THE STATE OF TEXAS \* COMMISSIONERS COURT

COUNTY OF KENEDY \* OF KENEDY COUNTY, TEXAS

On the 10th day of July, 2024, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Kenedy County, Texas, was held in the Kenedy County Justice Court Building.

**Commissioner present:**

Charles E. Burns, County Judge

Joe Recio, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1

Israel Vela, Jr., Commissioner, Precinct No. 2

Sarita Armstrong-Hixon, Commissioner, Precinct No. 3

Jose Salazar, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

**Also present:**

Veronica Vela, County & District Clerk

Grace Salinas, Administrative Secretary

Irma Longoria, County Tax Assessor/Collector

Stephanie Garza, Elections Administrator

Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer

Allison Strauss, County Attorney (afternoon only)

JP Jana Norrell

JP Cecilia Schulz

JP Patricia Fain

Jose E. Mendietta, Fire Chief

Tom Denney, Chief Appraiser

Seferino Gutierrez, Maintenance Supervisor

Kirsten Mendez

Captain Eddie Cruz

Sandra Guzman

Daniel Almeida

Mylinda (Daniel Almeida’s secretary)

Hector Castaneda, Ardurra

Sammy Farias

William Dieterle

Denise Rodriguez, Womack (afternoon only)

Deputy Ricardo Platas (morning only)

Deputy Gerardo Rosas (afternoon only)

**Absent**:

Leo Villarreal, Administrative Assistant

Allison Strauss, County Attorney (morning only)

Sheriff Ramon Salinas

Dave Furzer

JP Jerry Miller

1. **Call Meeting to Order at 9:00 a.m.**

Judge Charles E. Burns called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

Judge Charles E. Burns led the Commissioners and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Receive Public Comments.**

No public comments were made.

1. **Presentation by Elections Administrator, Stephanie Garza, Regarding the Monies Received from Secretary of State for the Republican and Democratic Primary Elections.**

Stephanie Garza, Elections Administrator, informed the Commissioners Court that she had received $4,200.00 from the Secretary of State regarding the Republican and Democratic Primary Elections. She stated that the $4,200.00 will be used for election training; however, she has to inform the Commissioners Court prior to expending any funds.

This being a report only, no vote was needed and none was taken.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Regular Minutes of June 10th, 2024 and the Special Minutes of June 28th, 2024.**

Judge Charles E. Burns presented the Commissioners Court Minutes of the regular June 10, 2024 and special June 28, 2024 meetings.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Minutes of the regular June 10, 2024 and special June 28, 204 meetings be accepted as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on Treasurer’s Monthly Report and Transfers.**

Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer, presented to the Commissioners Court the Treasurer's Monthly Report and Transfers for the months of May and June 2024

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Treasurers’ May and June Monthly Reports and Transfers be accepted as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Sheriff’s Monthly Report.**

Captain Eddie Cruz presented the Commissioners Court with the Sheriff’s monthly report and the Chapter 59 report for June 2024.

He stated that the radio tower personnel should be in Sarita in the next two weeks to fix the radios; that there were 16 abandoned vehicles with mechanical problems and had to move 48 vehicles from the highway for the owners will not call a wrecker; that the Border Patrol called Juan’s Wrecker and had to pay Juan’s insurance.; and that the number of migrants is increasing.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Sheriff’s monthly and Chapter 59 reports be approved as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on Fire Chief’s Monthly Report.**

Jose E. Mendietta, Fire Chief, presented the Commissioners Court with the Fire Chief’s monthly report. He stated that the military truck will be delivered on August 19, 2024 and that the hurricane cots, MRES and snacks are in the county’s possession.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Fire Chief’s report be approved as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Maintenance Department Monthly Report.**

Seferino Gutierrez, Maintenance Supervisor, informed the Commissioners Court as follows:

The department had been busy with hurricane preparations

Mosquito spraying is being done at 4:30 a.m.

County is low on sand and needs more sand – there are plenty of bags; William Dieterle informed the Commissioners Court that the Foundation had 100 acres of sand dunes and that the County is welcome to use the sand

The sirens need to be checked

Citizens will need to contact him if they have standing water on their property for the delivery of mosquito pellets

Catching up on mowing and tree trimming

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Maintenance Department report be approved as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on Auctioning County Items.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that the Department Heads had been asked if they had items that could be auctioned. A list of items that could be auctioned included computers, desks, mower, generator covers, printers, etc.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that items be added to the auction list including the furniture that was not used.

1. **Receive Dave Furzer and Act on the Sewer & Water System Monthly Report.**

Dave Furzer was not present at the Commissioners Court.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that this item be tabled.

1. **Receive Hector Castaneda, with Ardurra, Regarding the Monthly Update and Public Input on the Master Drainage Study.**

Hector Castaneda, Ardurra representative, informed the Commissioners Court that they are gathering data for the government Grant and had planned on coming last week to get pictures, but the hurricane did not make it possible to take the pictures. Judge Burns offered to have the Fire Chief take pictures with a drone. Castaneda approved of the drone pictures.

This being a report only, no vote was needed and none was taken.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Consent Agenda:**

**(A) Approve Registration and Travel Expenses for Stephanie G. Garza to Attend the**

**42nd Annual Election Law Seminar for County Election Officials in Austin, Tx on**

**August 11th – 14th, 2024. (within budget)**

**(B) Approve Travel Advance Lodging and Meals for Eddie Cruz to Attend the 2024**

**Sheriff’s Association of Texas Conference in Fort Worth, Tx on July 19-24, 2024.**

**($1500 within budget)**

**(C) Approve Travel Advance Lodging and Meals for Diana Serna & Ashley Gonzalez to Attend the 2024 Crime Records Conference in South Padre Island, Tx on July 14-**

**19, 2024. ($1550 within budget)**

**(D) Approve Registration for Irma Longoria to Attend the 2024 TAC Virtual**

**Legislative Conference on August 28th- 30th, 2024. ($200.00 within budget)**

**(E) Approve Travel Expenses for Allison Strauss to Attend the 2024 Annual Criminal**

**& Civil Law Conference in Galveston, Tx, September 17-20, 2024. ($2,541.60**

**within budget)**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that the following Commissioner, employees and/or officials needed to attend the below seminars and conferences and costs be advanced thereon, as follows:

Employee’s Name: Stephanie Garza

Training/Seminar: 42nd Annual Election Law Seminar

Location: Austin, Texas

Date: August 11-14, 2024

Cost: within budget

Employee’s Name: Eddie Cruz

Training/Seminar: 2024 Sheriff’s Association of Texas Conference

Location: Fort Worth, Texas

Date: July 19-24, 2024

Cost: within budget

Employee’s Name: Diana Serna and Ashley Gonzalez

Training/Seminar: 2024 Crime Records Conference

Location: South Padre Island, Texas

Date: July 14-19, 2024

Cost: $1,550.00 within budget

Official’s Name: Irma Longoria

Training/Seminar: 2024 TAC Virtual Legislative Conference

Location: Online

Date: August 28-30, 2024

Cost: $200.00 within budget

Official’s Name: Allison Strauss

Training/Seminar: 2024 Annual Criminal & Civil Law Conference

Location: Galveston, Texas

Date: September 17-20, 2024

Cost: $2,541.60 within budget

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the above officials are authorized to attend their respective trainings and that the County advance the costs thereof provided that proper receipts be provided to the County Treasurer.

1. **Report on Possible Dates for the Grand Opening for the JP Building/Hurricane Shelter.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that dates should be considered to hold a Grand Opening regarding the Justice Building and Hurricane Center.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the grand opening of the Kenedy County Justice Building and Hurricane Shelter be held on September 9, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Renewal of a 60 Month Lease Agreement for Xerox C8155H Machine in the Tax Office Copy Room.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to renew the 60-month lease agreement regarding the Xerox C8155H machine in the Tax Office copy room.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the 60-month Lease Agreement for the Xerox C8155H machine in the Tax Office be renewed as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on Payment of Bills.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to pay the bills for the month ending June 30, 2024.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the bills be paid.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, § 551.071, § 551.072, § 551.073,§ 551.074 – Daniel Almeida and With Attorney.**

Judge Charles E. Burns called the Executive Session to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. **Open Session: Discuss & Act on Items Addressed in Executive Session.**

Judge Charles E. Burned called the Open Session to order at 3:16 p.m.

No action was taken.

1. **Recess for Lunch.**

The Commissioners Court adjourned at 10:00 a.m. and will reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

1. **Reconvene at 1:30 for Budget Workshop.**

Judge Charles E. Burns called the Budget Workshop to order at 1:30 p.m. The Commissioners and Department Heads discussed the budget line items and amounts needed for the creation of the 2025 Budget.

1. **Adjournment.**

There being no further business at this time to come before the Commissioners Court, Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Kenedy County Commissioners Court be adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

/s/ Charles E. Burns

Charles E. Burns, County Judge

ATTESTED TO:

/s/ Veronica Vela

Veronica Vela, Clerk of Commissioners Court