

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 12th day of DECEMBER, 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

Adrian Daza Deputy Clerk
COUNTY CLERK

ABSENT:

The meeting was called to order by Judge Gilberto Hinojosa at 10:24 A.M. 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 December 8, 2000, at 9:37 A.M.:

(4) **ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING RIO HONDO HIGH SCHOOL FOR HAVING THE HIGHEST AROCK THE VOTE® TURNOUT IN CAMERON COUNTY FOR THE NOVEMBER 2000 GENERAL ELECTION**

At this time, Judge Hinojosa noted that twenty-nine percent (29%) of the Senior Class of Rio Hondo High School participated in the ARock the Vote® and that their High School Banner would be placed in the Central Jury Room Entrance, in their honor.

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Resolution recognizing Rio Hondo High School for having the highest ARock the Vote® turnout in Cameron County for the November 2000 General Election, be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.

Mr. Robert Mendoza, Election Administrator, noted that a reception would be held on Friday December 15, 2000 at 9:00 A.M.

At this time, Ms. Ina Tamez, Principal of Rio Hondo High School, expressed her gratitude and acknowledged the Government Teacher for the accomplishment.

The Resolution is as follows:

(15) **AUTHORIZATIONS TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE OLMITO WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION NEAR FM/803 AND STATE HIGHWAY 100 (TCDP CONTRACT NO. 719095)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the bids for construction of certain Sanitary Sewer Improvements for the Olmito Water Supply Corporation near FM/803 and State Highway 100, Texas Community Development Program Contract No. 719095, was approved.

(1) **APPROVAL OF COUNTY CLAIMS**

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, noted a correction to the claims listed, that being Warrant No. 47644 as to the Internal Revenue, to be substituted with Warrant No. 47647 for County Services, noting that the vendor was incorrectly coded.

Commissioner Cascos questioned Warrant No. 47393, in the amount of \$719.88, to Bicycle World of the Valley, on the Stealth Bike and whether it was for one or more bicycle purchases.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, the County Claims were approved, as presented by the County Auditor, with the exception of Warrant No. 47393, in the amount of \$719.88.

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

(3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2000 -REGULAR AND DECEMBER 5, 2000 (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held November 21, 2000, at 9:30 A.M., were approved and the Minutes for December 5, 2000, were **TABLED**.

(5) **IN THE MATTER OF CAMERON COUNTY'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE WEST RAIL RELOCATION PROJECT (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, this item was **TABLED**.

(6) **POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
COMPENSATION AND CLASSIFICATION STUDY
FOR CAMERON COUNTY**

At this time, Judge Hinojosa suggested that the Personal Director, County Auditor, Budget Officer, and the Executive Assistant, develop a Preliminary Plan for the Compensation and Classification Study by February 2001.

Commissioner Cascos moved that authorization for staff to begin the compensation and classification study for Cameron County, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously.

Judge Hinojosa requested that all Department Heads cooperate with the process of the Study, and that eventually the Compensation and Classification Plan would become part of County Policy.

(7) **APPOINTMENT OF MR. ALEX TREJO, TO THE
CAMERON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the appointment of Mr. Alex Trejo, Harlingen Resident, to the Cameron County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, was approved.

(8) **AUTHORIZATION TO CLOSE GATEWAY
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE TO SOUTHBOUND
TRAFFIC ON DECEMBER 11, 2000, BETWEEN 7:00
P.M. AND 9:00 P.M. FOR THE CHRISTMAS
PARADE**

Commissioner Benavides moved that the closing of the Gateway International Bridge to Southbound Traffic on December 11, 2000 between 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. for the Christmas Parade, be ratified.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously.

(9) PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS FOR THE 2000 LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Hearing on the use of funds for the 2000 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, was opened for public comments.

At this time, Ms. Hilda Lund, Planner Administrator, explained the steps and proposal of funds for the 2000 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant.

Commissioner Cascos questioned if the Secretary for Precinct No. 2 and the Licenced Chemical Dependency Counselor were going to be on contract or become employees of the County after the one year funding.

Judge Hinojosa suggested that the money for the Precinct No. 2 Secretary be used to buy more Defibrillators that were in demand.

Commissioner Cascos questioned the funds that were to be used in the Anti-Auto Theft Operations.

Mr. John A. Cruzvillarreal, Chief of Investigations and Enforcement/Auto Theft Division , stated the equipment list and the purpose for the items that would be vital to the operation, adding that their efforts had resulted in seventeen million dollars being recovered.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the Public Hearing on the use of funds for the 2000 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, was closed.

(11) ACTION REGARDING THE 2000 LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT FROM THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the recommendation for the 2000 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, were approved as follows.

Local Law Enforcement Block Grant

**Funding Recommendations
Approved by the Commissioners Court**

Department	Amount Requested	Approved Amount	Use of Funds
County Judge	\$103,201	\$36,751	to purchase 12 heart defibrillators
Juvenile Probation	38,000	38,000	to contract for a licensed chemical dependency counselor
Parks System	7,010	7,010	to go towards the purchase of an all terrain vehicle
Precinct 2 Constable	19,000	-0-	None

Precinct 4 Constable	15,500	7,000	to purchase a lap top computer & projector
Precinct 6 Constable	8,615	4,615	to purchase a computer and 7 flashlights
PD & M Department	3,500	2, 000	to cover LLEBG workshop travel costs
Auto Theft	24,401	7,825	to purchase 4 bullet Division proof vests, 2 shot-guns, 1 lap top computer, and 1 digital video camera
TOTAL	\$219,227	\$103,201	



(10) **AUTHORIZATION TO INCLUDE SPEED HUMP LOCATION STUDIES IN THE TRAFFIC STUDIES CONTRACT WITH TEDSI, INC.**

At this time, Mr. Juan Bernal, County Engineering, stated that authorization was needed in order to obtain the criteria on the Speed Humps, and recommended that Cameron Park be the first area to be studied.

Judge Hinojosa noted that the criteria needed to fit the location studied, with modifications, according to the environment.

Mr. Doug Wright, Commissioners= Court Legal Counsel, noted that Mr. John Hudson, President of JW H & Associates, had a study available and the County Engineer responded that he had reviewed the pamphlet, but that the information was not complete.

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Location Studies in the Traffic Studies Contract with TEDSI, Inc., be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.



(12) **AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST DREDGED FILL MATERIAL FROM TEMPORARY DREDGED MATERIAL AREA LOCATED AT THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG) STATION - SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS**

Commissioner Matz moved that the request for Dredged Fill Material from temporary Dredged Material Area, located at the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Station - South Padre Island, Texas, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.



(13) **AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW NBGS-S CONTRACTOR TO PLACE QUALIFIED DREDGED FILLED MATERIAL, AS NEEDED, AT NBGS-S CONCESSION SITE**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the placement of Dredged Filled Material by NBG-S contractor, as needed, for the NBGS-S Concession Site, was approved.

(14) **APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CONTRACT NO. 718118, PURSUANT TO THE LAGUNA MADRE AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE**

Commissioner Matz moved that the Amendment No. 1 to the Texas Community Development Program Contract No. 718118, pursuant to the Laguna Madre Affordable Housing Initiative, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously.

The Amendment is as follows:

(16) **AUTHORIZATION TO CONTINUE ONE YEAR
SUBSCRIPTION TO OMNISTAR DGPS NORTH
AMERICAN DATA FOR GPS RECEIVER S/N 395952**

Commissioner Cascos moved that the one year subscription to Omnistar DGPS North American Data for GPS Receiver S/N 395952, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously

(17) **AUTHORIZATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF
EXAM TAKEN BY CAMERON COUNTY
DETENTION OFFICERS**

At this time, Mr. Omar Lucio, Cameron County Sheriff, stated that the exam was usually taken in Austin, but the officers had the opportunity to take the exam in town.

Commissioner Cascos questioned whether it was the policy to reimburse the costs of exams; and the County Auditor noted that all Jailer employees were required to take the exam, in order to be certified.

Upon motion by Commissioner Valencia, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, the reimbursement of exam taken by Cameron County Detention Officers, was approved.

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:**

Upon motion by Judge Hinojosa, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the AConsent® Agenda Items were approved as follow:

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

- a) Emergency Management Coordinator to attend the ANational Hurricane Conference® in Washington, D.C., on April 8-13, 2001;
- b) County Extension Agent to attend the ADistrict 12 4-H Food Show® in Falfurrias, Texas, on December 9, 2000;
- c) County Extension Agent to attend the AProposal Development Workshop® in San Antonio, Texas, on December 18-19, 2000; and
- d) Law Library Employee to attend the ATiftech Workshop® in Corpus Christi, Texas, on January 8, 2001.

(19) PRELIMINARY APPROVAL:

- a) **Precinct No. 1-** Herradura Subdivision - being 2.002 acres out of Block No. 103, El Jardin Subdivision, Share 32, Espiritu Santo Grant

(20) PRELIMINARY AND FINAL APPROVAL:

- a) **Precinct No. 4 -** Rene Estrada Suidivision - A 24.110 Acre Tract of land, more or less, out of Block No. 14, lying West of the Canal, Collins Subdivision.

(21) AWARD THE FOLLOWING BIDS:

- (1) Pick-Up Trucks (2) - Engineering Department
- (2) Motorgrader - Public Works; and
- (3) Building: Air Conditioner Filters - Annual Bid No. 2001.

(22) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the Court met in Executive Session at 11:20 A.M. to discuss the following matters:

- a) Confer with County Counsel for settlement with the Department of Labor, concerning Infirmary Nurses; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071(1)(B);
- b) Confer with County Counsel concerning the case styled Cameron County, Texas vs. International Bank of Commerce, Brownsville, Cause No. 99-07-2912-A, in the 107th Judicial District Court of Cameron County, to discuss and acceptance of release and settlement agreement; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071(1)(A);
- c) Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning County Concession to UETA of Texas known as: 0.7315 Acre Tract of and, more or less, being the remainder of Lots Nos 3,4,5,6,7,8, and 9, Block No. 61, including that portion of 20 Feet. Alley, City of Brownsville Original Townsite, recorded in Volume 5, Page 13, Map Records of Cameron County, Texas; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.072; and
- d) Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning the possible sale of Cameron County Trustee Property known: Abst. 2-Unsubdivided Share 6 Tract 4; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.0072.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Court reconvened in Regular Session at 11:50 A.M.

(23) ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) **Confer with County Council for Settlement with Department of Labor concerning Infirmiry Nurses;**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the authorization of settlement with Department of Labor concerning Infirmiry Nurses, was approved as recommended by County Counsel.

- b) **Confer with County Council on the case styled Cameron County, Texas vs. International Bank of Commerce, Brownsville, Cause No. 99-07-2912-A, in the 107th Judicial District Court of Cameron County, to discuss acceptance of release and settlement agreement;**

At this time, it was noted that Judge Hinojosa was not present during the discussion of the Item during Executive Session.

Commissioner Matz moved that the Status Report by the County Counsel be acknowledged and that the settlement on case styled Cameron County, Texas, vs. International Bank of Commerce, Brownsville, Cause No. 99-07-2912-A, in the 107th Judicial District Court of Cameron County, be accepted.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

- c) **Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning County Concession to UETA of Texas known as: 0.7315 Acre Tract of and, more or less, being the remainder of Lots Nos. 3,4,5,6,7,8, and 9, Block No. 61, including that portion of 20 Feet. Alley, City of Brownsville Original Townsite, recorded in Volume 5, Page 13, Map Records of Cameron County, Texas; and**

Upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the plans of the Real Property 0.7315 Acre Tract of and, more or less, being the remainder of Lots Nos. 3, 4, 5,6,7,8, and 9, Block No. 61, including that portion of 20 Feet. Alley, City of Brownsville Original Townsite, recorded in Volume 5, Page 13, Map Records of Cameron County, Texas were approved, subject to the certification by the architect as to the ADA requirement.

- d) **Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning the possible sale of Cameron County Trustee Property known: Abstract. 2-Unsubdivided Share 6 Tract 4;**

Commissioner Matz moved that the Property Management Coordinator be authorized to negotiate the Real Property Abstract No. 2-Unsubdivided Share 6 Tract 4.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously.



There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Valencia and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at **11:53 A.M.**

APPROVED this **19th** day of **December, 2000**.

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

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