THE STATE OF TEXAS \* COMMISSIONERS’ COURT

COUNTY OF KENEDY \* OF KENEDY COUNTY, TEXAS

On the 6th day of April, 2021, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., a special meeting of the Commissioners’ Court of Kenedy County, Texas, was held in the Kenedy County Courthouse.

**Commissioners present:**

Louis E. Turcotte, III County Judge

Joe Recio, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1

Israel Vela, Jr., Commissioner, Precinct No. 2

Sarita Armstrong-Hixon, Commissioner, Precinct No. 3

Gumecinda "Cindy" Gonzales, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

**Also present:**

Veronica Vela, County & District Clerk

Leo Villarreal, Administrative Assistant

Jose E. Mendietta, Fire Chief

Chuck Burns

Verl Cash

Heath Grigg

**Absent**:

Petra Hernandez, Administrative Secretary

Daniel Almeida

JP Patti Fain

Gilbert San Miguel, Sheriff’s Dept.

Allison Strauss, County Attorney

Thomas Denney, Chief Appraiser

JP Cecilia Schulz

Andy Garza, Kenedy County GCD

Eddie Cruz, Sheriff’s Dept.

Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer

Ramon Salinas, III, County Sheriff

Lonnie Brown

Ruben Hernandez, Maintenance Supervisor

Irma Longoria, County Tax Assessor/Collector

Jennifer Cuellar, County Treasurer’s Office

**CALL TO ORDER**

Judge Louis E. Turcotte, III called the meeting to order.

1. **Discuss & Act on Kenedy County Burn Ban**.

Judge Louis E. Turcotte, III called on Fire Chief Jose E. Mendietta to brief the Commissioners’ Court on the Burn Ban status regarding the King Ranch burn ban request.

Jose E. Mendietta provided the Commissioners’ Court with the colored map designating the area and acres that King Ranch was interested in burning; that there were some brush and grass pile ready to be burned and that there were about 1500 more acres that were under consideration to be cleared and burned; that the contractors and King Ranch had plenty of equipment on site to handle the burning contemplated, particularly since there was no grass in the immediate area where the burn was contemplated.

Verl Cash and Heath Grigg, King Ranch representatives, informed the Commissioners’ Court that King Ranch had a $500,000 contract to clear about 3000 acres which almost 1500 acres were cleared, piled and ready to burn; that the clearing should be completed sometime in May 2021; that it was imperative that the contract and the clearing and burning continue. They did not want the grass to grow and cause the wild fires like those that occurred in California for failure to address the issue when the grass was low and manageable.

Verl Cash and Heath Grigg prefer that the Burn Ban be reinstated with the ability for King Ranch to continue their clearing and burning project and for controlled burns to be allowed when needed; that the Fire Chief was correct that there was plenty of equipment on site to handle fire issues.

Jose E. Mendietta, Fire Chief, recommended that the regular Burn Ban be reinstated.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the regular and standard Burn Ban be continued throughout Kenedy County effective today, April 6, 2021, until 90 days hereafter.

1. **Adjournment**.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners’ Court, Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Kenedy County Commissioners’ Court be adjourned at 9:30 o'clock a.m.

/s/ Louis E. Turcotte, III

Louis E. Turcotte, III County Judge

/s/ Veronica Vela

Veronica Vela, County Clerk