

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 18th day of July 2005, there was conducted a SPECIAL 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:

PRESENT:

2:00 P.M.

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

PEDRO "PETE" BENAVIDES
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 1

JOHN WOOD
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 2

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3

EDNA TAMAYO
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4

JOE G. RIVERA
COUNTY CLERK

Mary Robles Deputy Clerk

ABSENT:

DAVID A. GARZA

The meeting was called to order by Judge Hinojosa at 2:09 P.M. He then led the Court and 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 July 15, 2005, at 1:55 P.M.:

ACTION ITEMS

(1) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING POSSIBLE EMERGENCY PREPARATIONS AND EXPENDITURES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPROACHING TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE EMILY. (COMM. COURT)

Judge Hinojosa reported that the weather advisory issued at 1:00 P.M. projects Emily to make landfall 60-70 miles south of Brownsville with 70 mph winds and much rainfall for a 72 hour period, thus flooding was expected in Cameron County. He added that the storm was expected to make landfall early tomorrow afternoon, and noted the need to be prepared for the worst while hoping for the best. Judge Hinojosa reported that a press release was issued to advise the public of the dangerous storm that may make landfall as a category three hurricane and that a slight shift in path could result in the hurricane striking the county.

Judge Hinojosa stated that they were recommending that people go north and stay safe although a mandatory evacuation has not been issued, noting that people must be prepared to evacuate certain areas in the event it is necessary. He stated that evacuations to San Antonio were not prudent due to the small window of time; therefore, Cameron County was working with Hidalgo County to open shelters for the public to relocate there, adding that shelters would also be opened throughout Cameron County and that location would be announced later.

Judge Hinojosa reported that a meeting was scheduled at 5:00 P.M. today with the Emergency Management Teams of Port Isabel, South Padre Island, Laguna Vista, Los Fresnos and State to discuss available options for evacuation.

Judge Hinojosa informed that nearly 40,000 sandbags have been provided and that distributions would continue, adding that many sandbags have been delivered to small communities through the following distribution points: South Padre Island, Port Isabel, Laguna Vista, Rio Hondo, Santa Rosa, all communities along military highway, Combes, Primera and Arroyo City. He stated that the last he heard San Benito was not providing sandbags, but he did not know the status of so.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the county continues to work with TXDOT to ensure that roads remain clear in the event that than an emergency evacuation takes place and that the normal evacuation period was about 25 hours.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the county was assisting nursing homes and people with disabilities or terminally ill to evacuate to different locations. He added that population at the Juvenile Detention Facility was reduced and remaining children were relocated to Duval County.

Judge Hinojosa stated that the county continues to work closely with school districts in setting up shelters, has been in contact with the State, and has gathered all the necessary information needed in case of direct impact.

Commissioner Benavides requested that records be kept of distribution of sandbags, and stated that long lines were being seen at distribution sites.

Judge Hinojosa commented the problem to be that most governmental entities were providing sandbags for residents to fill versus the county providing filled sandbags; therefore, the surge of people at county precinct, where no one was being turned away.

Judge Hinojosa reported that he instructed that the EOC be set up, and that a meeting would be held tonight at 7:00 P.M. with the Emergency Management Teams. He informed that all county annexes would be closed July 19, 2005, that the Workshop on Civil Service had been cancelled, and that the Regular Meeting would be held at 9:30 A.M., July 19, 2005. Judge Hinojosa asked if action was needed from the court by the County Auditor to authorize any type of purchases.

Mr. Yates responded that the court's declaration of readiness was sufficient.

The Report is as follows:

There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Tamayo and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 2:32 P.M.

APPROVED this 8th day of **November 2005**.

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

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