

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 28th day of NOVEMBER, 2000, 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:

9:30 A.M.

PRESENT:

GILBERTO HINOJOSA  
COUNTY JUDGE

PEDRO "PETE" BENAVIDES  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1

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

JAMES R. MATZ  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3

NATIVIDAD ATIVIE@ VALENCIA  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4

Adriane Daza Deputy Clerk  
COUNTY CLERK

ABSENT:

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The meeting was called to order by Judge Gilberto Hinojosa at 9:55 A. M. He then asked Mr. Joseph O-Bell, 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 November 22, 2000, at 11:55 A.M.:

**NOTE: Judge Hinojosa left the Meeting at this time.**

**(1) APPROVAL OF COUNTY CLAIMS**

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, noted a correction to the claims listed, that being Warrant No. 46533 as to Natalia Flores, in the amount of \$591.87, for settlements and not for rentals. He presented the following late claims relating to the Law Enforcement overtime issues and settlements for approval, Warrant No. 46964 as to Ms. Patricia Hernandez, Attorney at Law, in the amount of \$65,923.00; Warrant No. 46965 as to Mr. James Herman, Attorney at Law, in the amount of \$62,000; and Warrant No. 46966, as to Mr. George Powell, Attorney at Law, in the amount of \$138,000. Mr. Yates noted that the copy fees were for over the limit number of copies on leased equipment and that the late fees were due to the inability to tract the billing to the appropriate Departments.

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the County Claims were approved as presented by the County Auditor, inclusive of the following late claims:

Warrant No. 46964 in the amount of \$65,923.00;

Warrant No. 46965 in the amount of \$62,000.00; and

Warrant No. 46966 in the amount of \$138,000.00.

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

**(3) IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER  
14, 2000 (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, this Item was **TABLED**.

**(4) CANVASS OF THE OFFICIAL RESULTS OF THE  
RECOUNT OF THE GENERAL ELECTION FOR  
NOVEMBER 7, 2000, OF THE FOLLOWING RACES**

At this time, Mr. Robert Mendoza, Elections Administrator, presented the Recount results of the Sheriff-s, Commissioner Precinct No. 3, and Constable Precinct No. 6 elections, to be canvassed.

Commissioner Benavides moved that the Official Results of the Recount of the General Election for November 7, 2000, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.

**The Results are as follows:**

**(5) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO  
INCLUDE CHANGE ORDER No. 2 ON JAIL  
PROJECT WITH LANDMARK**

Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, reported that the Change Order consisted of electrical power increases to the infirmary and X-ray rooms.

Commissioner Benavides moved that the Change Order No. 2 on the Jail Project with Landmark, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried as follow:

AYE: Commissioners Benavides, Cascos and Valencia

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Matz.

**The Change Order is as follows:**

(6) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHANGE ALL NON-INTEREST BEARING CHECKING ACCOUNTS TO INTEREST BEARING ACCOUNTS**

At this time, Mr. Eddie Gonzalez, County Treasurer, noted that some accounts were in non-interest bearing accounts and questioned if changes would be needed.

Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, explained that the County received reimbursements on some of the grant funding, therefore interest earned would be applied to the program or the bank would keep it. .

Commissioner Cascos noted that unless there was specific language that prohibited the accounts from being in interest-bearing accounts, then all accounts should be interest bearing.

**NOTE: Judge Hinojosa returned to the Meeting.**

Commissioner Cascos moved that all Non-Interest Bearing Checking Accounts be transferred to Interest Bearing Checking Accounts.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously.

(7) **CONSIDERATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE FULFILMENT OF THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS OF THE TEXAS CODE CHAPTER 2256.008 OF THE PUBLIC INVESTMENT ACT BY THE CAMERON COUNTY TREASURER**

Commissioner Cascos moved that the statutory requirements of The Texas Code Chapter 2256.008 of the Public Investment Act by the Cameron County Treasurer, be acknowledged.

The motion was seconded by Matz and carried unanimously.

**The Certificate is as follows:**

**(8) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW THE FREE TRADE BRIDGE TO BE OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY FOR SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC DECEMBER 22 AND 23, 2000**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the Free Trade Bridge will be opened twenty - four (24) hours a day for southbound traffic on December 22-23, 2000.



**(9) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT WITH WALNUT GROVE, L. L. C., INSIDE THE FREE TRADE BRIDGE REGIONAL ENTERPRISE ZONE**

Commissioner Matz moved that the Tax Abatement Agreement with Walnut Grove, L. L. C., inside the Free Trade Bridge Regional Enterprise Zone, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

**The Agreement is as follows:**

**(10) CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REVISED 2000 CAMERON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY PLAN, PURSUANT TO GRANT FUNDING REQUIREMENTS OF THE GOVERNOR-S OFFICE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION**

At this time, Mr. Remi Garza, Assistant County Administrator, noted that the Item should read "Revised 2001" instead of "2000".

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Revised 2001 Cameron County Criminal Justice Community Plan was approved.

**The Revised Plan is as follows:**

**Note: Judge Hinojosa left the Meeting, at this time.**

(11) **CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF A  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE  
CONTINUATION OF THE CAMERON COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY-S VICTIM ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM AND DESIGNATION OF SOURCE FOR  
REQUIRED MATCH**

Commissioner Matz moved that the Cameron County District Attorney-s Victim Assistance Program be continued and that the source for required match be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

**The Resolution is as follows:**

(12) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE UNIFIED NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE TASK FORCE TO LINK UP WITH THE TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR-S OFFICE COUNTY COMPUTER TAX SYSTEM TO ACCESS PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Unified Narcotics Intelligence Task Force was authorized to link up with the Tax Assessor-Collector-s Office County Computer Tax System to access Property Tax information.

(13) **CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO UTILIZE THE TEXAS COOPERATIVE PURCHASING NETWORK-REGION IV INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR AN E-BUSINESS PLAN DESIGN PROVIDED BY RIDDLETECH, INC**

At this time, Mr. Rudy Juarez, Computer Information Systems Director, explained the advantages of having a Dynamic web site, and noted that Riddletech had experience working on web sites for Federal Programs adding that the web site would be available by December.

Commissioner Cascos questioned whether the program would be optional for all the Departments, and whether outside funding would be possible, and the Computer Information Systems Director responded that it would be up to each Department whether they participated.

Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, noted that the Cameron County District Courts supported the program and that the web site would enable information to be accessible to the public.

There was some discussion concerning training needed for the Departments, whether additional staff was included in the planned budget, and the familiarity of the Computer Center employees of the various web sites.

**NOTE: Judge Hinojosa returned to the Meeting.**

Commissioner Valencia moved that the Texas Cooperative Purchasing Network-Region IV Interlocal Agreement for and E-Business Plan Design provided by Riddletech, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously.

**The Agreement is as follows:**



**(14) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER A WORK EXPERIENCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND CAMERON WORKS, INC.**

At this time, Mr. Manuel Villarreal, Personal Safety Risk Director, explained the processes and the benefits of the Work Experience Program for all the Departments.

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Work Experience Agreement between Cameron County and Cameron Works, Inc., was approved.

**The Agreement is as follows:**

## CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

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

Commissioner Benavides moved that the AConsent® Agenda Items be approved, and that 15" g® be **TABLED**.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried as follow:

AYE: Commissioners Benavides, Matz and Valencia

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Cascos as to Item 15" f®.

**(15) TRAVEL AND/OR TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR THE FOLLOWING, SUBJECT TO FUNDS IN THEIR BUDGET AND ALL APPLICABLE COUNTY POLICIES:**

- a) Health Department Employees (2) to attend the 2001 Annual TB Clinical Records Conference and Workshop® in San Antonio, Texas, on December 6-8, 2000;
- b) Park Rangers (2) to attend the AIntoxilyzer Operator Certification Course® in San Antonio, Texas, on December 3-8, 2000;
- c) International Bridge System Director to attend a meeting with the Free Trade Bridge Immigration Naturalization Service Port Director in Progreso, Texas, on November 30, 2000;
- d) Assistant County Auditor to attend the ACEPE Seminar hosted by Texas Extension Education Agency Foundation® in Weslaco, Texas, on December 4-5, 2000;
- e) Dancy Building Project Architect to attend the AGrant Administration Meeting for the Texas Historical Commission Texas Courthouse Preservation Program® in Austin, Texas, on November 21, 2000;
- f) District Clerk and Deputies (2) to attend the A2000 Annual Vital Statistics Conference® in Austin, Texas, on December 3-5, 2000;
- g) In the matter of District Clerk and Deputies (2) to attend the A29<sup>th</sup> Annual County and District Clerk-s Continuing Education Seminar® in College Station, Texas, on January 7-11, 2001; **TABLED**
- h) Chief Juvenile Probation Officer to attend the ATexas Juvenile Probation Commission Chief-s Summit 2001" in Austin, Texas, on January 7-11, 2001; and
- I) Emergency Management Coordinator to attend the ACritique Session on Furfural Chemical Spill® in Corpus Christi, Texas, on November 29, 2000.

**(16) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR FINAL APPROVAL:**

**a) Precinct No. 4**

**Ruiz Acres Subdivision - being a 17.713 acre tract of land, more or less, out of Block 92, Hooks and Hodges Subdivision.**

**b) Precinct No. 4**

**Velas Subdivision - being a resubdivision of a 2.26 acre tract of land out of Saldivar Subdivision.**

**(17) CONSIDERATION AUTHORIZATION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL:**

**a) Precinct No. 4**

**Esmeralda Subdivision - being the South 2.5 acres out of the North 5 acres of the East 10 acres of lot 187, Adams Gardens Subdivision AC@.**

**(18) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD THE FOLLOWING BIDS:**

**b) Linen: mattresses and pads, blankets, towels - Annual Bid #2360.**

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**At this time, Mr. Dagoberto Barrera, Brownsville resident, expressed his support with the County's Election process.**

**Ms. JuaNita Brodecky, Rio Hondo resident, commented that reports of Conferences attended by County employees should be presented to Commissioners' Court.**

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**(19) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Court met in Executive Session at 11:00 A. M. to discuss the following matter:

**a) Deliberation regarding Real Property concerning the Master Plan prepared by the JWH and Associates for the International Bridge System, pursuant to (V.T.C.A.) Government Code, Section 551.072;**

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Court reconvened in Regular Session at 11:23. A. M.

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**(20) ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**a) Deliberation regarding Real Property concerning the Master Plan prepared by the JWH and Associates for the International Bridge site.**

At this time, Judge Hinojosa noted that the Master Plan for the International Bridge System was not discussed, that the discussion regarding the International Bridge site.

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Status Report regarding the International Bridge site was acknowledged regarding the possible property acquisition for an International Bridge site.

There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Valencia, the Court adjourned.  
**ADJOURNED at 11:25 A. M.**

**APPROVED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of **December, 2000.**

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**GILBERTO HINOJOSA  
COUNTY JUDGE**

**ATTEST:**

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