



MINUTES

Aransas County Commissioners Court

9:00 AM – Monday, February 28, 2022

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met in **Regular Session** on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 9:00 AM, in the Aransas County Courthouse, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, Texas.

Present: **C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.**, County Judge
Leslie Casterline, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Jack Chaney, Commissioner Precinct 1-1A
Pat Rousseau, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Wendy Laubach, Commissioner, Precinct 4

Absent:

I. Call to Order & Pledges

The meeting convened at 9:00 AM, followed by pledges to the American and Texas flags.

II. The Invocation was given by Commissioner Jack Chaney.

III. Roll Call was taken. **A Quorum was declared**, and the following proceedings were had and done, to wit:

IV. Citizens to be Heard – There were none.

V. Presentations –

1. County Clerk **Carrie Arrington** presented her office staff with the award they earned for 2021 from Texas Department of State Health Services, the State's top award for Excellence in the Vital Registration Process: the 5 Star Exemplary Award. This award is only given to counties that consistently exceed stringent criteria across each of five areas—training, assessment, customer service, security, and maintenance. She praised her staff—Gayle Otto, Crystal Powell, Nita Solis, Christy Gibson, and Randi Stevens—for the excellent job they do each and every day for Aransas County as they serve the public in the capacity of local registrar for births, deaths, marriages, and paternity—the legal documents that can prove a person's identity.

This work and these records are critical for the public so there are exacting standards and strict reporting requirements. Because of that challenge, in 2002, the Texas Department of State Health Services created their 5 Star and 5 Star Exemplary Awards, to guide counties to do their best work with their vital records and to honor the counties who consistently meet or exceed their stringent criteria. Since 2002, the Aransas County Clerk has been honored with the 5 Star or 5 Star Exemplary Award six times (including both of the last two years).

2. New Venue Manager for the performing arts and conference center portion of the new Rockport Center for the Arts (RCA) campus, **Carla Ligon**, gave a presentation to the court to update them on the status of the center and her goals for it. She began by giving her personal mission statement:

I will be an ambassador for the Rockport Conference Center, now fondly known to me and a few others as “The Rock” (derived from ROCC). And, in that capacity, I will carefully steward the management of this conference center to facilitate those matches between clients and The Rock, always striving towards the right price and the right experience and never forgetting the importance of the benefits to this community, attractions, restaurants, and businesses.

Her slides showed renderings of RCA’s new venue with its two adjacent buildings, the Center for the Arts and the Conference Center, a \$12 million dollar project consisting of 22,000 square feet of new space in Aransas County—a fully-funded, debt-free art campus space scheduled for completion this August with the touted theme, “Modern Industrial with Artistic Elegance.”

She showed floor plans and pictures of the 8,000 square foot Conference Center, beginning with the 4,400 square foot ballroom and explaining how that space can be divided into four rooms. She displayed some drawings of various ballroom setup configurations while discussing the flexibility with them:

- 300 people theater style
- 160 people classroom style
- 220 people dinner rounds without a dance floor
- 180 people dinner rounds with a dance floor
- 400 people reception space

She discussed the ample parking for the venue, the usable event rental space both inside the two structures and outside between them, and her idea to focus on company business and bookings for Sundays through Thursdays to benefit attractions, restaurants, and shops. Ligon will be developing new business for RCA, including events, business meetings, and convention sales.

VI. Items for Deliberation and/or Action

Consent Agenda:

3. Minutes from the February 14, 2022 Regular Meeting

Motion to Table by Commissioner Chaney approval of the Consent Items (the February 14 Minutes) because he was having computer issues and hadn’t had a chance to review them; seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

Vote: Motion to Table carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

County Reports:

4. Order #O-05-2022 Prohibiting Outdoor Burning for a Period up to Ninety (90) Days

Motion by Judge Mills to approve Order O-05-2022 to prohibit outdoor burning for a period of up to ninety (90) days; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Following discussion, **Amended Motion** by Commissioner Laubach to approve modifying the time period on Order #O-05-2022 to prohibit outdoor burning for a period of up to thirty (30) days rather than up to ninety (90) days; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.
Vote: Amended Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

Contracts, Agreements, Grants & Leases:

5. Continuation of Consultant Agreement with Richard Beck (dba Capital Consulting)

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the dissolution of Consultant Agreement with Richard Beck doing business as Texas Capitol Consulting; seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

Following discussion centered around the state of Mr. Beck's health, **Motion to Table** by Commissioner Laubach; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Vote: Motion to Table carried 4-1 (Rousseau dissenting); it was so ordered.

6. Contract with Teal Construction for Aransas County Courthouse Construction

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve negotiated Contract for the Construction of the Aransas County Courthouse between Aransas County and Teal Construction Company in the amount of \$23,615,000.00 pursuant to the Commissioners Court's Resolution #R-34-2021, from December 27, 2021, selecting Teal Construction Company as the successful bidder and Awarding the Contract; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

7. Interlocal Agreement for Municipal Prosecution Services

Motion by Commissioner Chaney to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Aransas County, Texas, and the City of Rockport, Texas, for Municipal Court Prosecution in which the Aransas County Attorney's office will provide municipal prosecution services for the annual amount of \$25,000.00, with automatic renewals until December 31, 2024; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

8. Resolution #R-07-2022 Awarding Rockport Volunteer Fire Department Radio Tower Project Bid to Allstate Tower

Motion by Commissioner Laubach to approve the adoption of Resolution #R-07-2022, awarding a bid to Allstate Tower, Inc. for the Rockport Volunteer Fire Department Radio Tower Project in the amount of \$422,742.00, with Project Funding being provided by the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) #20-065-098-C270 grant funds allocated to Aransas County by the General Land Office; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

9. Approval to Solicit Request for Qualifications for Engineering on Generators included in the American Rescue Plan

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve the request to solicit Request for Qualifications for Engineering on Generators included in the American Rescue Plan; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

Planning & Budget Office:

10. Treasurer's Report

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the January 2022 Treasurer's Report; seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

11. Resolution #R-06-2022 for Broker/Dealers List

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve Resolution #R-06-2022, a Resolution acknowledging the Broker/Dealers List as those being authorized to provide services as required to Aransas County; seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

12. Auditor's Monthly Report

Motion by Commissioner Laubach to approve the January 2022 Auditor's Monthly Report; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

13. Property and Mobile Equipment Insurance Renewal

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Renewal for Property and Mobile Equipment Insurance with Regional Pool Alliance (RPA) for the period of March 1, 2022 to March 1, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

14. Budget Line Item Transfers and Amendments

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers for the 2021 Budget; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Auditor Cockerham stated that they do not do a line item for every single item that is out of budget. They look at the bottom line by department so these line item transfers make those funds, those departments, in line with the bottom line.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

15. Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities; seconded by Commissioner Chaney. (Per Auditor Cockerham, this would be with the addition of the approved insurance premium.)

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

VII. Reports from Commissioners, Elected Officials & Department Heads – No action will be taken –

Judge Mills stated that since the Burn Ban Order was originally for 90 days and now needs to be changed to 30 days, all commissioners should come by his office as soon as they can to sign the updated order.


County Clerk Carrie Arrington reported that the County Clerk's office can now issue remote birth certificates. We haven't been able to issue them since Hurricane Harvey; but I am pleased to report that, as of last week, we received notice that we can issue them once again and we've already started doing so.

IX. Closed Session – The Court went into Closed Session at 10:24 AM.

X. Open Session – The Court came back into Open Session at 10:50 AM.

XI. Adjournment

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:51 AM on a motion duly made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.



C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., County Judge



Carrie Arrington, Ex-Officio Clerk
of the Commissioners Court

