THE STATE OF TEXAS \* COMMISSIONERS COURT

COUNTY OF KENEDY \* OF KENEDY COUNTY, TEXAS

On the 26th day of September, 2024, at 1:30 o'clock p.m., a special meeting of the Commissioners Court of Kenedy County, Texas, was held in the Kenedy County District Courtroom.

**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

Leo Villarreal, Administrative Assistant

Grace Salinas, Administrative Secretary

Irma Longoria, County Tax Assessor/Collector

Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer

Stephanie Garza, Elections Administrator

JP Patricia Fain

JP Cecilia Schulz

Seferino Gutierrez, Maintenance Supervisor

Sandra Guzman

Deputy Eddie Hinojosa

**Absent**:

JP Jerry Miller

JP Jana Norrell

Sheriff Ramon Salinas

Allison Strauss, County Attorney

1. **Judge Burns Called the Meeting to Order at 1:30 p.m.**

Judge Charles E. Burns called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

1. **Receive Public Comments.**

No public comments were made.

1. **Presentation by Dr. Rodney Rodriguez of RPBS Consulting Regarding Grant Management for the County.**

Dr. Rodney Rodriguez of RPBS Consulting addressed the Commissioners Court regarding grant management for the County.

Dr. Rodriguez stated that his fee is paid through the grant funds. However, if he is seeking new grants and new sources, his retainer fee is $3,300.00 per month with a 30-day termination notice.

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

1. **Discuss & Act on Proposed Tax Rate for Kenedy County-Wide Common School District for Maintenance and Operations of $0.7455 Per Hundred Value and to Adopt a Tax Rate for the Interest and Sinking Fund of $0.0140 Per Hundred Value for the 2024 Tax Year, for a Total Tax Rate of $0.7595 Per Hundred Value.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider adopting the proposed tax rate for the Kenedy County-Wide Common School District for Maintenance and Operations of $0.7455 per hundred value and to adopt a tax rate for the Interest and Sinking Fund of $0.0140 per hundred value for the 2025 tax year for a total tax rate of $0.7585 per hundred value.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the proposed tax rate for the Kenedy County-Wide Common School District for Maintenance and Operations of $0.7455 per hundred value and a tax rate for the Interest and Sinking Fund of $0.0140 per hundred value for the 2025 tax year for a total tax rate of $0.7585 per hundred value be adopted as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on Certifying the 2024 Kenedy County Tax Roll.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider certifying the 2024 Kenedy County Tax Roll.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the 2024 Kenedy County Tax Roll be certified as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on Certifying the 2024 Kenedy County-Wide Common School District Tax Roll.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider certifying the 2024 Kenedy County-Wide Common School District Tax Roll.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the 2024 Kenedy County-Wide Common School District Tax Roll be certified as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on the HB246 Pilot Program.**

Stephanie Garza, Elections Administrator, informed the Commissioners Court regarding the HB245 Pilot Program which is not mandatory; that Brian Birdwell had cut the cost to $22,000.00 and he had stated that the biggest expense is the server which needs to be running 24 hours a day. Ms. Garza stated that running the Pilot Program would be throughout the election cycle but was not to be used during early voting. Ms. Garza stated that the county would get some money back from the Secretary of State.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the County not participate in the HB246 Pilot program.

1. **Discuss & Act on Approving a Resolution Regarding the 2025 Texas Department of Agriculture Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider approving a Resolution Regarding the 2025 Texas Department of Agriculture Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Resolution Regarding the 2025 Texas Department of Agriculture Texans Feeding Texans: Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program be approved.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Proposal from Rosales Lawn Service for the Justice of the Peace Building.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider Rosales Lawn Service $15,000.00 proposal for the Justice of the Peace Building plants and labor.

Commissioners Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Rosales Lawn Service’s $15,000.00 proposal for plants and labor at the Justice of the Peace building be accepted, provided rocks be used instead of mulch.

1. **Discuss & Act on Renewing the 2025 County Choice Silver Retiree Medical Plan.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider renewing the 2025 County Choice Silver Retiree medical plan.

Commissioners Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the 2025 County Choice Silver Retiree medical plan be renewed as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Right of Entry Agreement Between Kenedy County and The John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation Regarding the Water Towers.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider the Right of Entry Agreement between Kenedy County and the John G. and Maria Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation regarding the water tanks. Judge Burns stated that the water tanks would be placed along the highway south of Sarita to be used for firefighting; that there is no fee from the Foundation for placing the water tanks on foundation property or for the well water; and that the only cost would be for the purchase of the water tanks. Further, that the fire trucks would be able to enter and exit the Foundation property during county fires.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Entry Agreement between Kenedy County and the John G. and Maria Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation regarding the water tanks be accepted as presented and that Judge Burns is authorized to sign it.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Estimates from Airborne Flag & Flagpole, LLC and STX Flag & Flagpole.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider the estimates from Airborne Flag & Flagpole, LLC and STX Flag & Flagpole regarding a flagpole for the Justice of the Peace building and that Airborne Flag & Flagpole, LLC had the lowest bid of $8,317.50.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the $8,317.50 estimate from Airborne Flag & Flagpole, LLC be accepted.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Proposal from Dave Furzer Regarding the Installation of 5 Hydrants for the townsite and Water & Sewer Service to the Mobile Clinic.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider Dave Furzer’s proposal regarding the installation of five hydrants for the Sarita townsite and water & sewer service to the mobile clinic for the amount of $29,342.50

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Dave Furzer’s $29,342.50 proposal regarding the installation of five hydrants for the townsite and water & sewer service to the mobile clinic be approved.

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

**(A) Approve Travel Expenses for Denise Gutierrez to Attend the 2024 LGS Annual User’s Conference in Las Colinas, Tx on November 20-21, 2024. ($1.645.00 within budget)**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider authorizing travel expenses for Denise Gutierrez to attend the 2024 LGS Annual User’s Conference in Las Colinas, Texas, on November 20-21, 2024 at the cost of $1,645.00, within budget.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that travel expenses for Denise Gutierrez to attend the 2024 LGS Annual User’s Conference in Las Colinas, Texas, on November 20-21, 2024 at the cost of $1,645.00, within budget, be paid, provided that proper receipts are submitted to the County Treasurer.

1. **Discuss & Act on Donating or Selling the Delivered Excess Gas to the ESD 1.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider donating or selling County to the Kenedy County Fire & Emergency Services District No. 1 the excess of 1200 gallons of fuel that was delivered to the County and that the price per gallon of fuel was $2.89.

Commissioners Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the County sell 500 gallons of fuel to the Kenedy County Fire & Emergency Service District No. 1 for $2.89 per gallon.

1. **Discuss & Act on Purchasing New Vending Machines for the County Buildings.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider purchasing new vending machines for the County buildings.

No action was taken.

1. **Discuss & Act on Plans for JP Building Grand Opening.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider plans for the JP Building grand opening.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that a $4,000.00 budget be approved for the JP Building grand opening event.

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

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to pay the bills presented.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the bills be paid as presented.

1. **Adjournment.**

There being no further business at this time to come before the Commissioners Court, Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Kenedy County Commissioners Court be adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

/s/ Charles Burns

Judge Charles Burns

ATTESTED TO:

/s/ Veronica Vela

VERONICA VELA

Clerk of Commissioners Court