

MINUTES OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - APRIL 22, 2019

On the 22nd day of April 22, 2019, 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: **C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.**, County Judge; **Jack Chaney**, Commissioner, Precinct 1; **Leslie "Bubba" Casterline**, Commissioner, Precinct 2; **Brian Olsen**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Richard Bianchi**, County Court at Law Judge; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Latisha Murphy**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Katherine Comeaux**, Development Services Coordinator; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Lori Caesar**, Airport Lineman; **Richard Chatwell, Sr.**, Airport Lineman; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **Debra Simank**, Health Inspector; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Michele Bennett**, Elections Administrator; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager, County District Attorney's Office; **Jacky Cockerham**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Iris Sanchez**, County Librarian; **Ronell Burke**, Animal Control Supervisor; **Lois White**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **John Gutierrez**, Chief Deputy Sheriff; **Gavin Harrison**, Training Coordinator for the Sheriff's Office;

Long-Term Recovery: **Randall Freeze**, Long Term Recovery Specialist;

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

**Aransas County Citizens:** Charles Smith; Diane Nawara; Chris Nawara; Simone Sanders;

**Chamber of Commerce:** Diane Probst, President/CEO;

**Rockport Maritime Museum:** Kathy Roberts-Douglas, CEO;

**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**

1. Presentation and updates by the American Red Cross represented by Alex Garcia, Executive Director and Clint Bedwell, Senior Government Relations Specialist.

**Alex Garcia:** I just want to give you an idea of what we do at the Red Cross, part of it is what we do on a daily basis and give you a little recap of what we've had since Hurricane Harvey. I have nineteen counties in the Coastal Bend Region,

every day we do disaster services, services to the Armed Forces, Blood Drives throughout the United States, preparedness Health and Safety, and continue to teach CPR. I wanted to tell you about what we do in the Armed Forces, when we have someone that has been deployed, we are able to have programs in place to help them get back to stream lining with their family. What we have next is, where we stand and what we've done over the last 18 months after Hurricane Harvey, we have reached over 600,000 families, we have raised over 523 million dollars, in addition to that we continue to give out grant money. To date we've actually pledged 62 million dollars of grant money that we've given out. Long Term Recovery, some of the money went to the Coastal Bend Recovery Groups, we continue to build homes and get people back in their homes because they lost everything. Lastly, in Aransas County you have in the handout the amount of families that we assisted and the types of assistance, the top number is the number of families that received \$400, the next one is how many received \$2,000 in assistance, in the last one is the 75 families that received \$4,500 and I've also given you a map that pinpoints where those families were. As of May 10, 2019, we will we will be ending the \$4,500 complex system program and as of our two year anniversary in August we will be ending the \$2,000 assistance program.

(Insert)

CONSENT ITEMS

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

2. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2019.
3. Appointment of Aransas County Sheriff Bill Mills to represent Aransas County on the Coastal Plains Community Center's Board of Directors.

COUNTY REPORTS

4. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve 1st Quarterly 2019 Report for the Maritime Museum.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve 1st Quarterly 2019 Report for the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the 2018 Annual Report for the Aransas County Library.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

COUNTY PROPERTY

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve allowing Environmental Health to abate and then obtain a lien against property located at 1306 Redbird Drive, Rockport, Texas 78382, described as WEST TERRACE UNIT 1, BLOCK 6, LOT 17 THROUGH 19, due to the health and safety of Aransas County residents, per the County's Abatement of Public Nuisance Ordinance and Section 3443 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY ROADS & BALLOT RESULTS

8. Declaration of the returned Banty Road Ballots & determination of whether or not Commissioners Court will order the improvement and assessment to bring Banty Road up to current County roadway standards. **David Reid announced that 62% of the returned ballots were against the assessment to bring Banty Road up to current County roadway standards. No action was taken.**

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve authorizing Texas Parks and Wildlife to install a sign identifying "The Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail" on Lake View Drive at the Holiday Beach Pond.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Aransas County and the City of Rockport for the Application and Reimbursement/Distribution of FEMA/State Disaster-Related Funding under the December 2008 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement and Addenda thereto for Private Property Debris Removal and Demolition of Private Structures Program in Aransas County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Aransas County and the Education Service Center Region 2 to facilitate and coordinate the provision of Adult Education and Career Awareness related services in the Coastal Bend Region.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Aransas County Library (located at 701 E. Mimosa St., Rockport, TX) and the Education Service Center Region 2 for Adult Education Program Services.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve and authorize the County Judge to sign a Grant Administration Services Agreement with GRANTWORKS, INC., for professional administration services related to the 2018 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program Contract number 7218085 - Colonia Construction Fund as administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve March 2019 Treasurer's Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Treasurer's 1st Quarterly Investment Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Employee Handbook Policy Amendments to 1B-7 Hiring Practices, 1B-15 Physical Standards and 2B-31 Out of County Travel submitted by the Personnel Policy Committee.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve new job description for Road & Bridge Superintendent and amendment to Development Services Coordinator (R&B) job description from non-exempt to exempt - no new monies.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers of which there were none.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &

DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

**Valerie Gonzalez:** I have Bob Doane as our Litter Abatement, to date this year he has picked up 18 tons of trash from our Right-of-Ways, when you include what Road & Bridge has helped with and some of the volunteers, we are at 32 tons of debris picked up from the ROW's. **Judge Mills:** Wow, great job, thank you.

**Michele Bennett:** I just want to remind everybody that early voting starts today and goes through the 30<sup>th</sup> for the local City



and School Elections. We will have the Election Day on May 4<sup>th</sup> which is Saturday. **Judge Mills:** Thank you.

**Judge Mills:** I had the pleasure of attending a banquet in Galveston where they awarded our illustrious airport manager with a General Aviation Airport Manager of the Year for customer service and I think that is outstanding, let's all give a round of applause.

**Mike Geer:** I wanted to say, our Airport won an award last week with my name on it but it belongs to the airport and the community, so without the support of the Airport Advisory Board and the support from the Commissioners Court, Judge thank you for being there it meant a lot but I really want to recognize the folks that really do the hard work and the heavy lifting at the airport. I have a couple of my staff with me today, Lori Caesar, she came to us through a Texas Workforce Grant then we were able to hire her full time, you just can't ask for better customer service than what she provides, tomorrow when the Bass family jet lands and 15-20 people get off of that aircraft she knows every one of them by name and they all know her and look forward to seeing her, she's always got fresh cookies for them and they appreciate that. So Lori, thank you very much. I also have with me Richard Chatwell who came to us in 2015, there is not a machine or a mechanism at the airport that Richard has not had his hands on at some time and everything he touches he makes better. But his customer service is top notch, he's the guy you want to take care of your aircraft because he is going to treat it like his own and I can't say enough good things about Richard, I really do appreciate his hard work. Thank you.

**Commissioner Chaney:** One of my constituents told me the other day that if I didn't compliment the staff out at the Transfer Station she was not going to cook me any more supper. I want to thank them, especially Juan, he came out and helped her do some things and she's always been impressed. I look around and I've been a lot of different places in my career, but I don't think there is a Transfer Station that is better run or looks better than the one we have, you hire quality people out there, if you can't keep up you don't stay. I want to thank you for that but that just mirrors the rest of the County employees, we were talking earlier this morning about the quality of employees that work for the County and I don't think you're going to find across the state a better group of employees than what we have working here, we have the leadership and they have the work ethics and I think we should give them the support that they need. **Judge Mills:** Thank you Mr. Chaney, you said it all, we appreciate all of you, thank you.

**Diane Probst:** I just want to mention tomorrow night we graduate a whole class of youth leadership, we are constantly training our youth and then on Wednesday we have a candidates issues panel at the women's club at 5:30 and then on Thursday is a chance to come on out to the festival grounds, the business expo will be out there, it will be the largest ever, we have 100 vendors and they are all small businesses looking to promote and make a couple of extra bucks to tide them over another month. Come out and support them, thank you.

**Pam Heard:** There is a kite festival this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, sponsored by the Rockport Cultural Arts District. It's going to be beautiful, they have the big professional kites,

they have an area for amateurs, and then stuff for the kids too, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Judge Mills:** I understand that one our stars from the airport is going to be at that festival too.

**Mike Geer:** North American Champion, Rocky Chatwell, Richard's son who also works at the airport, will be there on his kite board and present his skills.

---

*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 09:45 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.*

---

  

---

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

  

---

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