

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 9th day of APRIL, 1996, there was conducted a **REGULAR Public Meeting of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Cameron County, Texas, at the Courthouse thereof, in the City of Brownsville, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same.**

THE COURT MET AT:

1:30 P. M.

PRESENT:

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1

CARLOS H. CASCOS, C.P.A.
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 2

JAMES R. MATZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3

HECTOR PEÑA
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4

Hilda V. Treviño Deputy
COUNTY CLERK

ABSENT:

LUCINO ROSENBAUM, JR.



The meeting was called to order by Judge Gilberto Hinojosa. He then asked Mr. Bob Clark, Brownsville resident, for the invocation and Commissioner Cascos to lead the Court and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Court considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on April 4, 1996, at 2:10:

(1) APPROVAL OF COUNTY CLAIMS

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, added the late claims as to Warrant Nos. 10598 through 10741 in the amount of \$23,373.00, for approval.

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the County Claims were approved as presented by the County Auditor, inclusive of the late claims as to Warrant Nos. 10598 through 10741.

The Warrant List and the Budget Officer's Comments are as follow:

(2) IN THE MATTER OF THE BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND/OR SALARY SCHEDULES (NO ACTION TAKEN)

The County Auditor reported that there were no Budget Amendments and/or Salary Schedules for approval at this time.



(3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 1996

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 26, 1996, at 1:30 P.M., were approved.



(5) IN THE MATTER TO IMPLEMENT A CAMERON COUNTY - PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT EVALUATION AND STANDARDIZATION COMMITTEE (TABLED)

At this time, Judge Hinojosa suggested that the Item be Tabled until a Policy Committee was created, in order to review and maintain consistency in the Policies submitted by the Departments, and recommended that the Policy Committee should consist of one (1) representative from the County Judge's Office, the County Attorney's Office, the Auditor's Office, the Personnel Department, and the County Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Cascos suggested that the Policies and other voluminous Agenda Requests Items be submitted to the Court one (1) week before the Meetings in order to accurately review the material.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, this Item was **TABLED**.



(4) PRESENTATION BY MR. BILL HAMMOND, CHAIRMAN, TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION, REGARDING CERTIFICATION OF LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

At this time, Judge Hinojosa reported that Cameron County was the first County in the State of Texas to have the local Workforce Development Board certified and introduced Mr. Bill Hammond, Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission, and Mr. Rene Oliveira, State Representative, who was responsible for the Legislation.

Mr. Bill Hammond, Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission, presented the Court with a certification of the Cameron County Local Workforce Development Board and highlighted the responsibilities involved in serving on the Board.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa recognized Mr. Raul Garcia, Private Industry Council, and Ms. Liz Maldonado, Texas Employment Commission, and highlighted the work to be performed in order to meet the demands of the Legislation.

Commissioner Peña moved that the Presentation by Mr. Bill Hammond, Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission, regarding certification of the Cameron County Local Workforce Development Board, be acknowledged.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously.

(6) APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH ALBERT GARCIA, ATTORNEY AT LAW, FOR COURT-APPOINTED SERVICES WITH COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2, FOR THE SUM OF \$1,500.00 PER MONTH

(7) APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH LILIA A. GONZALES, ATTORNEY AT LAW, FOR COURT-APPOINTED SERVICES WITH COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2, FOR THE SUM OF \$2,000.00 PER MONTH

Commissioner Peña moved that the Contracts for Legal Services with Mr. Albert Garcia, Attorney at Law, for the sum of \$1,500.00 per month, and Ms. Lilia A. Gonzales, Attorney at Law, for the sum of \$2,000.00, per month for Court-Appointed Services with County Court at Law No. 2, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously.

The Contracts are as follow:

(8) APPROVAL OF THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE COLLECTION OF FINES AND COURT COSTS BY THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE FOR COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2, EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 1996

At this time, Judge Hinojosa noted that the Item was discussed in the Workshop held at 11:00 A.M., and added that the Program was a good example of the County taking the leadership and would assist in ensuring that offenders pay the price to society and added that the Program would raise revenues for the County.

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Pilot Program for the Collection of Fines and Court Costs by the County Clerk's Office for County Court at Law No. 2, effective May 1, 1996, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.

The Resolution is as follows:

(9) AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY FOR THE CAMERON COUNTY FINANCIAL DISRUPTION TASK FORCE

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, the Cameron County Financial Disruption Task Force was authorized to submit a Grant Application to the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The Application is as follows:

(10) APPROVAL TO SUPPORT THE APPOINTMENT OF JOE MORALES AS DIRECTOR, AS OF NOVEMBER, 1995, FOR THE CAMERON COUNTY FINANCIAL DISRUPTION TASK FORCE

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Appointment of Mr. Joe Morales as Director of the Cameron County Financial Disruption Task Force as of November, 1995, be supported

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.

(11) AUTHORIZATION OF APPLICATION FOR THE LAGUNA RANGERS ADVENTURE CAMP FOR THE COMMUNITY OUTDOOR OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR A GRANT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00, SPONSORED BY CAMERON COUNTY PARKS SYSTEM, PARTNERED WITH POINT ISABEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, RIO GRANDE COUNCIL OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PAN AMERICAN COASTAL STUDIES LABORATORY, AND LAGUNA MADRE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Application for the Laguna Rangers Adventure Camp was approved, for the Community Outdoor Outreach Program, said Grant not to exceed \$25,000.00; sponsored by Cameron County Parks System, partnered with Point Isabel Independent School District, Rio Grande Council of Boy Scouts of America, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, University of Texas Pan American Coastal Studies Laboratory, and Laguna Madre Boys and Girls Club.

(12) APPROVAL TO APPOINT MS. ANA V. ARRIOLA AND MR. KIRK PATRICK MASSEY TO THE CAMERON COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, Ms. Ana V. Arriola and Mr. Kirk Patrick Massey, Brownsville, Texas, were appointed to the Cameron County Child Welfare Board.

(13) APPROVAL TO LEND TWO (2) VOTING MACHINES FOR THE ST. JOSEPH ACADEMY'S ANNUAL STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 3, 1996

Commissioner Cascos moved that St. Joseph Academy be authorized the use of two (2) Voting Machines for their Annual Student Council Election to be held on May 3, 1996.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously.

(14) APPROVAL TO LEASE VOTING MACHINES FOR THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA, CITY OF SAN BENITO, CITY OF PORT ISABEL, CITY OF PRIMERA, CITY OF LOS FRESNOS, CITY OF LA FERIA, HARLINGEN C.I.S.D., LOS FRESNOS C.I.S.D., SAN BENITO C.I.S.D., CAMERON COUNTY FRESH WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO. 1, RIO HONDO I.S.D., LA FERIA I.S.D., AND SANTA ROSA I.S.D., FOR ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 4, 1996

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, the Voting Machine Leases for the following entities were approved for the Election to be held on May 4, 1996:

- City of Santa Rosa, Texas,
- City of San Benito, Texas,
- City of Port Isabel, Texas,
- City of Primera, Texas,
- City of Los Fresnos, Texas,
- City of La Feria, Texas,
- Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District,
- Los Fresnos Consolidated Independent School District,
- San Benito Consolidated Independent School District,
- Cameron County Fresh Water Supply District No. 1,
- Rio Hondo Independent School District,
- La Feria Independent School District, and
- Santa Rosa Independent School District.

The Agreements are as follow:

(15) AUTHORIZATION TO INCLUDE CERTAIN ITEMS ON THE EQUIPMENT LIST, CONTINGENT UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF INTEREST FUNDS

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, recommended that the Items requested be placed on a priority list and noted that Constable Jose Jimenez, Precinct No. 7, was in need of lights and equipment for an additional patrol vehicle.

There was some discussion concerning the need for Mobile Phones by Precinct No. 7 Constable and the Law Enforcement Officers that patrolled the rural areas, and the County Auditor recommended developing a standardized equipment listing in order to maintain fairness between the County Constables.

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, the following Items were included on the Equipment List, subject to the availability of Interest Funds:

- a) Strobe Light for Tail and Headlights
- b) Siren and Siren Speaker
- c) Motorola 10/10 35 Watt 800 MHZ
- d) Gun Rack for M-1 and Shotgun
- e) Electronic Headlight Wig Wags, and
- f) Grille Lights.



(16) ACTION ON MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY BUILDING (SAN BENITO) FOR STORAGE OF RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Memorandum of Agreement for the use of the National Guard Armory Building, San Benito, Texas, for storage of records and documents be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.

The Memorandum is as follows:

**(17) AUTHORIZATION TO TRAVEL AND/OR
APPROVAL OF TRAVEL EXPENSES**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the following travel and/or travel expenses and the "Consent" Agenda Items, were approved, subject to funds in their Budget and Item No. 20, was extended until April 30, 1996:

- a) Texas Narcotic Control Program Border Region Commander, to attend the "Border Region Commanders Meeting" on April 18-19, 1996, in Laredo, Texas;
- b) County Extension Agent to attend the "4-H Fashion Show" on March 29, 1996, in Laredo, Texas;
- c) County Extension Agent to meet with the Extension Staff on March 29, 1996, in Bexar County;
- d) County Extension Agent to attend the "Food Protection Management Program Training" on April 2-4, 1996, in Corpus Christi, Texas;
- e) County Extension Agent to attend the "Comprehensive Ranch Management Program" on April 9-10, 1996, in Corpus Christi, Texas;
- f) Two (2) Health Department employees to attend the "First Annual Conference on Health and Health Education Issues affecting the Homeless Population of the Lower Rio Grande Valley" on April 19, 1996, in Weslaco, Texas;
- g) County Clerk and one (1) Deputy to attend the "Records Management Seminar" on April 24-25, 1996, in Austin, Texas;
- h) Deputy Constable Precinct No. 7 to attend the "Pursuit of Safe Schools and Communities Conference" on April 16-19, 1996, in Galveston, Texas;
- I) County Clerk and two (2) Deputies to attend the "County and District Clerks' Association of Texas 101st Annual Conference" on June 30, 1996, through July 4, 1996, in San Antonio, Texas;
- j) Health Department employee to attend the "Indigent Health Care Statewide Conference" on July 10-12, 1996, in San Antonio, Texas;
- k) Seven (7) Health Department employees to attend the "Case Management Training Session" on April 16, 1996, in San Diego, Texas;
- l) Health Department Director, Nurses' Director, and Women's, Infants, and Children (WIC) Director, to attend the "Empowerment Zone Meeting" on March 28, 1996, in Rio Grande City, Texas;
- m) Twelve (12) Health Department employees to attend the "Case Management Update Workshop" on April 15, 1996, in Weslaco, Texas;

- n) Five (5) Health Department employees to attend the "Hidalgo County Health Department Scheduled Appointment Clinic System" on April 10, 1996, in Pharr and McAllen, Texas;
- o) County Engineer to attend the "ASCE Texas Section Meeting" on April 11-12, 1996, in Beaumont, Texas;
- p) County Clerk, Deputy, and Computer Programmer, to view "Collections Program in Dallas County" on April 19, 1996, in Dallas, Texas; and
- q) County Court at Law No. 2 Administrator to view "Collection Program in Dallas County" on April 19, 1996, in Dallas, Texas.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE RECOMMENDED FOR "CONSENT" AND WERE EITHER RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT HEAD, WITHIN BUDGET OR AWARDED TO THE LOW BIDDER:

(18) FINAL APPROVAL

a) Precinct No. 3

The Amended Plat of Lots Nos. 14-19, Block No. 2 - being all of Lots Nos. 14-19, Block No. 2 Palm Valley South Subdivision.

(19) AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE ONE (1) VAN - (15 PASSENGER) FOR PRISONERS AT WORK (PAW) PROGRAM FROM THE HOUSTON/ GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT (HGAC)

(20) IN THE MATTER TO OPEN BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE ADULT PROBATION OFFICES IN THE OLD JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER, NEXT TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE (EXTENDED UNTIL APRIL 30, 1996)

(21) AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD BIDS

a) ONE (1) WATER TRUCK (CASH PURCHASE) - PRECINCT NO. 2

CROSTOWN FORD - Corpus Christi, Texas
Water Truck - \$31,850.00

b) ONE (1) USED TILT TRAILER - PRECINCT NO. 3

ARTS A & A TRUCK CITY - San Juan, Texas
Used Tilt Trailer - \$6,000.00

- c) **ONE (1) USED DUMP TRUCK 6 C.Y. - PRECINCT NO. 3**

ARTS A & A TRUCK CITY - San Juan, Texas
Used Dump Truck - \$13,000.00

- d) **ONE (1) DUMP TRUCK 12-14 C.Y. (LEASE PURCHASE) - PRECINCT NO. 3**

CARDENAS MOTORS - Brownsville, Texas
Dump Truck 12-14 C.Y. - \$51,249.00



(22) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Court met in Executive Session at 1:55 P.M. to discuss the following matters:

- a) Confer with County Counsel regarding revised Proposal for Property located at Sea Ranch Marina, Isla Blanca, Cameron County, Texas; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071(2);
- b) Confer with County Counsel regarding a Special Warranty Deed to the following described property: Abstract No. 2 - Olmito Gardens I Point, Block No. 5, South ½ of Southeast 1/4, Cameron County, Texas; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071(2);
- c) Confer with County Counsel regarding a Special Warranty Deed to the following described property: Harlingen Original Townsite, Block No. 142, Lot No. 1, Cameron County, Texas; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071(2);
- d) Confer with County Counsel for additional expenses for FM/1419 Project, Closing Costs for Parcel No. 058; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.072;
- e) Confer with County Counsel on the Farm Lease on parcels for the Los Tomates area; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.072;
- f) Confer with County Counsel to advise status of the case and discuss settlement regarding the case styled Rolando Flores vs. County, et. al., B-90-233, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071(1)(A & B); and
- g) Confer with County Counsel to discuss status of the case styled Arnulfo Gonzales Cuevas vs. County, et. al., B-96-031, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071(A).

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Court reconvened in Regular Session at 2:45 P.M.



(23) ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Confer with County Counsel regarding revised Proposal for property located at Sea Ranch Marina, Isla Blanca Park, Cameron County, Texas.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, reported that after some discussion, it was the consensus of the Court as determined by polling, that the Property Management Coordinator should negotiate and provide a lease contract for the Proposed Sea Ranch Marina and should proceed along the terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session.

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Property Management Coordinator was authorized to negotiate and provide a Lease Contract for the Proposed Property located at Sea Ranch Marina, Isla Blanca Park, Cameron County, Texas, and to proceed along the terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session.

- b) Confer with County Counsel regarding a Special Warranty Deed to the following described property: Abstract No. 2 - Olmito Gardens I Point, Block No. 5, South ½ of Southeast 1/4, Cameron County, Texas.
- c) Confer with County Counsel regarding a Special Warranty Deed to the following described property: Harlingen Original Townsite, Block No. 1423, Lot No. 1, Cameron County, Texas.

The County Attorney reported that after some discussion, it was the consensus of the Court as determined by polling, that the County Judge should be authorized to sign the Special Warranty Deeds transferring title with respect to said matters and that County Counsel should proceed along the terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session.

Commissioner Matz moved that the County Judge be authorized to sign the Special Warranty Deeds to the following described properties: Abstract No. 2 - Olmito Gardens I Point, Block No. 5, South ½ of Southeast 1/4, Cameron County, Texas, and Harlingen Original Townsite, Block No. 1423, Lot No. 1, Cameron County, Texas, and County Counsel was directed to proceed along the terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.

- d) Confer with County Counsel for additional expenses for FM/1419 Project, regarding the closing costs for Parcel No. 058.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, reported that after some discussion, it was the consensus of the Court as determined by polling, that the additional expenses in the amount of \$17.50, should be approved.

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the additional expenses, in the amount of \$17.50, for the FM/1419 Project, on closing costs for Parcel No. 058, were approved and County Counsel was directed to proceed along the terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session.

- e) Confer with County Counsel on the Farm Lease on parcels for the Los Tomates area.

The County Attorney reported that after some discussion, it was the consensus of the Court as determined by polling, that the expenditure, in the amount of \$250.00, should be approved for the liquidation of the tenants rights in regards to the Farm Lease on Parcel No. 3, for the Los Tomates area.

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the expenditure, in the amount of \$250.00, for the liquidation of the tenants rights in regards to the Farm Lease on Parcel No. 3, for the Los Tomates area was approved, and County Counsel was directed to proceed along the terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session.

- f) Confer with County Counsel to advise status of the case and discuss settlement on the case styled Rolando Flores vs. County , et. al., B-90-233, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division.
- g) Confer with County Counsel to discuss the case styled Arnulfo Gonzalez Cuevas vs. County, et. al., B-96-031, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, reported that after some discussion, it was the consensus of the Court as determined by polling, that the Report of the County Counsel should be acknowledged regarding said matters.

Commissioner Matz moved that the Reports of the County Counsel be acknowledged regarding the status of the cases styled Rolando Flores vs. County, et. al., B-90-233, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division, and Arnulfo Gonzales Cuevas vs. County, et. al., B-96-031, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division, and County Counsel be directed to proceed along the terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.



There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED**.



APPROVED this **16th** day of **April, 1996**.

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

JOE G. RIVERA,
COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK
OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF
CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS