

MINUTES OF THE ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 9, 2021

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 9th day of August, 2021, the Honorable Commissioners Court of Aransas County, Texas, met in Regular Session, at the Aransas County Courthouse, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, 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 Officials/Department Heads/Staff Members present in person or via Zoom were: **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Patricia Randall**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Jaime Blackburn**, Executive Assistant to County Judge; **Tracy Orr**, Administrative Assistant to County Judge; **Jennifer O'Steen**, Assistant County Attorney; **Jacky Cockerham**, County Auditor; **Tana Taylor**, First Assistant Auditor; **Latisha Murphy**, Assistant Auditor; **Linda Doane**, HR Director; **Elizabeth Guerra**, HR Assistant; **Anna Marshall**, Tax Assessor-Collector; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Rhonda Konieczny**, Executive Assistant to the Sheriff; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **David Reid**, County Engineer; **Mike Geer**, Airport Manager; **Lori Cesar**, Animal Control Director; **Rene Butler**, Facilities Director; **John Strothman**, Long-Term Recovery; and **Kim Foutz**, Long-Term Recovery.

Members of Other Governmental Entities or Community Groups and Interested Parties present in person or via Zoom were: **Gus Lopez**, Emergency Health & Safety Specialist, Coastal Plain Local Emergency Planning Committee; **Patricia Arnold**, Executive Director, Aransas County Medical Services, Inc. (ACMSI); **Nancy Kinkler**, Medical

Services Facility Operator Evaluation Committee Member; **Justin Parkoff**, Executive Director and Marine Archaeologist, Texas Maritime Museum; **Natalie Gonzalez**, GrantWorks, and **Mike Probst**, Editor and Publisher, The Rockport Pilot.

Aransas County Citizens present in person or via Zoom were: **Carolyn Smith**.

The Meeting was duly convened at 9:00 a.m., followed by pledges to the American and Texas flags and an invocation given by County Surveyor Jerry Brundrett. **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.

PRESENTATION

1. **Gus Lopez**, Emergency Health & Safety Specialist, gave a presentation on a new program from the Coastal Plain Local Emergency Planning Committee (CPLEPC) called ReadySafe. Per Mr. Lopez, CPLEPC leads the tri-county areas of Aransas, Refugio, and San Patricio in planning for emergencies and providing the community with information about hazardous materials.

CPLEPC's ReadySafe outreach program is aimed at increasing community awareness of emergency management planning and highlighting the valuable CodeRED notification system. Local residents can opt-in to the CodeRED system and receive both emergency and non-emergency alerts in their area. Examples of emergency alerts include information such as: evacuation, shelter in place, water boil orders, etc. The CodeRED system is the

quickest and most efficient way for local officials and industry to notify the community.

Mr. Lopez also touched on the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR). People who need assistance during an emergency event can register in the STEAR program. This is a free program and it provides local emergency planners and responders information on additional needs in their communities. People can register for STEAR by dialing 2-1-1.

For more information on CodeRED or STEAR, contact Coastal Plain Local Emergency Planning Committee at www.CoastalPlainLEPC.com or by phone 361-587-3560.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were five items under the Consent Agenda:

2. Minutes from the August 2, 2021 Regular Meeting
3. Minutes from the August 2, 2021 Workshop Meeting
4. Donation of \$25 from Noreen and Ettore Settembre for Aransas County Animal Control
5. (A second) Donation of \$25 from Noreen and Ettore Settembre for Aransas County Animal Control
6. Donation of \$50 from A, J, & S Red, White, and Blueberry Lemonade Stand - Ashlynn and Jayde Curry and Sadie Schoppe for Aransas County Animal Control

A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve the Consent Agenda item.

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

It is so ordered.

COUNTY REPORTS

7. A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the 2nd Quarter 2021 Report for the Texas Maritime Museum.

Justin Parkoff, Executive Director and Marine Archaeologist, Texas Maritime Museum, gave the 2nd Quarter 2021 Report for the museum. He began by showing illustrations of and giving a little history on two Civil War era sister ships, Federal Gunboats, the Westfield and the Clifton, and their respective roles in Galveston and Sabine Pass battles.

He relayed information about the museum's "extremely successful" 24th Annual Rockport Wine Fest on May 29th, expressed gratitude for new Education Director, Shelly Knostman, and showed photographs from their docent program, educational tours, and various activities. He showed additional photographs of several (now complete) new exhibits.

Parkoff pointed out the museum's 5,917 year-to-date annual gross attendance number - citing a 48% attendance increase over last year and touting that 3,316 of those visitors came from areas 70+ miles from Rockport.

In closing, he gave the breakdown of how the Texas Maritime Museum spent their Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax Funds and thanked the Commissioners Court for their support.

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

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

8. A motion was made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Laubach to approve Resolution #R-12-2021, a

Resolution selecting the most qualified proposer(s) for the Medical Facility Operator Services and authorizing County Staff to begin negotiations with Amistad Community Health Center, Inc. and Bay Area Healthcare Group Ltd, dba Corpus Christi Medical Center to operate the facilities, which will be built utilizing funds from the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Project (CDBG-DR) Number 20-065-098-C270.

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

It is so ordered.

9. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve Resolution #R-16-2021, a Resolution authorizing publication of delinquent taxpayers' names.

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

It is so ordered.

10. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Resolution #R-17-2021, a Resolution hiring the most qualified proposer, GrantWorks, for the Grant Administration Services of the American Rescue Plan Act Grant and authorizing County staff to begin negotiations with GrantWorks for such services.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to table passed unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve awarding a Grant Administration Contract to GrantWorks, LLC for the administration of the American

Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds and authorize Judge Mills to sign all necessary documents.

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

It is so ordered.

12. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the July 2021 Indigent Health Care Report.

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

It is so ordered.

13. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign the Walgreens Community Off-Site Clinic Agreement covering the administration of immunizations at the County's Annual Health Fair.

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 Chaney to approve paying for Immunizations at the Annual Aransas County Employee Health Fair for employees not covered by health insurance, an estimated cost of \$1,500 already budgeted for from the Health Care sales tax.

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

It is so ordered.

15. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve allowing the Healthy County

Coordinator (HR Director) to spend up to \$2,500 of the Healthy County & Fair Funds on incentives and other expenditures incurred for the Annual Aransas County Employee Health Fair in anticipation of receiving funds back from Texas Association of Counties (TAC) Healthy County Program.

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

It is so ordered.

16. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign the 2021 Onsite Checkup Scheduling Addendum with Catapult Health for Onsite Screenings during the Employee Health Fair.

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

It is so ordered.

17. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Rousseau to propose the 2021 Tax Rate at the No New Revenue Rate of .392917 and schedule the Public Hearing for Monday, August 23, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.

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

It is so ordered.

18. A motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to set the Public Hearing for the 2022 Budget for Monday, August 23, 2021, at 8:45 a.m.

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

It is so ordered.

19. A motion was made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve a 7.5% cost-of-living adjustment increase for all County employees, including Elected Officials, within the new budget.

Question. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried on a 4:1 vote, with Commissioner Rousseau dissenting.

It is so ordered.

20. A motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers and Amendments. Per Auditor Jacky Cockerham, there were none.

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

It is so ordered.

21. A motion to approve the Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney. Auditor Cockerham stated that there was nothing unusual - although there are a few capital ones. Also, I am going to pull one of the payments and put it and a Settlement Agreement with the Railroad Commission for you to approve next court (for pipeline damage inadvertently caused by Road & Bridge).

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS

WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

Judge Mills announced that he has appointed Monica Arredondo to the Local Workforce Development Board, representing the Private Sector, through June 30, 2022. Ms. Arredondo works as a Vice President for Corpus Christi Medical Center and lives here in Aransas County.

Commissioner Laubach wanted to extend her thanks to Sheriff Mills and Judge McGinnis for jumping on an emergency in Holiday Beach Friday night when somehow power got cut off to tenants. I was amazed

that they were able to leap into action and actually get a hearing on a Friday night and work on getting that power back on. Thank you very much.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:39 a.m. on a motion duly made by Commissioner Laubach and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.



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



CARRIE ARRINGTON, EX-OFFICIO CLERK
OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT

