

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 8, 2016

On the 8th day of August, 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; **Jeri Cox**, Tax Assessor-Collector; **Lezlie Kirk**, County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Michele Bennett**, Elections Administrator; **Linda Garcia**, Executive Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Dave Colmer**, Senior IT Tech; **Pat Rousseau**, Human Resources Director; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Interim Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Diana Espinoza**, Prospective Drainage Engineer;

Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present were **C. J. Wax**, Mayor, City of Rockport; **Patrick Rios**, Ward 3 City Council Member & Mayor Pro-Tem; **Brian Olsen**, Unopposed Candidate for Precinct 3 Commissioner in upcoming 2016 General Election; **Greg Harlan**, Owner of The Grant Connection; **James P. Allison** Attorney with Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP; **Randall Freeze**, Care Regional -

Business Development; **Pam Stranahan**, President of Friends of the History Center for Aransas County; **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.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

1. Minutes from the Commissioners' Court Regular Meeting of August 1, 2016.
2. Public Official Replacement Blanket Bond for the Aransas County Clerk's Office.
3. Order #O-30-2016 Prohibiting Outdoor Burning.
4. Resolution #R-18-2016 authorizing publication of delinquent taxpayers names by the Law Firm of Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, LLP.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS & LEASES

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve funding in the amount of \$3,790 for the purchase of two (2) Electronic Poll Books/Tablets and four (4) Bluetooth Printers from Elections Administrators, LLC and authorizing the County Judge to sign an agreement regarding the same.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve signing a contract with Greg Harlan to consult with the County and assist with preparation and submission of a grant application to the Texas General Land Office requesting grant funding through the Coastal Management Program to further assess the impact of opening Cedar Bayou on recreational fisheries productivity in the adjacent habitats within the Aransas Bay complex and to administer the grant if it is selected for funding.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

The Court entered into closed session at 9:09 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 10:03 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to **TABLE** agreement between Aransas County and Christus Spohn for an emergency and primary care clinic.
- Question. Motion carried unanimously.
- It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve closing the AgriLife Extension Building and Lamar Volunteer Fire Department "Vote Centers" and open a new Vote Center at the Fulton Volunteer Fire Department located at 401 N. 9th Street, Fulton beginning with the November 8, 2016 General Election and forward.
- Question. Motion carried unanimously.
- It is so ordered.
9. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the Treasurer's Report for July 2016.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the Indigent Health Care Report for July 2016.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. There were no Budget Line Item Transfers.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Accounts Payable.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

- 14. Discuss and take possible action on Proposed 2017 Budget.**

Lezlie reported that she crunched some more numbers, rechecked the projected year end and the numbers are good. Commissioner Smith stated that with the impact of changes in revenue and changes in the year end calculations for 2016, h came up with about \$400,000 in surplus, which is due primarily to some of the larger departments, Jail and Sheriff's Department, coming in under budget plus the fact that the County has received a surplus refund from TAC on health care premiums in the amount of \$202,552. Going forward we need to look at new employee requests and upgrades and decide which ones are really necessary. What we are shooting for is a \$400,000 deficit.

(Inserts)

Commissioner Smith recommended that the court increase the employee step increase fund from \$50,000 to \$65,000 and that Judge Mills work with Department heads and try to stay within the budget.

The court went through the list of requests and agreed to consider the following: Constable's salary increase of \$4,000 for the ever increasing personal service on citations, subpoena's, etc.; Public Facilities - New Full-Time Employee; Solid Waste Disposal - New Full-Time Employee and changing one part-time employee to a full-time position; County/District Attorney request for a New Clerk.

Commissioner Smith stated that this brings our expenses up to \$15,721,000 and if we want to adopt a budget \$400,000 below the line what we need to do is get to \$15,346,000 in revenue. What's left out in the open here is the COLA for the employees, I would point out that the Federal Government said they don't have any cost of living increase, probably because of the reduction in gas prices, that may very well be the case, but I can assure you that other expenses are going up, and will continue, as insurance in our area. My suggestion to the court is a 2% COLA for the employees.

The court recessed at 10:58 A.M. (time for additional calculations), and resumed at 11:30 A.M.

Leslie came back with an additional \$210,987 after calculating the 2% COLA for employees. They then set a proposed effective tax rate of 0.04946

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the date and time for a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2017 Budget. Public Hearings on the

16. Proposed Tax Rate are set for August 22, 2016 at 8:30 A.M. and August 29, 2016 at 8:45 A.M. A Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget is set for August 22, 2016 at 8:45 A.M. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve publishing a two cent increase on the Proposed 2016 Tax Rate in order to fund all government services. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner to publish a proposed 2% COLA for Elected Officials Salaries for the 2017 Budget Year. Question. Motion carries unanimously. It is so ordered.

18. All Commissioners' Court members voted in favor the proposed 2016 Tax Rate and schedule for two Public Hearings on the same. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve setting the date of September 12, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. to adopt the 2017 Budget and the 2016 Tax Rate.

(Inserts)

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

COUNTY ROADS

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve proposal from Naismith Engineering, Inc. for engineering services needed to update the list of proposed County Drainage Projects at a cost of \$5,500.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &

DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

Mike Geer informed the court that the Airport Advisory Board voted against having any further Texas Speed Syndicate's automobile exhibition races at the Aransas County Airport. The board suggested that air shows are more appropriate.

He also informed the court that a small group of residents have approached him about undue noise from the P6 Navy flight training exercises and that they would like to be heard at a future Commissioners' Court meeting. He has plans for a meeting with a PR Lieutenant whom he has been dealing with and see if they can work out a letter of agreement. He stated that he recently spoke with one of the pilots about the situation and it was a little quieter over the past week. The last agreement was in 1987.

REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST
REGARDING WHICH NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

There were none.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 11:55 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