THE STATE OF TEXAS \* COMMISSIONERS COURT

COUNTY OF KENEDY \* OF KENEDY COUNTY, TEXAS

On the 8th day of January, 2024, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Kenedy County, Texas, was held in the Kenedy County Courthouse.

**Commissioners present:**

Charles E. Burns, County Judge

Joe Recio, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1

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

Sarita Armstrong-Hixon, Commissioner, Precinct No. 3

Jose Salazar, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

**Also present:**

Veronica Vela, County & District Clerk

Leo Villarreal, Administrative Assistant

Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer

Irma Longoria, County Tax Assessor/Collector

Grace Salinas, Administrative Secretary

Seferino Gutierrez, Maintenance Supervisor

Capt. Eddie Cruz, Sheriff’s Dept.

Tom Denney, Chief Appraiser

Andy Garza, Kenedy County GD

Jose E. Mendietta, Fire Chief

JP Patti Fain

JP Jana Norrell

JP Cecilia Schulz

Sandra Maltby, Maltby Builders, Inc.

Caleb Maltby, Maltby Builders, Inc.

Sandra Guzman, Sheriff’s Office

James Carr

Jose Lopez, Maintenance Dept.

Deputy Christian Gonzalez

Deputy Richard Platas

Deputy Gerardo Rosas

Deputy Eddie Hinojosa

Chris Russell, IT

Evan Huff, Vested Networks

Debby, Vested Networks

Billy Colston, Riviera Telephone

Ana Bazan, Community Action El Ninos

Kirsten Mendez, County Attorney Office

**Absent**:

JP Jerry Miller

Stephanie Garza, Elections Administrator

Allison Strauss, County Attorney

Sheriff Ramon Salinas

1. **Call Meeting to Order at 9:00 a.m.**

Judge Charles E. Burns called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

1. **Receive Public Comments.**

Judge Charles E. Burns called Jose Lopez to introduce himself as a new Maintenance Department employee. Jose Lopez introduced himself to the Commissioners Court and stated he was glad to be working with the County.

1. **Receive Report from Ana Bazan with Community Action Corporation of South Texas, ECI Project Ninos, to Inform the Community of their Services.**

Ana Bazan with Community Action Corporation of South Texas, ECI Project Ninos, addressed the Commissioners Court to inform the community of the services provided by Community Action Corporation of South Texas, ECI Project Ninos. She stated that they try to reach the community by going to doctors’ offices, schools and health fairs and that they serve 11 counties assisting children from birth to three years of age with developmental delays or disabilities, however, very few referrals are received from persons in Kenedy County. In order to receive services, the children must be of the required age, need a prescription from a doctor and must have developmental issues. Therapy is also provided and the cost is minimal – if the family is on Medicaid, there is no cost; however, if the family has insurance, the services are covered by the insurance and if there is no insurance, the cost is usually $20.

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

1. **Receive Evan Huff with Vested Network and Billy Colston with Riviera Telephone Company Regarding the Kenedy County Phone Services and Act If Necessary.**

Evan Huff with Vested Networks and Billy Colston with Riviera Telephone Company addressed the Commissioners Court regarding the Kenedy County phone services. Each of them informed the Commissioners Court of their phone services, but more information was needed to make an informed decision.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that this item be tabled.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Regular Minutes of December 8th, 2023, and the Special Meeting Minutes of December 19th, 2023, and December 22, 2023.**

Judge Charles E. Burns presented the Commissioners Court Minutes of the regular December 8, 2023, and special December 19, 2023 and December 22, 2023 meetings.

Commissioner Joe Recio moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the minutes of the Minutes of the regular December 8, 2023, and special December 19, 2023 and December 22, 2023, meetings be accepted as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on Treasurer’s Monthly Report and Transfers.**

Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Monthly Report and Transfers for the month ending December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Treasurer's Monthly Report and Transfers ending December 31, 2023, be accepted as presented.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that $3 million be transferred to Texas Class and $4 million be transferred to Kleberg Bank as certificates of deposit.

1. **Discuss & Act on Placing All Offices on Hourly and Salary Basis and Certify Same.**

 Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners’ Court that all County offices and employees who were budgeted needed to be placed on a salary basis. Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer, presented to the Commissioners’ Court the 2023 Salaries for the Kenedy County officers and employees and stated that she does not have to file the data with the State Comptroller.

After due consideration and discussion, Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that all County officers and employees who were budgeted be and are hereby placed on an hourly or salary basis as per the chart and that it be certified, with the exception to the correction the salary of Deputy 3 in the County & District Clerk department to reflect $48,680.1257 which is the same amount as Deputy 2 has been approved and adopted in the 2024 Budget.

1. **Discuss & Act on Approving the 2024 Kenedy County Budget Employees and Public Officers’ Salaries Within the Kenedy County Budget.**

 Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners’ Court that all County offices and employees needed to be placed on salaries within the Kenedy County budget. Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer, presented to the Commissioners’ Court the 2024 Budget Salaries for the Kenedy County officers and employees.

After due consideration and discussion, Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that all County officers and employees be and are hereby placed on a salary basis within the 2024 Kenedy County budget.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Sheriff’s Monthly Report.**

Capt. Ed Cruz presented the Sheriff’s monthly report and the Chapter 59 report to the Commissioners Court for the month ending December 31, 2023. He stated that illegals are starting to increase, but moving west of Kenedy County; however, under federal law, the County is to house the illegals for six months. Judge Burns stated that Kenedy County is looking for a less expensive housing facility.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Vela seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Sheriff’s monthly report and Chapter 59 report be accepted as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on Fire Chief’s Monthly Report.**

Jose E. Mendietta, Fire Chief, presented the Commissioners Court with the Fire District report and that during the first week in December, he and the volunteers had checked all the units, cleaned the Fire Station and had it ready for the County Employee Christmas party; that, on January 27, 2024, Red Cross would install fire alarms and that flyers will be delivered to all residents informing them of the January 27, 2024 fire alarm installation; that the Texas Dept. of Health will be in Kenedy County on January 29 to administer vaccinations; that the air conditioning unit in the fire station needs to be replaced and has already been ordered; that lights at the fire station will be replaced; and that in the month of December and that there had been 15 EMS calls, two vehicle fires and one grass fire.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Fire Chief’s monthly report be accepted as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Maintenance Department Monthly Report.**

Seferino Gutierrez presented the Maintenance Department’s monthly report to the Commissioners Court for the month ending December 31, 2022. He reported that new gas pumps had issues with the computers and needed to be constantly activated; that the cleaning crew had cleaned the new JP building which took two days; that the new gas tank is running well; that he is trying to auction the old gas tank which has salvage value and has been talking to the auction lady about auctioning the gas tank and the old and new JP furniture; and that the vehicles, gators and maintenance items will be auctioned.

He also reported that the new gas pump is running well; a computer in the Sheriff’s office has been fixed and has not had any additional problems; that he has received three new generators for the tax office, Appraisal District and for the tower in Armstrong; that a cleaning crew cleaned the new JP building and the maintenance cleaning ladies are now daily cleaning the building; that dog traps are being set up twice a week for stray dogs; that four dogs were caught in December 2023 and that cats have also been caught; and that the Maintenance Department has started spraying for mosquitos twice a week.

Commissioner Joe Recio moved and Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Seferino Gutierrez’s monthly report be accepted as presented.

1. **Receive Daniel Almeida and Act on the Sewer & Water System Monthly Report.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that Daniel Almeida was not present.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Daniel Almeida’s Sewer & Water System monthly report be tabled.

1. **Receive Report on the Construction Progress of the Justice of the Peace Building/Hurricane Shelter & Court House Repairs.**

Caleb Maltby with Maltby Builders, Inc. informed the Commissioners Court that the JP building is clean and has no leaks; that the cast stone on the yard wall is being installed; spoke about the decorative woodwork that covers the return vents; railing is not done due to his crew being out with the flu for a week; that the cast stone was delivered on Friday and the masons will be working on the cast stone; that striping for the parking is another issue that needs to be done; the signage for the rooms still needs to be done and that the doors are wonderful and are custom and are tight.

Judge Burns stated that another walk through is needed because the doors are an issue because they are not closing and latching; that there is sewage smell and the room with the computer items was hot. Caleb Maltby stated the door might not be allowing return air to circulate and will try to alleviate the issue before cutting the door.

Regarding the courthouse, Caleb Maltby stated he had spoken with GP Engineering and advised that an increase of a six-inch roof drain is needed; however, he is waiting for a formal report from the engineer and will then submit a proposal; and that once the approval is given, the work will not take long.

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

1. **Consent Agenda:**

**(A) Approve Travel Expenses for Cecilia Schulz to Attend the 20-Hour Justice of the Peace Training in Corpus Christi, Texas on January 21-24, 2024. ($604.45 within budget)**

**(B)Approve Travel Expenses for Jana Norrell to Attend the 20-Hour Justice of the Peace**

**Training in Corpus Christi, Texas on January 21- 24, 2024. ($604.45 within budget)**

**(C) Approve Travel Expenses for Patti Fain to Attend the 20-Hour Justice of the Peace**

**Training in Corpus Christi, Texas on January 21- 24, 2024. ($604.45 within budget)**

**(D) Approve Travel Expenses for Grace Salinas to Attend the TAC Health & Benefits**

**Services Training in Round Rock, Texas on February 6-7, 2024. ($676.40 within**

**budget)**

**(E) Approve Travel Expenses for Charles Burns to Attend the VG Young Institute School**

**for County Commissioners Court in Bryan, Texas on February 20-22, 2024. ($1,142.81**

**within budget)**

**(F) Approve Travel Expenses for Ashley Gonzalez to Attend the 2024 Healthy Boot Camp**

**in Round Rock, Texas on February 7-9, 2024, Lodging and $300 to be reimbursed.**

**($972.16 within budget)**

**(G) Approve Travel Expenses for Sandra Guzman to Attend the 2024 Healthy Boot Camp in Round Rock, Texas on February 7-9, 2024. ($597.00 within budget)**

**(H) Approve Travel Expenses for Glenda Gonzalez to Attend the 2024 Healthy Boot Camp in Round Rock, Texas on February 7-9, 2024. ($160.00 within budget)**

**(I) Approve Travel Expenses for Monica Gutierrez to Attend the 2024 Healthy Boot**

**Camp in Round Rock, Texas on February 7-9, 2024. ($160.00 within budget)**

**(J) Approve Travel Expenses for Irma Longoria to Attend the South Texas Community**

**Summit in Austin, Texas on January 17-18, 2024. (within budget)**

**(K) Approve Travel Expenses for Charles Burns to Attend the South Texas Community**

**Summit in Austin, Texas on January 17-18, 2024. ($605.15 within budget)**

**(L) Approve Travel Expenses for Joe Recio to Attend the South Texas Community**

**Summit in Austin, Texas on January 17-18, 2024. ($312.65 within budget)**

**(M) Approve Travel Expenses for Grace Salinas to Attend the 2024 County Court**

**Assistants Training Conference in San Marcos, Texas on February 14-16, 2024.**

**($736.00 within budget)**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that the following Commissioners, employees and officials needed to attend the below seminars and conferences and costs be advanced thereon, as follows:

Employee Name: Cecilia Schulz

Training/Seminar: 20-Hour Justice of the Peace Training

Location: Corpus Christi, Texas

Date: January 21-24, 2024

Cost: $604.45

Employee Name: Jana Norrell

Training/Seminar: 20-Hour Justice of the Peace Training

Location: Corpus Christi, Texas

Date: January 21-24, 2024

Cost: $604.45

Employee Name: Patti Fain

Training/Seminar: 20-Hour Justice of the Peace Training

Location: Corpus Christi, Texas

Date: January 21-24, 2024

Cost: $604.45

Employee Name: Grace Salinas

Training/Seminar: TAC Health & Benefits Services Training

Location: Round Rock, Texas

Date: February 6-7, 2024

Cost: $676.40

Employee Name: Charles Burns

Training/Seminar: VG Young Institute School for County Commissioners Court

Location: Bryan, Texas

Date: February 22-24, 2024

Cost: $972.16 (Lodging and $300 to be reimbursed)

Employee Name: Ashley Gonzalez

Training/Seminar: 2024 Healthy Boot Camp

Location: Round Rock

Date: February 7-9, 2024

Cost: $$972.16 (with lodging and $300 to be reimbursed)

Employee Name: Sandra Guzman

Training/Seminar: 2024 Healthy Boot Camp

Location: Round Rock

Date: February 7-9, 2024

Cost: $597.00

Employee Name: Glenda Gonzalez

Training/Seminar: 2024 Healthy Boot Camp

Location: Round Rock, Texas

Date: February 7-9, 2024

Cost: $160.00

Employee Name: Monica Gutierrez

Training/Seminar: 2024 Healthy Boot Camp

Location: Round Rock, Texas

Date: February 7-9, 2024

Cost: $160.00

Employee Name: Irma Longoria

Training/Seminar: South Texas Community Summit

Location: Austin, Texas

Date: January 17-18, 2024

Cost: within budget

Employee Name: Charles Burns

Training/Seminar: South Texas Community Summit

Location: Austin, Texas

Date: January 17-18, 2024

Cost: $605.15

Employee Name: Joe Recio

Training/Seminar: South Texas Community Summit

Location: Austin, Texas

Date: January 17-18, 2024

Cost: $312.65

Employee Name: Grace Salinas

Training/Seminar: 2024 County Court Assistants Training Conference

Location: San Marcos, Texas

Date: February 14-16, 2024

Cost: $736.00

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the above employees are authorized to attend their respective trainings and that the County advance the costs thereof provided that proper receipts be provided to the County Treasurer.

1. **Discuss & Act on the 2023 Continuing Education Transcript of Completion for Irma G. Longoria Pursuant to SB546 (Section 6.231d of the Texas Property Tax Code).**

Irma Longoria, County Tax Assessor/Collector presented the Commissioners Court her 2023 Continuing Education Transcript of Completion pursuant to SB546 (Section 6.231D of the Texas Property Tax Code).

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Irma G. Longoria’s 2023 Continuing Education Transcript pursuant to SB546 (Section 6.231d of the Texas Property Tax Code) be accepted as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Written Proposal Regarding the Coastal Bend Food Bank to become a Mobile Pantry Partner in Kenedy County.**

Judge Charles E. Burns presented the Commissioners Court the written proposal regarding the Coastal Bend Food Bank in order to become a Mobile Pantry Partner in Kenedy County and that it will cost the county $150.00 per month. He also stated that donations may be accepted. Nedee Garcia is the Kenedy County person in charge; that she has the forms for persons to sign requesting food services; that the last Monday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12: p.m. is the time to procure the food items; that food for the shut-ins is delivered first, then food is provided to those who are present at the bank site by the Appraisal District office; and that Judge Burns may be contacted by ranch residents desiring food service.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the written proposal regarding the Coastal Bend Food Bank becoming a Mobile Pantry Partner in Kenedy County be approved and that the budget be amended at the next meeting to provide the $150.00 monthly fee.

1. **Discuss & Act on Estimate from Chris Russell of South Texas Business Solutions, Regarding the Purchase of a New Web Filter for Internet Services at the Courthouse and the Invoice for the Firewall Subscription.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that Chris Russell with South Texas Business Solutions had submitted a $5,393.00 plus a firewall subscription of $931.00 for the purchase of a new web filter for internet services at the courthouse.

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

1. **Discuss & Act on Upgrading the Courthouse Internet Speed.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider upgrading the courthouse internet speed.

Commissioner Joe Recio moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the internet speed be upgraded at the courthouse.

1. **Discuss & Act on Proposal from Door Control Services Regarding the Installation of Card Readers for Courthouse Doors.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that a proposal from Door Control Services had been received regarding the installation of card readers for courthouse doors.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that this item be tabled to obtain more information on push bars on interior courthouse exists and a card reader for the east courthouse entry.

1. **Discuss & Act on an Order Regarding Placement and Removal of Political Signs.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider an Order regarding placement and removal of political signs.

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

1. **Discuss & Act on Interlocal Agreement with Nueces River Authority.**

Phillip Wiatrek and Ryan Martinez with the Nueces River Authority presented the Commissioners Court an Interlocal Agreement and informed the Commissioners Court that the agreement is pursuant to grant funding which will commence February through April 8, 2024 and if approved, the $1 million grant payments will be available in the fall of 2024. Further, that the agreement is a TDA Colonia Construction Fund and Kenedy County (Sarita) qualifies to apply and receive Colonia grant funds; that NRA has the experience in applying and managing the Colonia funds; that there are approximately 3000 colonias assisted pursuant to this grant.

Judge Burns commented that the agreement provisions need clarification. For example, the initial payment provision – does Kenedy County pay the initial payment with Kenedy County funds; the agreement is silent as to when the $1 million will be transferred to Kenedy County for payment of the grant 10% to NRA.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that this item be tabled so that that the contract can be reviewed by the County Attorney.

1. **Report & Review Colonia-TDA Grant Infrastructure Needs.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that this item had been addressed in agenda item 22.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that this item be tabled so that the contract can be reviewed by the County Attorney.

1. **Report on Justice of the Peace Building Furniture Settlement Agreement.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that a settlement had been reached with Shriver Office Supply regarding the Justice of the Peace Building furniture; that Kenedy County will keep all of the furniture and that in two weeks, Shriver Office Supply will reimburse $57,000.00 to Kenedy County.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the settlement agreement with Shriver Office Supply be accepted as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on Creating a 2024 Budget Fund for the Sheriff’s and County Attorney’s Office Regarding the Senate Bill 22 Grant.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that pursuant to Senate Bill 22 a 2024 Budget Fund for the Sheriff and County Attorney offices needed to be created.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that a 2024 Budget Fund for the Sheriff and County Attorney offices be created pursuant to the Senate Bill 22 Grant.

1. **Discuss & Act on Interlocal Agreement with Lubbock County and the Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases in the Amount of $1,000.00.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider the Interlocal Agreement with Lubbock County and the Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases in the amount of $1,000.00.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Kenedy County enter into an Interlocal Agreement with Lubbock County and the Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases in the amount of $1,000.00.

1. **Report on Separation/Retirement of Tammy Mendez Effective December 31, 2023.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that Tammy Mendez had been a Kenedy County employee for over 20 years; had performed a great service for the County and had retired from the County Attorney’s office effective December 31, 2023.

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

1. **Discuss & Act on Status Change of Kirsten Mendez from Part-time to Full-time, Effective January 1, 2024 and Beginning Salary.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider changing Kirsten Mendez’s employment from part-time to full-time, effective January 1, 2024 and her beginning salary.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Judge Charles E. Burns seconded the motion; the motion was not passed with a 2-3 vote, with Commissioner Joe Recio, Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. and Commissioner Jose Salazar voting against, regarding the status change of Kirsten Mendez from part-time to full-time.

After the consideration of the Employee Handbook provisions, Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was passed by a vote of 3-1, with Commissioner Joe Recio voting against, that Kirsten Mendez’s status be changed from part-time to full-time at a starting salary of $58,682.00 effective January 1, 2024.

1. **Report on Status of Demolition of Diana Serna’s Home.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court that Diana Mata had requested an extension of time to the end of February, 2024 to remove pictures and personal items from the house and would inform Kenedy County whether she or the County would be demolishing the house at 227 Mallory St., Sarita, Texas.

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

1. **Report on Donations Received for the 2023 Christmas Luncheon.**

Judge Charles E. Burns and Stephanie Garza, Elections Administrator, informed the Commissioners Court regarding the 2023 Christmas luncheon; that $1,296.76 in donations had been received; that $1,046.76 had been deposited in budget line item 1000.0360.3699; the total expenses had been $1,280.25 and credit card charges were $660.03 with $190 being reimbursed to Stephanie Garza and $180.22 being reimbursed to Irma Longoria, leaving a balance of $16.51 in budget line item 1000.0630.3699 and that gifts to Kenedy County must be accepted, therefore, the donation of the financial gifts to Kenedy County will be on the February 2024 meeting agenda.

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

1. **Discuss & Act on the Governor’s Proclamation Renewing the Declaration of Disaster Due to Border Security.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider adopting the Governor’s December 19, 2023, Proclamation Renewing the Declaration of Disaster Due to Border Security.

Commissioner Joe Recio moved and Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Governor’s December 19, 2023, Proclamation Renewing the Declaration of Disaster Due to Border Security be adopted as presented.

1. **Discuss & Act on Changing the Regular Commissioner’s Court date for November 11th, 2024 to November 12th, 2024.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to change the regular Commissioners Court meeting date of November 11, 2024 to November 12, 2024.

Commissioner Joe Recio moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that regular Commissioners Court meeting date of November 11, 2024 be changed to November 12, 2024.

1. **Receive Presentation of Tom Denney, the Chief Appraiser for Kenedy County Central Appraisal District, Regarding Real Property Exemptions Available to Home Owners, i.e., Homestead Exemptions, Over 65 Exemptions, Agricultural Productivity, Valuations, Wildlife Exemptions, Etc.**

Thomas Denney, Chief Appraiser for Kenedy County Central Appraisal District, informed the Commissioners Court regarding real property exemptions available to property owners, i.e., homestead exemptions, over-65 exemptions, agricultural productivity, valuations, wildlife exemptions, etc.

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

1. **Discuss & Act on Renewal of Liability Insurance with TAC in the Amount of $40,705.00 Due on March 1, 2024.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to renew the County’s Liability Insurance with TAC in the amount of $40,705.00 which is due on March 1, 2024.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that TAC be paid $40,705.00 regarding the renewal of the County’s Liability Insurance which is due on March 1, 2024.

1. **Discuss & Act on the Sheriff’s Office Annual Records Management Agreement with VistaCOM for $4,500. (within budget)**

Judge Charles E. Burns presented the Commissioners Court a copy of the Sheriff’s Office Annual Records Management Agreement with VistaCOM and informed the Commissioners Court that VistaCom needed to be paid the amount of $4,500.00, within budget.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Sheriff’s Office Annual Records Management Agreement with VistaCOM be paid in the amount of $4,500.00, within budget.

1. **Approve Full Budgeted Salaries for the Sheriff’s Deputies Adam Rodriguez, John Sandoval, and Eddie Hinojosa.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to approve full-budgeted salaries for the Sheriff’s Deputies Adam Rodriguez, John Sandoval and Eddie Hinojosa.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Sheriff’s Deputies Adam Rodriguez, John Sandoval and Eddie Hinojosa be increased to the full-budgeted amount, effective January 1, 2024.

1. **Discuss & Act on Approving the 2024 Sheriff’s State Forfeiture Fund Budget.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to approve the 2024 Sheriff’s State Forfeiture Fund Budget.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the 2024 Sheriff’s State Forfeiture Fund Budget be approved as presented.

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

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners’ Court of the need to pay the bills for the month ending December 31, 2023. Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon commented to always publish a request for bids if the expense is $50,000.00 or over $50,000.00.

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.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, § 551.071, § 551.072, § 551.073, § 551.074**

An Executive Session was not needed; therefore, none was held.

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

An Executive Session not having been held, no action was taken.

1. **Adjournment.**

There being no further business at this time 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 12:37 p.m.

/s/ Charles E. Burns\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Charles E. Burns, County Judge

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Veronica Vela\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

VERONICA VELA, Clerk of Commissioners Court