1, 2107 to August 31, 2018.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. There were no Budget Line Item Transfers.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. No Action taken on the Proposed 2018 Budget.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &

DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

**Suzy Wallace** read the Fee Report.

**Commissioner Stiles:** The Maribou B. Lamar marker is being moved today to it' new home in Lamar, so we are very excited. It takes forever to get a Centennial marker moved, it took probably over a year to get it done, but TXDot is moving it today and it should be in place by tomorrow.

**Pat Rousseau:** I just want to remind everyone, and any department heads that are here, please remind your folks, open enrollment begins next Tuesday, August 22 at 7:00 a.m. till 4:30 and we are closed from noon until 1:00 p.m. Then we are back again on Wednesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and everyone needs to come, even if you don't take any insurance, the Federal Government still requires paperwork on those employees also.

**Commissioner Stiles:** I just want to say that this is the first time that any student at Rockport-Fulton High School has committed suicide. You might remember, Tim Kelly, he was a page and he worked with us on Aransas County Days. It's devastating to the students,

my granddaughter knew him very well and I appreciate Jerry Brundrett doing a moment of silence during prayer. It's a very sad day for Rockport-Fulton High School.

REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

REGARDING WHICH NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

There were none.

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:32 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney.*

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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