THE STATE OF TEXAS \* COMMISSIONERS COURT

COUNTY OF KENEDY \* OF KENEDY COUNTY, TEXAS

On the 7th day of July, 2023, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., a Budget Workshop 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

Irma Longoria, County Tax Assessor/Collector

Grace Salinas, Administrative Secretary

Allison Strauss, County Attorney

Leo Villarreal, Administrative Assistant

Sheriff Ramon Salinas

Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer

JP Jana Norrell

JP Patricia Fain

JP Cecilia Schulz

Capt. Edward Cruz

Stephanie Garza, Elections Administrator

Tom Denney, Chief Appraiser

Andy Garcia, Kenedy County Groundwater Conservation District

Seferino Gutierrez, Maintenance Supervisor

Sandra Guzman, Sheriff’s Department

**Absent**:

Allison Strauss, County Attorney

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

Judge Charles E. Burns called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**.

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

**3.** **Receive Public Comments**.

No public comments were made.

**4.** **Discuss & Act on Authorizing Judge Charles Burns to Agree or Not Agree to the Terms of Mediation**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to authorize him to agree or to not agree to terms of the mediations on the EEOC claims filed by Norma Alaniz, Gilbert Gonzalez and Omar Garza against Kenedy County. The Mediations are scheduled for July 7, 26 and August 1, 2023 by Zoom.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Charles E. Burns, County Judge is authorized to agree or to not agree to the terms of the mediations on the EEOC claims filed by Norma Alaniz, Gilbert Gonzalez and Omar Garza against Kenedy County.

**5.** **Discuss & Act on Approving the Invoice from Shannon’s Inc. for Chairs for the JP Building/Hurricane Shelter in the Amount of $38,275.00**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to approve payment of Shannon’s, Inc. $38,275.00 invoice for chairs for the JP Building/Hurricane Shelter with County funds.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Shannon’s, Inc. be paid $38,275.00 for chairs for the JP Building/Hurricane Shelter with County funds and with a 50% down payment now.

**6.** **Discuss & Act on Budget Amendments to the 2023 Budget for Medical Insurance Adjustments, Judge’s State Supplement, and the Travel Expense for Extension Office**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to amend the 2023 Budget for Medical Insurance Adjustments, Judge’s State Supplement and the Travel Expense for the Extension Office.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed to amend the 2023 Budget for Medical Insurance Adjustments, Judge’s State Supplement and the Travel Expense for the Extension Office as presented as long as the amendments are within the budget.

**7.** **Discuss & Act on Increasing Alicia Garcia’s Salary by $3,631.13 Out of Records Archives Line Item Effective July 1, 2023.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider increasing Alicia Garcia’s salary by $3,631.13 to be paid out of the County/District Clerk’s Records Archive budget line-item effective July 1, 2023.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Israel Vela, Jr. seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Alicia Garcia’s salary be increased by $3,631.13 effective July 1, 2023, to be paid out of the County/District Clerk’s Record Archives budget line item.

**8.** **Discuss & Act on Increasing Grace Salinas’ Salary to Full Budget Amount Effective July 1, 2023**.

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider increasing Grace Salinas’ salary to the full budget amount effective July 1, 2023.

Commissioner Joe Recio moved and Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Grace Salinas’ salary be increased to the full **budget amount effective July 1, 2023.**

**9.** **Budget Workshop**

Judge Charles E. Burns called the 2024 Budget Workshop to order. All of the 2024 Budget Departments were addressed. Judge Burns inquired of the Commissioners, Elected Officials and Department Heads had proposed budget additions or deletions to their department’s budgets. Their responses were noted. Judge Burns stated that the next Budget Workshop will have the proposed budget recommendations.

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

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

Judge Charles E. Burns called the Executive Session to order at 10:33 a.m.

**There were no items to be considered.**

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

Judge Charles E. Burns called the Open Session to order at 11:13 a.m. There was no action taken in the Open Session.

Commissioner Sarita Armstrong-Hixon moved and Commissioner Joe Recio seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Executive Session be adjourned at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m., if needed, regarding the Norma Alaniz EEOC mediation.

**12.** **Adjournment**

There being no further business at this time 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 Commissioners Court be adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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

Charles E. Burns, County Judge

ATTESTED BY:

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

Veronica Vela, Clerk of Commissioners Court