

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - JULY 10, 2017

On the 10th day of July, 2017, 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; **Brian Olsen**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Betty Stiles**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Kristen Barnebey**, County Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Jeri Cox**, Tax Assessor-Collector; **Suzy Wallace**, Interim County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Michele Bennett**, Elections Administrator; **Lynn Doane**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Jacky Cockerham**, Assistant County Auditor; **Tana Taylor**, Assistant County Auditor; **Rene Butler**, Maintenance Director; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Pat Rousseau**, Human Resources Director; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Diana Espinoza**, Drainage Engineer;

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

City of Rockport Council Members: **C. J. Wax**, Mayor;

Luis Puron, Executive Director - Rockport Art Center;

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

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Minutes from the Commissioners' Court Workshop Meeting of June 19, 2017& the Regular Meeting of June 26, 2017.
2. Joint Proclamation #P-08-2017 in Official Recognition of First Responders.
3. This item pulled from Consent Agenda.
4. Public Official Continuation Bonds for Michele Bennett, elections Administrator and Elizabeth Guerra, human Resources Assistant.
5. Public Official Blanket Bond for Aransas County Airport Attendants.
6. Acknowledge Receipt of and Record in the Minutes of Commissioners Court, Acknowledgement of Paternity Certification for Christy Gibson, Deputy County Clerk.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

3. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Proclamation #P-09-2017 in Official Recognition of Gayly Open.
Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

COUNTY REPORTS

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve HOT Funds Report for the Rockport Center for the Arts.
Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS & GRANTS

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Resolution #R-12-2017 designation Administration Service Providers for the 2017-2018 Texas Community Development Block Grant (TXCDBG) Colonia Fund Project.
Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.
9. Motion was made by Judge Mills and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to **TABLE** (To be placed on the July 24, 2017 agenda) authorizing the County Judge to enter into and sign the Renewal Agreement with Texas Association of Counties for Employee Health Insurance for the 2017-2018 plan year.
Question. Motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between AEP Texas and Aransas County pertaining to AEP's SCORE/CitySmart Program, aimed at improving the energy efficiency of local government facilities.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Tax Assessor/Collector's request to award one-step or two-step increases to qualifying employees following administration of performance evaluations. No step increases have been given since April, 2015. Change in salaries will require only 1/3 of the surplus that is available in that department's budget line.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve County District Attorney to accept a \$2,500 donation from the University of Texas for research assistance given to the Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve the addition of Aransas County

(Inserts)

Children's Foundation to the available programs to which jurors may donate their jury service payments.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve allocating the Unclaimed Funds Capital Credits from Electric Co-ops, received from the State Comptroller, to the Literacy Programs offered at the Aransas County Public Library and to the Aransas County Children's Foundation, per LGC 381.004.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer, proposed that the amount of \$3,904.10 be divided with \$1,300 going to the Literacy Programs and \$2,600 going to the Children's Foundation. Commissioner Chaney made a motion to amend his motion to include this proposal and Commissioner Casterline seconded the motion.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve the distribution of \$135,459 of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Revenue Sharing Act annual payments to Local Governments for lands under their administration for Fiscal Year 2016 received in 2017.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve June 2017 Indigent Health Care Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Accounts Payable.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. General Discussion of 2018 Budget with elected officials and department heads.

Judge Mills: We've gone through the process, which has gone fairly smooth this year, and now it's time to find out what is coming in and look at what everyone has requested, which is more than what is coming in. So now Commissioner Olsen and I will get with the Auditors first and sit down with a red pen and go through one final time before we get everybody else involved.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &

DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

Commissioner Chaney: The County Clerk came to us with a proposal but we have not had a chance to review it.

Judge Mills: We'll take a look at that on the 24th when we decide about the Health Insurance.

(Insert)

Judge Mills: I also want to remind everyone that today is Thin Blue Line Day and if you see a Police Officer, Sheriff, or anyone else, be sure to let them know how much you appreciate them.

Pat Rousseau: Is there any additional information that you need me to bring to Court on the 24th, regarding Health Insurance.

Judge Mills: No.

Commissioner Casterline: Could we get a report over the past few years the number of steps throughout each department, how many people have received increases.

Jackie Cockerham: You want the names of each employee?

Commissioner Casterline: No, not the names, just the numbers in each Department will be fine.

Commissioner Chaney: Just remember if you do a step increase, the Supervisor must have an employee review before you do it. Over the years you don't really have a record of an employees' improvement if you don't do these reviews.

The Court entered into closed session at 9:37 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 9:56 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:56 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Stiles.

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

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