

MINUTES OF THE ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 23, 2021

On the 23rd day of February, 2021, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Commissioners' Courtroom, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, with the following members present in person, via ZOOM, or via YouTube: **C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.**, County Judge; **Jack Chaney**, Commissioner, Precinct 1-1A; **Leslie Casterline**, Commissioner, Precinct 2; **Pat Rousseau**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Carrie Arrington**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present in person, via YouTube, or via Zoom, were: **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Laura Kocian**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Tracy Orr**, Administrative Assistant to County Judge; **Richard Bianchi**, County Court at Law Judge; **Jennifer O'Steen**, Assistant County Attorney; **Jacky Cockerham**, County Auditor; **Tana Taylor**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Linda Doane**, HR Director; **Elizabeth Guerra**, HR Assistant; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Rhonda Konieczny**, Executive Assistant to the Sheriff; **David Reid**, County Engineer; **Mike Geer**, Airport Manager; **John Strothman**, Project Manager; **Kim Foutz**, Long-Term Recovery; **William Whitson**, Long-Term Recovery; and **Lori Cesar**, Animal Control Director.

Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present in person, via YouTube, or via Zoom, were: **Russel Cole** and **Mark Uhr**, Pearl Point; and **Carlos Beceiro**, GrantWorks.

Aransas County Citizens present in person, via YouTube, or via Zoom, were: **Mike Fields** and **Allan Smith**.

The Meeting was convened at 8:30 a.m. at which time roll call was taken and 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

1. Mark Uhr and Russel Cole gave the annual report for Pearl Point Apartments (covering the dates from October 29, 2019 to February 2, 2021) to the Court.
2. Carlos Beceiro gave a presentation showing the maps and text produced for Aransas County's Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Colonia Planning Study for Contract No. 7219005. [This refers to the Oakdale Hills Colonia Project]

CONSENT ITEMS

3. Minutes from the January 25, 2021 Regular Meeting.
4. Minutes from the February 8, 2021 Regular Meeting.
5. Minutes from the February 11, 2021 Special Meeting.
6. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners' Court: a 2020 Certificate of Compliance for Continuing Education presented to Alma Cartwright, Aransas County Treasurer, for successfully completing the required hours of continuing education approved by the County Treasurers' Association of Texas, satisfying the County Treasurer continuing education requirements established by Texas Local Government Code, Sec. 80.003.
7. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners' Court: a 2020 Certificate of Compliance for

Continuing Education - Investment Academy presented to Alma Cartwright, Aransas County Treasurer, for successfully exceeding the required hours of continuing education approved by the Texas Association of Counties County Investment Academy for local government education mandates as outlined in Public Funds Investment Act, Sec. 2256.008.

8. County Attorney's application for certification by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) as a licensed agency, to enable the Investigator, a TCOLE licensed peace officer, to investigate crimes at the discretion of the County Attorney.

Judge Mills announced that consent items 4 and 5 will be tabled until the next regular meeting, then a motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve consent items 3, 6, 7, and 8.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

9. A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve the Resolution #R-02-2021, to authorize the award of a Recovery Grant Program, Management and Administration Services Contract for Aransas County for the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Program and Workforce Development and Entrepreneurship Center Project, Federal Award ID Number 08-01-05487, to GrantsWorks, Inc.

Question. Roll call vote was taken and motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Resolution #R-04-2021, to

affirm review of the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Colonia Planning Study Contract No 7219005.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. This item was struck from the agenda by Judge Mills.

12. A motion was made by Judge Mills and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the December 2020 Treasurer's Report as given.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. A motion was made by Judge Mills and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the January 2021 Treasurer's Report as given.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve the Treasurer's 4th Quarter Investment Report as given.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. County Auditor Jacky Cockerham reported no Budget Line Item transfers or amendments. A motion was made by Judge Mills and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the Budget Line Item Transfers and Amendments for this period.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Ms. Cockerham also stated that our Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities were all normal for the period. A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Commissioner Chaney: We're really having trouble getting all of our data to us in time to review it. I would like for us to give some consideration, at some point in the future, to changing the time it takes to receive routine and normal reports. I'd like to receive them two Fridays before our Monday meeting if we can do that. A lot of our stuff that we get are contracts and things that are not emergencies - and if they need to wait a week or two weeks or we need to have a special meeting, that's fine. But, it's really difficult if you work eight hours a day like I do and then come home and have to ask somebody something it's real difficult to get hold of them in just a one day, especially whenever that day is Friday. So, I would like you all to be thinking about that. We'll probably put that on the agenda at some point but maybe the department heads that have an input into that before we do it. Thank you.

Carrie Arrington: I'd just like to give a thumbs up to Road & Bridge. They did something great recently that no other entity

would do. There was a channel marker floating back and forth in Aransas Bay for quite some time. A number of people were concerned about this big marker because it was dragging the ground and messing up the sea grass, plus it was getting very close to some of the piers and had the potential to cause big damage to them, so they made calls to Navigation District, the Coast Guard, Parks and Wildlife, and maybe others but got no help. However, a call to Road & Bridge got it handled (along with some citizens who waded out into the water and floated the marker towards the shoreline then brought it up to the riprap with chains and a truck so Road & Bridge could remove it from the riprap). You know, it's just a great example of people who actually get things done. So, thank you, Road & Bridge.

At 9:12 a.m., the Court went into closed session with Attorney Kevin Cullen (of Cullen, Carsner, Seerden and Cullen LLP) pursuant to Section 551.071, "Consultation with Attorney; Closed Meeting," of the Texas Open Meetings Act to Consult with its Attorney(s) Regarding advice on Legal Matters Pertaining to Pending or Contemplated Litigation, or a Settlement Offer, or Other Matters Protected by Attorney Client Privilege Related to Colin Drive Drainage Issues, Including the Possibility of Utilizing Section 254 of the Transportation Code.

At 9:36 a.m., the Court came back into open session.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:38 a.m. on a motion duly made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Laubach.



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

Carrie Arrington

CARRIE ARRINGTON, EX-OFFICIO CLERK
OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT

