

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - NOVEMBER 27, 2017

On the 27th 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; **Jacky Cockerham**, Assistant County Auditor; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; and **Diana Espinoza**, Drainage Engineer;

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

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

Small Business Representative: **Bobby Petty**

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

Wendy Laubach: I have only a brief statement, I've been trying to follow the language that the court is going to consider today amending the permits statute and I'm having difficulty following what the language is intended to change, it's a little bit difficult to interpret. I've been taking a lot of questions from Aransas County residents and talking to a lot of people about permit requirements and what we need to do to be sure we are in compliance with them. The questions usually come down to, can we understand this language? When there is language that is unclear to me I'm particularly concerned. There was some talk a few weeks ago about setting up a workshop. I know it's difficult for commissioners to talk freely during an open meeting, although they are allowed to answer questions if it's on a topic that is on the agenda, but nevertheless it is hard to talk very freely and at length and I think that a workshop, which was apparently planned, would be a wonderful thing and that everybody is looking forward to because it's a forum that information can be more freely exchanged and at greater length. So that's what I'm asking for today and particularly if the commissioners are going to speak to the amendment, I hope you will really parse through the language and tell us what you intend. Do you intend to change how it works or are you trying to clean up the language so it's easier to follow? Thank you.

Bobby Petty: Hi, my name is Bobby Petty and I'm a Public Information Officer with the U. S. Small Business

Administration. For those that don't know, the SBA and what we do is give low interest loans to homeowners, renters and business owners who are affected with disaster after Hurricane Harvey. Aransas County, as of Saturday, the total amount that's been approved and funded is \$67.9 million, statewide we are looking at over 2.5 billion. I understand that on Saturday the Disaster Recovery Center had 28 closings, so there's definitely still a need there. The days of operation are still the same, Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Judge Mills: Thank you very much.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

1. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 13, 2017, Special and Emergency Meetings of November 16, 2017.
2. Re-Appointments of Travis McDavid and Richard McKinney to the Aransas county Appraisal District Board of Directors for a two year term ending in 2019.
3. Pulled for Discussion.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

Some of the Discussion:

Commissioner Casterline: I would like Valerie to explain why we can't push this back.

Valerie Gonzalez: So, we've been open, allowing residents to dump for free for almost three months now and in the spirit of

getting back to normalcy we would like to resume operations at the Transfer Station as well.

Commissioner Stiles: Valerie, there is still a ton of debris out there, you just need to drive down 8th Street, it's huge.

Valerie: And there will be a lot of debris in the future, that's not going to change with whether or not we open, the residents have slowed down on the incoming side and we have contractors that could utilize the services and help clean up.

Commissioner Stiles: The contractors would be allowed on it if we resumed normal business?

Valerie: Yes, at normal rates.

Commissioner Casterline: So it's not possible to still let the residents in for free?

Valerie: You run into the problem of me saying I'm a resident but I'm really a contractor and you have everybody fighting.

Commissioner Casterline: I have a problem because some time ago we continually told people that we'd give them a bigger notice than what we are talking about today.

Valerie: This would be a week.

Commissioner Casterline: I feel like we told people we would give them a much longer advance notice than that.

Commissioner Olsen: Do you think that we could wait until January 1st and start the year off with the normal?

Commissioner Chaney: Is there any disadvantage to open it up to normal hours but not charging a fee until January 1st, other than revenue, but revenue is not the issue right now?

Valerie: You'll have more contractors coming in than we could measure.

Commissioner Chaney: Is that necessarily bad?

Valerie: It could be. We go back to the problem of, we don't have enough space.

Commissioner Chaney: Well space issue is a problem but as of right now but if people are going on their own property and bringing stuff in, I think ultimately if we get to where we are at 75% capacity, we'd like to be back to normal but we're not. If we run into a space issue then that could be a problem but maybe we could go to four day work weeks or something like that. I do agree with Commissioner Casterline, we do need to push this out 30, 60, or 90 days.

Commissioner Casterline: Valerie, how will it affect, when Crowder moves behind the airport with their grinding operation?

Valerie: So right now, Crowder takes up about three quarters of the Transfer Station with equipment and personnel most of the time, and by moving them to the airport side it frees up our space and we could resume normal operation which is ultimately the goal, to get back to normal.

Commissioner Casterline: Would it make it any easier if we only let the public bring in C&B to the Transfer Station and not brush?

Valerie: You can separate it still, you have the area to the left and to the right but you have more brush out there than C&B at this point.

Commissioner Casterline: Well I was just thinking that when Crowder moves it's going to make you, if the public dumps brush there, it's going to make it a lot harder because you will have to move it where the grinder is.

Valerie: No, once Crowder is no longer at the Transfer Station I will not be touching anything that's there, it will be our responsibility to dispose of it.

Commissioner Chaney: One of the other issues I think that we are going to face more and more is that Crowder Gulf cannot pick up new construction and we have to be able to allow the contractors to come in and bring that. That would be the only reason that I think we should resume a fee structure at this moment or in the near future.

Valerie: The most important thing is that TECQ called me and said when we passed the original and then the second change allowing only X cubic yards & X people they were concerned and asked if this was temporary and I assured them it was, that we need to go back to operating under our permit per TECQ rules.

3. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve resuming normal operations at the close of business on December 2, 2017 at the Aransas County Transfer Station (ACTS), with the exception that no fees will be charged to general public/residential until January 1, 2018, but normal rates will be charged to contractors beginning December 3, 2017.

Question. Motion carried with all Commissioners voting for and Judge Mills voting against.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY REPORTS

4. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to TABLE Quarterly 2017 HOT Funds Report for the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

5. Report from Sheriff of Jail Inspection. Sheriff Mills reported that two weeks ago, on the 13th, two State Jail Inspectors were here to inspect the Jail facilities, they issued a certificate of compliance and passed the jail inspection with two technical advisories, notes more to do with how we are recording in our log books in the pod and the restraint chair, because of issues that were seen across the past where they absorbed. I think a cleaner language by all the employees and something simpler where everyone is using the same verbiage, but the inspection went well and the Judge was notified by phone and the only thing we have received thus far is the invoice for the inspection.

Commissioner Chaney: How many inspections is that now that we have passed in a row?

Sheriff Mills: Ten in a row.

Commissioner Chaney: Congratulations. **Commissioner Olsen:** Congratulations. **Judge Mills:** Job well done Sheriff.

COUNTY ROADS

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to TABLE revisions in the Floodplain Management & Watershed Protection Order to allow residential and non-residential structure improvements in non-Special

Flood Hazard Areas without requiring compliance to Floodplain regulations for new construction.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS & GRANTS

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign Grant Contract Number: ERG-18002 with the Texas State Library & Archives Commission Rebuilding Texas Libraries Grant Program.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

8. This item went into closed session.

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve amending contract to allow authorizing an Annual Auto Allowance of \$3,500 effective immediately for Michael Thomas Koerner, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator and Director of Long Term Recovery.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. There were no Budget Line Item Transfers.

(Inserts)

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney 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 do have one announcement, we have two birthday employees in Aransas County, one is Suzy Wallace and the other is Michael Geer from the Airport. Happy Birthday to both of you.

Commissioner Chaney: I did go to San Antonio over the weekend and there's still a lot of folks up there from Rockport and hope to get them home soon. Eighty dollars for a pick-up load of trash, I'm so glad that we've got Valerie.

Suzy Wallace: Read the Fee Report.

(Insert)

The Court entered into closed session at 9:44 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 9:52 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve creating a Paralegal position at the level of (17-3) to address the current needs of the County District Attorney Office.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:53 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

VALERIE K. AMASON,

EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT