THE STATE OF TEXAS \* COMMISSIONERS COURT

COUNTY OF KENEDY \* OF KENEDY COUNTY, TEXAS

On the 16th day of August, 2021, at 1:30 o'clock p.m., a special meeting of the Commissioners Court of Kenedy County, Texas, was held in the Kenedy County Courthouse.

**Commissioners present:**

Charles E. Burns, 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, by phone

Leo Villarreal, Administrative Assistant

Allison Strauss, County Attorney, by phone

Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer

Irma Longoria, County Tax Assessor/Collector, by phone

JP Patti Fain

JP Cecilia Schulz

JP Jerry Miller

Jose E. Mendietta, Fire Chief

Ruben Hernandez, Maintenance Supervisor

Ramon Salinas, County Sheriff

Sandra Guzman, Sheriff’s Dept., by phone

Gilbert San Miguel, Chief Deputy Sheriff, by phone

Brian Birdwell, Election Administrator, by phone

Daniel Almeida

Jennifer Cuellar, by phone

**Absent**:

Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer

Ramon Salinas, III, County Sheriff

**1.** **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Judge Charles E. Burns led the Commissioners’ Court in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2.** **Receive Public Comments**.

Andy Garza thanked Judge Charles E. Burns for serving seventeen (17) years on the Kenedy County Groundwater Conservation District Board; and that a weather-related matter was that the story Joey was going south.

**3.** **Conduct a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2022 Budget**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court, at 1:35 p.m. that the Public Hearing on the proposed 2022 Budget was now in session; that the Public Notice regarding the proposed Budget had been published in the Kingsville Record on August 12, 2021. No member of the public came forward to address the proposed 2022 Budget.

Commissioner Gumecinda “Cindy” Gonzales moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2022 Budget be closed at 1:55 p.m.

**4.** **Discuss & Act on Adopting the 2022 Budget**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to adopt the 2022 Budget. Veronica Vela inquired from the Commissioners Court whether the insurance supplement for dependents was for medical and dental coverage. The answer given was for medical coverage only. This issue had nothing to do with the budget. Veronica Vela also inquired from the Commissioners Court why the insurance supplement was taken out of the County & District Clerks 2022 budget. The response from the Commissioners Court was that the insurance supplement was not being used, therefore it was taken out of the 2022 budget, but if in the future there was a need for the insurance supplement the budget would be amended.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Gumecinda “Cindy” Gonzales seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the 2022 Budget be adopted as $5,106,596.00 and to include the insurance supplement for dependents.

**5.** **Conduct a Public Hearing on the Tax Rate for 2021**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court, at 2:00 p.m., that the Public Hearing on the proposed 2021 Tax Rate was now in session and that the Public Notice regarding the proposed tax rate was published August 12, 2021 in the Kingsville Record. No member of the public came forward to address the proposed 2021 Tax Rate

Commissioner Gumecinda “Cindy” Gonzales moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2022 Budget be closed at 2:15 p.m.

**6.** **Discuss & Act on Adopting the 2021 Tax Rate**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to adopt the 2021 Tax Rate.

Commissioner Gumecinda “Cindy” Gonzales moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the 2021 Rate be adopted as $0.67 per $100 valuation.

**7.** **Discuss & Act on Budget Amendment/Line Item Transfer for Sheriff’s Office**.

Ramon Salinas, Sheriff, informed the Commissioners Court of the need to amend budget line items for the Sheriff’s Office as follows:

Transfer $1000 from 010-470-955 to 340 Telephone

Transfer $800 from 010-470-955 to 341 Cell Telephones

Transfer $5000 from 010-470-955 to 620 Veh Maint/Operation

Transfer $5000 from 010-470-655 Pris Exp to 654 Prisoner Medical

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Sheriff’s Department Budget be amended as follows:

Transfer $1000 from 010-470-955 to 340 Telephone

Transfer $800 from 010-470-955 to 341 Cell Telephones

Transfer $5000 from 010-470-955 to 620 Veh Maint/Operation

Transfer $5000 from 010-470-655 Pris Exp to 654 Prisoner Medical

**8.** **Discuss & Act on Appoint of Justin Cantu as a Commissioner of the Kenedy County Fire & Emergency Services District No. 1**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that Justin Cantu had declined to serve as a Commissioner of the Kenedy County Fire & Emergency Services District No. 1; therefore, this item needed to be tabled.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that this item be tabled.

**9.** **Discuss & Act on the 2022 Sheriffs’ and Constables’ Fees**.

Ramon Salinas, Sheriff, presented the Commissioners Court with the proposed 2022 Sheriffs’ and Constables’ fees.

Commissioner Gumecinda “Cindy” Gonzales moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the proposed 2022 Sheriff’s Fees be accepted with no changes and that Constable fees not be considered for there are no Constables.

**10.** **Receive Report Regarding the Construction Status of the Justice of the Peace Building & Act If Necessary**.

Randy Maltby with Maltby Builders, Inc. informed the Commissioners Court regarding the construction status of the Justice of the Peace Building; that the construction site would have be raised several inches regarding flooding and that each inch the surface was raised would cost $1100.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that this item be tabled until the specific number of inches to raise the foundation were determined.

**11.** **Discuss & Act on An Order to Approve Online Education for County Commissioners**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need for the County to approve an Order Authorizing Online Education for Kenedy County Elected Officials in order to fulfill their continuing education requirements.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed and IT IS ORDERED that the Kenedy County Elected Officials take Online Education classes in order to fulfill their continuing education requirements and the Order be signed.

**12.** **Review & Act on the County’s Policies & Procedures for Covid-19 and the Delta Variant.**

Judge Charles E. Burns presented the Commissioners Court with the proposed County’s policies and procedures regarding Covid-19. The proposed policy was discussed. Additional consideration needed to be addressed at the next Commissioners Court meeting.

This being a workshop only, no vote was needed and none was taken.

**13.** **Discuss & Act on TAC HEBP County Choice Plus Retiree Program Renewal**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to renew and TAC HEBP County Choice Plus Retiree Program.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the dental coverage of the TAC HEBP County Choice Plus Retiree Program Plan is approved.

**14.** **Discuss & Act on Creating an Interlocal Agreement to Allow the Kenedy County Central Appraisal District to Participate in Kenedy County’s Health and Dental Insurance at the Appraisal District’s cost**.

Judge Charles E. Burns and Leo Villarreal informed the Commissioners Court that Blue Cross Blue Shield had allowed the Kenedy County Central Appraisal District to participate and enroll its employees in Kenedy County’s Health and Dental Insurance at the Appraisal District’s cost; therefore, an Interlocal Agreement was needed.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Interlocal Agreement to Allow the Kenedy County Central Appraisal District to Participate in Kenedy County’s Health and Dental Insurance at the Appraisal District’s cost.

**15.** **Discuss & Act on Payment of Bills**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners’ Court of the need to pay the bills presented.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the bills be paid as presented.

**16.** **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners’ Court, Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Kenedy County Commissioners Court be adjourned at 2:25 o'clock p.m.

/s/ Charles E. Burns

Charles E. Burns, County Judge

/s/ Veronica Vela

Veronica Vela, County Clerk