

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING - JULY 25, 2016

On the 25th day of July, 2016, 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 **Kristen Barnebey**, County Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Lezlie Kirk**, County Auditor; **Lynn Doane**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **Suzy Wallace**; 1st Assistant County Auditor; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Diana Espinoza**, Prospective Drainage Engineer; **Timilu Latham**; Chief Deputy County Treasurer; **Jacky Cockerham**; Assistant County Auditor; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Pat Rousseau**, Human Resources Director; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager for the County Attorney's Office; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Interim Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Lee Zapata**, Communications Center Administrator; **John Gutierrez**, Chief Deputy Sheriff; and Sheriff's Deputies, **Gavin Harrison**, **Rodney Cox**, **Mick Timm** and **Michael Brooks**.

Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present were **C. J. Wax**, Mayor, City of

Rockport; **City of Rockport Police Officers, Jerry Lawing and Larry Sinclair** and **Tim Jayroe**, Chief of Police; **Jimmy Kendrick**, City of Fulton Mayor; **Greg Harlan**, Owner of The Grant Connection; **Christopher Mace**, President of the Rockport Aquarium Board of Directors; **Kathy Roberts-Douglas**, Texas Maritime Museum, CEO; **Marsha Hendrix**, Fulton Mansion, Site Manager; **Brian Olsen**, Unopposed Candidate for Precinct 3 Commissioner in upcoming 2016 General Election; **Norma Martinez**, Managing Editor of the Rockport Pilot Newspaper; and **Thea Edmundson**, Resident;

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.

BALLOT RESULTS

1. Declaration of returned Janecek Road Ballots was presented to the court by the County Clerk showing a tally of two property owners voting no and eleven voting yes for improvement and assessment in bringing Janecek Road up to current county roadway standards.

(Inserts)

MINUTES

2. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of July 11, 2016 and workshop meetings of July 12, 2016 and July 18, 2016.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PROCLAMATION

3. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve Proclamation #P-07-2016 declaring the first annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

4. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve removing the County Flag from the Courthouse flag pole and replacing with the Thin Blue Line Flag in support of Local Law Enforcement.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY REPORTS

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Maritime Museum Report on the expended 2nd Quarter 2016 Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Funds.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Fulton Mansion Report on the expended 2nd Quarter 2016 Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Funds.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the Aquarium at Rockport Harbor Report on the expended 2nd Quarter 2016 Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Funds.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COTRACTS, AGREEMENTS & LEASES

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign the Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant Agreement for repairs to the St. Charles Bay Boat Ramp.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign the submission of a Coastal Management Program (CMP) Grant for a further study of Cedar Bayou and Vincent Slough by Harte Research Institute.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign the renewal of our Adoption Agreement and Certificate of Resolution (#R-16-2016) for the Section 125 Premium Only Plan. This plan is offered to all eligible County Employees as a benefit to reduce their tax liability on payment of health, dental, and qualifying life insurance premiums. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to **TABLE** Aransas County to revise its vesting schedule with the Texas County & District Retirement System to allow participants to become fully vested after either 5 years or 8 years of service rather than 10 years as our plan is currently written. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.
12. Names were drawn randomly from a tin containing separate slips of paper with persons' names who served on a grand jury in the county during the preceding calendar year to fill the remaining public members and alternates needed for a Salary Grievance Committee in accordance with Section 152.015 of the Local Government Code. Sec. 152.015. Names drawn in this order: **1)** Sheri Devore **2)** Ruth Cowen **3)** Bobby J. Thomas **4)** Jack Threadgill **5)** Thomas Watkins **6)** Tamera Brotherson

(Inserts)

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve accepting a donation of \$500 from Ms. Laura McCorkle to make Christopher Molina's vehicle K-9 release ready.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve allowing the airport manager to sell the 1984 GMC Jet-A Refueler Truck to Tim Fitch of Beeville Air Services.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve (previously tabled item of 07-11-16) authorizing the County Judge to sign notification to the Texas Department of State Health Services for Optional Health Care Services to be paid from Indigent Health Care Funds during FY 2016-2017.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve (previously tabled item of 07-11-16) Treasurer's 2nd Quarter 2016 Investment Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

17. 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.

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

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. A scheduled discussion on the 2017 Budget for the Dispatch and the IT Departments due to expected absences of department heads during the regularly scheduled workshop meetings in August were as follows:

DISPATCH

Lee Zapata was present to discuss her budget with the Court. The figure of 41.2% for the County's portion of the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Rockport and the Town of Fulton, was questioned by Commissioner Smith. He wanted to know how she came up with this percentage and stated that it is based on the month ending June 30, 2016. She agreed and said that she thought the amount was agreed to and approved for 2016 in the Interlocal. He suggested that someone refigure this and base the percentage on the twelve months ending June 30. She said she would take a look at it and modify the amount accordingly. Lezlie Kirk stated that she did not know who normally calculates the percentage, who

(Inserts)

writes the agreement or what the numbers are based on, but according to the way the present IOA is written, the numbers would not change. Mrs. Zapata stated that she does not calculate the percentages and Commissioner Casterline asked her if she calculates the costs. She replied that she prepares monthly and annual reports for all entity heads regarding costs for each. Commissioner Casterline suggested they not finalize the budget until they find out what the percentage is. Judge Mills reminded Ms. Kirk that she needed to remove half of the cost of the T1 Line and half the Cost of the Tower Rental from the Sheriff's Budget and place it in Dispatch's budget.

I T DEPARTMENT

Collin Jackson was present to discuss his budget with the court.

Commissioner Stiles questioned why Hart InterCivic was included in his budget and he answered that he had discussed it with Lezlie and the Judge and it was partly there because a decision had not been made on this system. Commissioner Casterline inquired what the money was supposed to cover and Collin replied maintenance costs, software and service charges. He also stated that the new proposal is going to be even more and the money has been in his budget since.....

Commissioner Stiles asked if other assets were included in his budget that did not belong there and he said yes.

Commissioner Chaney stated that they had visited this issue several times in the past few years.

Commissioner Smith approached the subject of maintenance agreements and why there is a projected increase of about 15%

more for 2017. Collin stated that new components are being added to Odyssey. Commissioner Smith then questioned the Tax Office increase of \$75,000 and the situation of going from a budget of \$245,000 to a budget of \$475,000. Commissioner Casterline interjected that the Tax Office has had some major wiring issues. Conversation ensued between Commissioner Smith and Collin about the extra \$230,000, how much would just benefit 2017 and how much on the long term pact. They determined that there was a need to spread the improvement use of the grant over a period of time to keep from putting a bite on the tax payers. Commissioner's Casterline and Smith then discussed a five year certificate of obligation for wiring and computers.

Commissioner Chaney then addressed the issue of Collin having other departments' requests in his budget when it should be based in the department where the appropriate need is.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &

DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

County Auditor, Lezlie Kirk read the Fee Report.

REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

REGARDING WHICH NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

Commissioner Chaney stated that he uses the transfer station a lot and is very impressed with the improvements that have been made out there. He is also very pleased with the approachable employees.

The Court entered into closed session at 10:40 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 11:00 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 11:01 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles.

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

VALERIE K. AMASON,

EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT