THE STATE OF TEXAS \* COMMISSIONERS COURT

COUNTY OF KENEDY \* OF KENEDY COUNTY, TEXAS

On the 3rd day of October, 2022, at 2:00 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

Leo Villarreal, Administrative Assistant

Allison Strauss, County Attorney

Grace Salinas, Administrative Secretary

Jose E. Mendietta, Fire Chief

Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer

Thomas Denney, Chief Appraiser

JP Patti Fain

JP Cecilia Schulz

JP Jana Norrell

Andy Garza, Kenedy Count GCD

Frank Escobedo, 4-H Students and Superintendent Kristen B. Tinsley

Leticia Hinojosa, Justice of the 13th Court of Appeals

Brian Birdwell, Elections Administrator

Stephanie Garza, Appointed Elections Administrator

**Absent**:

Irma Longoria, County Tax Assessor/Collector

JP Jerry Miller

Ramon Salinas, County Sheriff

Jennifer Cuellar

1. **Judge Burns Called the Meeting to Order**.

Judge Charles E. Burns called the meeting to order at 2:00 o’clock p.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**.

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

1. **Receive Public Comments**.

Justice Leticia Hinojosa, Judge with the 13th Court of Appeals introduced herself to the Commissioners Court as seeking re-election as Judge of the 13th Court of Appeals.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court and the public present that the rabies clinic will be held on October 18, 2022.

1. **Read Resolution Proclaiming October 2- 8, 2022 as National 4-H Week**.

Frank Escobedo, Superintendent Kristen B. Tinsley and members of the Kenedy County 4-H Club were present and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags. The children distributed water and cupcakes to the Commissioners Court and had their pictures taken with the Commissioners Court.

Judge Charles E. Burns presented and read to the Commissioners Court the Resolution Proclaiming October 2-8, 2022, as National 4-H Week, as follows:

**National 4-H Week Proclamation  
Celebrating Opportunity 4 All**

WHEREAS, The Kenedy County Commissioner’s Court is proud to honor the 4-H Youth Development Program of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for 115 years of providing experience-based education to youth throughout the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, This admirable program, which seeks to provide a learning experience for all youth,  
through their head, heart, hands, and health, helps young Texans to acquire knowledge, develop  
life skills, and form attitudes to enable them to become self-directed, productive, and contributing  
members of our society; and

WHEREAS, The program’s more than 550,000 urban, suburban, and rural youth participants,  
ranging in age from eight to nineteen, hail from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds and truly represent a cross-section of the state; and

WHEREAS, The program undoubtedly could not have achieved the success that it has today were it not for the service of its more than 22,000 volunteers, who have given generously of their time,  
talents, energies, and resources to the youth of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its proud history, the 4-H program has developed positive role models for countless Texans and through its innovative and inspiring programs, continues to build character and to instill the values that have made our state strong and great; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Kenedy County Commissioner’s Court, hereby designated October 2-8, 2022, as National 4-H Week in Texas and commend the 4-H Youth Development Program of the Texas A&M\AgriLife Extension Service and the many men and women who have made the program a success.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the above Resolution Proclaiming October 2-8, 2022, as National 4-H Week be adopted as read above and signed by Judge Charles E. Burns and the Commissioners.

**5.** **Discuss & Act on Appointing Justice of the Peace #1, Jana Norrell, the Authority to Sign Off on the Medically Certified Death Certificates for Bodies Recovered by Justice of the Peace #2, Jerry Miller, for 24 Hours, Regarding Bodies Recovered on 8/5/2022, 7/4/2022 and 7/5/2022.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to appoint Jana Norrell, Justice of the Peace #1 in order for her to have the authority to sign the medically certified death certificates for bodies recovered on August 5, July 4 and July 6, 2022 by Justice of the Peace #2, Jerry Miller.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Gumecinda “Cindy” Gonzales seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Jana Norrell, Justice of the Peace #1, pursuant to Order 2022-02 dated October 3, 2022, be authorized to sign the medically certified death certificates for bodies recovered on August 5, July 4 and July 6, 2022 by Justice of the Peace #2, Jerry Miller. Attached is a signed copy of the Order No. 2022-02.

**6.** **Discuss & Act on HAVA Election Security Grant Application to Aid in Paying for the Expense of New Election Equipment**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need for the Commissioners Court to consider signing the Resolution – 2020 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grant to aid in paying for the expense of the new election equipment.

Commissioner Gumecinda “Cindy” Gonzales moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Resolution – 2020 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grant be approved and signed by the Judge and the Commissioners.

**7.** **Discuss & Act on Contract with Quest Diagnostic Clinical Laboratories, Inc. for County Employee Drug Testing**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider approving the contract with Quest Diagnostic Clinical Laboratories, Inc. to conduct drug testing on county employees to be considered for employment.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Gumecinda “Cindy” Gonzales seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Judge Charles E. Burns is authorized to sign the contract with Quest Diagnostic Clinical Laboratories, Inc. to conduct drug testing on county employees to be considered for employment.

**8.** **EXECUTIVE SESSION: TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, § 551.074- To Evaluate the Applicant for the Maintenance Supervisor Position**.

Judge Charles E. Burns, at 2:26 o’clock p.m., announced that the Commissioners Court was in Executive Session to evaluate the applicants for the Maintenance Supervisor position.

**9.**  **Open Session: Discuss & Act on Items Addressed in Executive Session**.

Judge Charles E. Burns, at 3:02 o’clock p.m., announced that the Commissioners Court was in Open Session.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Israel Vasquez, Ferman Garza and Rene Ortega be requested to submit to a drug test.

**10.** **Adjournment**.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners Court, Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Gumecinda “Cindy” Gonzales seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Kenedy County Commissioners Court be adjourned at 3:06 o'clock p.m.

/s/ Charles E. Burns

Charles E. Burns, County Judge

/s/ Veronica Vela

Veronica Vela, Clerk of Commissioners Court