

Chamber of Commerce Representation at Governmental Affairs Meetings

Meeting Updates

Colette Walls, Executive Director of Portland Chamber of Commerce attends County Commissioner's Court each Monday morning and Christie Pruitt, Membership Director attends the Portland City Council Meetings and they will summarize actions taken that may be of interest to Portland Chamber of Commerce Members:

Monday, January 13, 2014- Commissioner's Court

*Approved to expend \$34,360.93 to replace the Rotating Beacon at McCampbell Airport. The current poles holding the beacon are old wooden poles and they will be replaced with galvanized poles. The expense was justified when Judge Simpson reported that there is an 80% increase in airport traffic.

*The Health Department reported that there has been an increase in the Flu and they still have Flu Shots available for \$20.00, contact the Sinton or Ingleside Clinics for further information.

Monday, January 20, 2014 – Martin Luther King Holiday, Court's Closed

Monday, January 27, 2014 Commissioner's Court

*Action was taken and approved on allowing Texas Department of Transportation Airport Project Participation Agreement Amendment #01., project to rehabilitate hangar access taxiways and runway at McCambell-Porter Airport. Judge Simpson stated that TxDot and FAA have spent over 2 million dollars on the airport in the past year.

*Approved Spectra Energy to bore under certain roadways in parts of the county.

*Approved the re-appointing the following to the San Patricio County Drainage District: George Hernandez, Richard Ehmann and Raymond Dugat, III.

*Approved the termination of Reinvestment Zone #1 TIRZ, City of Ingleside-San Patricio County.

*Citizens to be heard-Judge Simpson stated that the A&H Show was very successful and the auction brought in over 902,000 for the projects. Allen Samuels purchased ALL the Grand Champion's.

Monday, February 03, 2014 Commissioner's Court

*Approved to create a County Energy Transportation Investment Zone (CERTZ), as authorized by law, to promote one or more infrastructure projects to be located within the County to be funded by the CERTZ including the potential boundaries and requirements of a County Energy Transportation Reinvestment Zone(CERTZ), as authorized 222.1071 of the Texas Transportation Code. Zone will be in the Northwestern part of the County, this is a 9 mile stretch of road, CR 26 to CR 23 bounded by Hwy 181. These funds are a part of a grant for Counties who are being impacted negatively due to the Energy/Oilfield trucks.

*Health Department Reported they still have a few Flu Vaccines available.

* Approved to contract with Gov Deals thru BuyBoard for Auction services for County Surplus equipment and other items. They will sell the items through an online auction.

*No action taken on item 4.a- Economic Development.

* Reported that USDA-FSA Emergency Farm Loan Applications are now available for loss of crop or unable to produce a crop due to drought. Applications available at Extension Office.

*Approved the purchase of SPC Road & Bridge Pct #2 to purchase one (1) 2015 Crew Cab Dump Truck from Caldwell Country thru BuyBoard. Discussion was brought up about it being a 2015 and the comment was made by Judge Simpson that due to the oilfield production equipment is hard to find. They actually had to place the order now to get the dump truck in 2015.

Monday, February 10, 2014 Commissioner's Court

A Public Hearing was held on adopting an order for designation of Reinvestment Zone as follows: Occidental Chemical and Dupont. Bob Barger with Dupont, gave a presentation on their proposed project. The motion for the Reinvestment Zone carried.

Motion carried on approving "Agreement and Consent on joint use of track" concerning Union Pacific and Gulf Marine Fabricators, Inc, Use of San Patricio County Railroad Spur in Ingleside.

Motion carried to allow Sheriff to auction 48 seized game machines awarded to the San Patricio Sheriff's Office under chapter 59 of the code of Criminal Procedures.

Monday, February 17, 2014 Due to scheduling conflict, did not attend Commissioner's Court

Monday, February 24, 2014 Commissioner's Court

Motion was made to accept and record the Notice of schedule for environmental review of the Corpus Christi LNG project, Cheniere. Motion carried.

Motion was made to take action on adopting an order setting McCampbell-Porter Airport and Alfred "Bubba" Thomas Airport Rules and Regulations. Motion carried.

Wednesday, March 9, 2014 Texas Department of Insurance Public Hearing

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Colette attended the Quarterly Meeting of the South Texas Regional Economic Development & Tourism Office, along with Representatives from Beeville, Rockport, Aransas Pass, SPEDC, Robstown, Refugio and Alice. Raul Gomez with USDA gave a presentation on the many USDA Loans and Grants available to Rural Communities. It was a very informative meeting and was hosted by Leticia Flores, Lower South Texas Regional Representative, Office of The Governor, Rick Perry, Economic Development & Tourism.

Tuesday, March 11:

Port of Corpus Christi Commissioners Court Meeting:

Commissioner Charles Zahn presented a summary of the Texas Department of Insurance hearing on Windstorm Insurance. Commissioner Zahn informed the audience that there is a bill being proposed in the next 30 days to oppose the current surcharge proposal of TDI on the 14 coastal counties. The PCCA officially objected to TDI's proposal for loss funding and premium surcharges. The chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Mr. Jones, indicated that the Port is in need of more office space to accommodate support staff. Judy Lapoint of the State Supported Living Center gave an award to the PCCA for their support during Christmas. The commission approved an application of Host Terminals for a stevedore and freight handling license. A citizen in the audience spoke out against the application indicating that it would hurt business if approved. A Memorandum of Understanding was approved between the Palermo Port Society of Columbia and the PCCA for the purpose of promoting business opportunities between their respective ports. Columbia has future shale opportunities similar to Eagle Ford Shale. An estimate of August 2014 is when PCCA will receive their first vessel from Columbia. Changes were approved to reinforce the harbor master's authority to vacate a ship from the port if it is not ready to unload and issue a financial penalty. A lease agreement was approved with Corpus Christi Liquefaction for 25.02 acres out of the PCCA's La Quinta property for the production of a fabrication yard for the LNG facility. TPCO will break ground of phase two of project in April of 2016. Fog has become a huge issue this year regarding traffic and delays in the port. The meeting was adjourned, and the commissioners went into executive session.

Tuesday, March 18:

Portland City Council Meeting:

On March 18, Mayor David Krebs gave a report on Portland's growth to the Rockport/Fulton Chamber of Commerce. The City Council approved the first reading of the 2012 International Swimming Pool & Spa code. The new code includes: proposal of window alarms, updated suction entrapment avoidance, and updated energy requirements. The City Council approved the replacement of the Emergency 911 system; the current system is 16 years old. The city will now use a vendor called, " Emergency Call Works."