

ORIGINAL

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING - SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

On the 14th day of September, 2015, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Courthouse, 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; Charles Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 3; Betty Stiles, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and Valerie K. Amason, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were Jeri Cox, Tax Assessor-Collector; Kristen Barnebey, County Attorney; Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Linda Garcia, Executive Assistant to the County Judge; David Reid, Drainage Engineer; Collin Jackson, IT Director; David Vyoral, Road Administrator; Michael Geer, Airport Manager; Pat Rousseau, Human Resources Director; John Strothman, Pathways Project Manager; Roman Cortez, Deputy Chief/Jail Operations and Grievance Officer; David Klanica, Lieutenant; C. J. Wax, Mayor - City of Rockport; Barbara Gurtner, Ward 4 Council Member - City of Rockport; Judith Vlasek, Chairman and Commissioner, Pct. 1-1A, Aransas County Navigation District; Mike Kuertz, Veterans Service Officer; and Michael A. Arnold, CPA - External Auditor for Aransas County.

The Meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. at which time a quorum was declared by County Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve:

1. Minutes from the Public Hearing and the Regular Commissioners' Court Meeting of August 31, 2015 and Special Meeting of September 8, 2015.

2. Public Official Bond Continuation on Lezlie M. Kirk, County Auditor.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

SPECIAL PROCLAMATION

3. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Proclamation #P-06-2015 designating September 18, 2015 as "National POW/MIA Day" in Aransas County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

LEASES, CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS

4. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to authorize the County Judge to sign Lease Agreement between Aransas County and the City of Rockport for the

(Inserts)

construction of The Southern Trail.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to authorize the County Judge to sign an Agreement between Aransas County and O'Malley Strand Engineering for design and engineering services for the Southern Trail.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the Vital Statistics Contract between the Department of State Health Services and Aransas County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to TABLE authorizing the County Judge to sign a one year Customer Service Agreement between Aransas County and Unifirst for the handling and cleaning of the uniforms for various county departments including the Road and Bridge Department, the Transfer Station, Animal Control and Fleet Maintenance.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the participation of Aransas County in the 2016 Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) "RAMP"

(Inserts)

Grant Routine Airport Maintenance Program and authorize the County Judge to sign the same.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the 2015-2016 Tax Assessment/Collection Interlocal Agreements to be signed by the County Judge when approved and submitted by Local Taxing Entities with an amended addition of allowing the City of Rockport to make monthly payments to Aransas County instead of quarterly payments.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the payment of one-half of \$1,100 by the County for the cost of the historical marker recognizing USAF Radar Defense Base.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the County of Aransas granting \$10,000 out of Hotel/Motel Tax to the Navigation District for beach clean-up.

Question.

Commissioner Casterline, Commissioner Smith and Judge Mills voted against the Motion.

(Inserts)

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the County of Aransas granting \$10,000 out of Hotel/Motel Tax to the Navigation District for beach clean-up with the stipulation that Aransas County residents, as opposed to non-residents, would pay a reduced yearly entrance fee for access to the Rockport Beach.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the 2014 Fiscal Year Comprehensive Financial Audit of Aransas County as presented by Michael A. Arnold.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the County Treasurer's Report for August, 2015.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve Indigent Health Care Report for August, 2015.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Indigent Health Care End-of-Year Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve Accounts Payable.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Adopting Elected Officials' Salaries for 2016.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Adopting the "2016" County Budget.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Resolution #R-14-2015 authorizing County Grant of \$35,000 for the Home-Delivered Meals Program.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

21. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Ratifying the Property Tax Increase reflected in the 2016 Budget.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

22. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to adopt an increased Tax Rate of \$0.385462 per \$100 Value for the 2015 Tax Rate, which is effectively a 2.66 percent increase in the tax rate with the following break-out:

0.036311 for County Debt - Interest and Sinking

0.276734 for County M&O General Fund

0.057201 for Farm to Market/Flood Control M&O with a split of 83.13% Road & Bridge & 16.87% Flood

0.015216 for Flood Debt - Interest & Sinking

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

23. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the 2015 Tax Roll and 2015 Tax Levy.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

24. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Resolution #R-15-2015 for the 2015 Tax Roll and Levy.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

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

Pat Rousseau: The County received a check from TAC - Health Employee Benefits Pool for over \$17,800.

Sheriff Mills: Last Wednesday the Texas Jail Commission did an unscheduled annual inspection of our facility and the following day we were inspected by the Federal Marshall Service.

Judge Mills: added that they passed both inspections with flying colors.

Sheriff Mills: Secondly, Friday I was contacted by the Texas Public Safety License and Weight Department informing me that HB 1252 took effect this month. This Bill relates to the uniform weighing procedures and requirements for motor vehicle weight enforcement officer and this will have an impact on all Texas weigh stations.

Commissioner Casterline: This past week, we had our Fourth Annual Warriors Weekend Heroes Cup Tournament. The veterans all expressed their gratitude for all the people who assisted in this event. The school band and the school kids turned out in a big way and there was a procession by the school. The veterans stayed at the Light House Inn again and they were very appreciative.

Collin Jackson: This past weekend the Historical Commission dedicated the Hynes-Balthrope house, located at 801 S. Church Street, as a Registered Texas Historical Landmark.

The Court entered into closed session at 9:40 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 9:48 a.m. with all Members present, and further proceeding were had and done to wit:

PRESS QUESTIONS

Norma Martinez, Managing Editor of The Rockport Pilot: Regarding the Budget and the Elected Officials salaries, did everyone accept the increase?

Commissioner Smith: I believe they did.

Norma: On the tax rate, what was overall effect on the budget, the increase achieved by this year's tax rate?

Commissioner Smith: It's complicated, I would just have to guess, I don't have the exact number in front of me, but I would imagine it's around \$250,000 or \$260,000.

Norma: Is that on last year's valuation?

Commissioner Smith: On this year's valuation.

Commissioner Casterline: To an average household of \$175,000, it is less than \$1.00.

Norma: And at the end of the year, I believe you said that number, I did not write it down, the court ended up, not with a deficit budget, but actual?

Commissioner Smith: \$164,000 or \$165,000

Commissioner Chaney: \$168,005

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:49 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Smith duly seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

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