

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 6TH day of FEBRUARY, 1996, 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:

1:30 P. M.

PRESENT:

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

LUCINO ROSENBAUM, JR.
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1

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

JAMES R. MATZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3

HECTOR PEÑA
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4

Hilda V. Treviño Deputy
COUNTY CLERK

ABSENT:



The meeting was called to order by Judge Gilberto Hinojosa. 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 to the Flag.

The Court considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on February 2, 1996, at 11:14 A.M.:

(1) APPROVAL OF COUNTY CLAIMS

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, presented a late claim as to the Texas Recreation and Parks System (TRAPS), Warrant No. 6444, in the amount of \$647.50, for approval. He noted that there were some Purchases Without Purchase Orders, and added that the Department Heads and the Vendors would be notified that future claims would not be paid without Purchase Orders.

Commissioner Matz expressed concerns regarding Warrant No. 6319 and Warrant No. 6353 and the County Auditor noted that he would research the matter and provide said information.

Commissioner Cascos moved that the County Claims be approved as presented by the County Auditor, inclusive of the late claim as to Warrant No. 6444, in the amount of \$647.50, subject to the clarifications to be provided by the County Auditor.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum and carried unanimously.



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

The County Auditor reported that there were no Budget Amendments and/or Salary Schedules for approval.



**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 23,
1996 AND JANUARY 30, 1996**

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on January 23, 1996, at 1:30 P.M., and the Regular Meeting held January 30, 1996, at 1:30 P.M., were approved, subject to the clarification by the Deputy County Clerk as to the Warrants No. 5600 and No. 5371, as identified on Item No. 1 in the Minutes of January 23, 1996.

(4) REPORT FROM THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO THE CAMERON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

At this time, Mr. Gilbert Treviño, Texas Department of Transportation, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Cameron County Sheriff's Department and noted that the first year of the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) had reflected the commitment for a safer County.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum and carried unanimously, the Report from the Texas Department of Transportation and the Receipt of Certificate of Appreciation to the Cameron County Sheriff's Department was acknowledged.

(5) ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$10,880,000.00 CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS INTERNATIONAL TOLL BRIDGE SYSTEM COMBINATION TAX AND REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 1996A, AND MAKING PROVISIONS FOR THE SECURITY THEREOF; APPROVING THE PURCHASE CONTRACT, THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT, AND THE ESCROW AGREEMENT; AND APPROVING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

(6) ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,555,000.00 FROM CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS INTERNATIONAL TOLL BRIDGE SYSTEM COMBINATION TAX AND REVENUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION, SERIES 1996B, AND MAKING PROVISIONS FOR THE SECURITY THEREOF; APPROVING THE PURCHASE CONTRACT AND THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT; AND APPROVING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

At this time, Mr. Robert A. Estrada, Financial Consultant, highlighted the Analysis for Cameron County on the \$10,880,000.00 International Toll Bridge System Combination Tax and Revenue Refunding Bonds, and the \$3,555,000.00 International Toll Bridge System Certificates of Obligation. He noted that the County had maintained an "A" Bond Rating and increased it to a "AAA" Rating by purchasing the Bond Insurance, and recommended the approval of the Purchase Contract.

Upon motion by Commissioner Rosenbaum, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the Order for the Issuance of \$10,880,000.00 Cameron County, Texas, International Toll Bridge System Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligations, Series 1996A, and the Issuance of \$3,555,000.00 Cameron County, Texas, International Toll Bridge System Combination Tax and Revenue refunding Bonds, Series 1996B were authorized, and the provisions for the Security thereof; the Purchase Contract, the Official Statement, and the Escrow Agreement, and the other matters relating thereto, were approved.

The Order and Contracts are as follows:

(7) **APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND APPOINTMENT BY THE CAMERON COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE TASK FORCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MULTI-USE CONVENTION AND EVENT CENTER IN BROWNSVILLE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT**

At this time, Judge Hinojosa, stated that the City of Brownsville and Texas Southmost College were proposing to build a Multi-use Convention and Event Center on the area of the levee relocation and added that the two (2) entities would share the funding costs. He noted that the involvement of the County was "non-committal" but that the County was included to share in the exploration of the Project.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, and seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum and carried unanimously, the Memorandum of Understanding for the Development and Construction of a new Multi-use Convention and Event Center in Brownsville, for the public benefit, was approved, and the County Judge and/or Staff were appointed to serve on said Task Force.

The Memorandum is as follows:

(8) IN THE MATTER TO PROVIDE EXTRA HELP FOR CONSTABLE PRECINCT NO. 1 FOR THE SPRING BREAK PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 23, 1996 THROUGH MAY 2, 1996 (TABLED)

At this time, Mr. Mike M. Barberena, Constable Precinct No. 1, stated that the Deputies were called to assist South Padre Island during the Spring Break period, leaving the Department shorthanded and added that the employment of additional Deputies would cost the County the amount of \$5,385.00. He stated that the additional part-time Deputies would allow his full-time Deputy to handle the highway traffic, which would result in increased revenues to compensate for the additional cost to the County.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa reported that five (5) different Law Enforcement Agencies would patrol South Padre Island during Spring Break, that being the South Padre Island Police Department, the Cameron County Park Rangers, the Department of Public Safety, the Sheriff's Department, and the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission, and expressed concern with the employment of additional Deputies.

Constable Barberena stated that the other Agencies patrolled the highways, as opposed to providing Law Enforcement to the rural areas.

There was some discussion concerning the matter of Deputies being transferred from other Precincts to assist and the suggestion was made to table the matter, and to discuss it with the County Constables Association.

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



(9) APPROVAL TO HIRE A ROAD AND BRIDGE TECHNICIAN

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, approval was given to hire a Road and Bridge Technician for Precinct No. 4.



(10) APPROVAL FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR CAMERON COUNTY TO DEPUTIZE THE LEGAL DIVISION OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN ORDER FOR THE LEGAL DIVISION TO PROSECUTE ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSE REVOCATION (ALR) IN THE COUNTY COURTS AT LAW

Upon motion by Commissioner Rosenbaum, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the District Attorney for Cameron County was authorized to deputize the Legal Division of the Texas Department of Public Safety, in order for the Legal Division to prosecute Administrative License Revocation (ALR) in the County Courts at Law.

(11) DISCUSSION ON REFUNDING PARKS SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS

At this time, Mr. Robert A. Estrada, Financial Consultant, reported that an analysis on the outstanding Parks System Revenue Bonds had been completed and noted that refunding would save the amount of \$52,800.00 which translated to a 4.16 percent of the refunded bonds. He noted that an interest rate decrease by the Federal Reserve was anticipated which would help the Bond Market and would lower interest rates. He added that the interest rate was currently 5.66 percent as opposed to a 8.375 percent on the outstanding Bonds and that the lower interest rate would save the County about \$100,000.00 after all Fees were paid.

The County Auditor suggested that the \$500,000.00 note from the Parks System to the General Fund be refinanced with the lower interest rate.

Upon motion by Commissioner Rosenbaum, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the discussion on Refunding Park Systems Revenue Bond was acknowledged.

(12) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT RANCHO ESCONDIDO AND RANCHO PERDIDO DRIVE AS COUNTY DEDICATED ROADS, WITHIN PRECINCT NO. 2, LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF CARMEN AVENUE, ADJACENT TO THE SOUTH CITY LIMITS LINE OF RANCHO VIEJO

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum and carried unanimously, authorization was given to accept Rancho Escondido and Rancho Perdido Drive as County Dedicated Roads, within Precinct No. 2, located on the East Side of Carmen Avenue, adjacent to the South City Limits Line of Rancho Viejo.



**(13) ACTION ON APPLICATION FOR REGULAR
LICENSE PLATES TO BE USED ON EXEMPT
VEHICLES OPERATED BY THE
CAMERON/WILLACY COUNTIES COMMUNITY
SUPERVISION AND CORRECTIONS
DEPARTMENT**

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Application for regular license plates, to be used on exempt vehicles operated by the Cameron/Willacy Counties Community Supervision and Corrections Department, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum and carried unanimously.

The Resolution is as follows:

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

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

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum and carried

unanimously, the "Consent" Agenda Items were approved as follow:

(15) TRAVEL AND/OR APPROVAL OF TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR THE FOLLOWING, SUBJECT TO FUNDS IN THEIR BUDGET:

- a) Health Department Nutritionist, Competent Professional Authority, and three (3) Community Service Aides, to attend "Binational Conference" on February 8, 1996, in South Padre Island, Texas;
- b) Assistant County Auditor to attend a "Meeting to Review the New Policy Revision" on February 15, 1996, in McAllen, Texas;
- c) Computer Center Director to attend the "Three (3) Day Government Technology Conference" on February 14-16, 1996, in Austin, Texas;
- d) Cameron County Financial Disruption Task Force Secretary to attend the "National Crime Information Center/Texas Crime Information Center (NCIC/TCIC)" on February 12-16, 1996, in Corpus Christi, Texas;
- e) Task Force Commander to attend the "Texas Narcotics Control Program (TNCP) Regional Commanders Meeting" on February 5, 1996, in Corpus Christi, Texas;
- f) Financial Disruption Task Force Investigator to attend the "Texas District and County Attorneys' Association 19th Annual Investigators School" on February 26, 1996, through March 1, 1996, in Austin, Texas; and
- g) Health Department Director to attend the "Conference on Mobilizing for Health, the ABC'S of Community Assessment" on April 8-10, 1996, in Austin, Texas.

(16) AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD BID FOR ONE (1) 6 C.Y. DUMP TRUCK AND REJECT AND RE-ADVERTISE FOR BIDS ON ONE (1) 12 C.Y. DUMP TRUCK

CARDENAS - Brownsville, Texas

Dump Truck 6 C.Y. without Trade - \$38,492.00

(19) ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Confer with Legal Counsel concerning the possible litigation involving Del Mar Heights.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, reported that after some discussion, it was the consensus of the Court as determined by polling, that the County Engineer should put up signs to prohibit construction at Del Mar Heights. Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, the County Engineer was directed to place signs to prohibit construction at Del Mar Heights, and to proceed along the terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session.

- b) Confer with Counsel on Condemnation Cases concerning Los Tomates Bridge, for Parcels No. 003, 004, and a field road adjoining the Parcels.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, reported that after some discussion, it was the consensus of the Court as determined by polling, that County Counsel should proceed with the Condemnation, along the terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session regarding said matter.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum and carried unanimously, County Counsel was directed to proceed with the Condemnation proceedings, regarding the Condemnation Cases concerning Los Tomates Bridge, for Parcels No. 003 and 004, and a field road adjoining the Parcels, along the terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session.

The Agreements are as follow:

- c) In the matter to Confer with County Counsel concerning Property Rights and Title Interest in Abstract No. 2, Cameron Park, Lot No. 2, Block No. 31, Cameron County, Texas. **(TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, this Item was **TABLED**.

- d) Confer with County Counsel for the Acquisition of Right-of-Way for Parcel No. 005, Los Tomates Bridge Project.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, reported that after some discussion, it was the consensus of the Court as determined by polling, that the County Engineer should be authorized to Purchase the Property and to proceed along the terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session regarding said matter:

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum and carried unanimously, the County Engineer was directed to acquire the Right-of-Way for Parcel No. 005, Los Tomates Bridge Project and to proceed along the terms and conditions as outlined in Executive Session regarding acquisition.

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There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Matz and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED**.

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APPROVED this 13th day of **February, 1996**.

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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