**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**TUESDAY JANUARY 18, 2022 AT 9:30 A.M.**

**MARATHON COMMUNITY CENTER**

**106 NE 3RD STREET**

**MARATHON, TEXAS**

Judge Cano called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., the following Elected Officials were present:

Eleazar R. Cano County Judge

Jim Westermann Commissioner Pct. 1

Sara Allen Colando Commissioner Pct. 2

Ruben Ortega Commissioner Pct. 3

Mike “Coach” Pallanez Commissioner Pct. 4

Sarah Vasquez County Clerk (via Zoom)

**Members of the public who are not able to participate in person, are encouraged to watch the meetings live online, at www.brewstercountytx.com or Brewster County, Texas (County's Facebook page). Members of the public are also encouraged to participate in public comment by calling telephone number 432-538-2028. This temporary suspension will leave important Open Meetings Act (Section 551.043, Texas Government Code) protections in place**

**AGENDA**

**1. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation and Pledge were led by Judge Cano.

**8. Marathon Public Library**

**A. Library Director Dara Cavness to provide general updates and project reports/ Discussion only**

Ms. Dara Cavness presented an update on the Marathon Public Library.

**2. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval**

Commissioner Colando moved to approve the minutes from January 11, 2022. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**3. Public Comment - Comments are limited to 5 minutes per person. Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Court is limited in its ability to respond to comments.**

Ms. DJ Hensley, Marathon Animal Shelter, presented a report on all animals rescued since 2017 and requested consideration for financial assistance.

Ms. Shawna Graves presented an update on Marathon Chamber of Commerce activities.

**4. Recognitions & Announcements**

**A. Brewster County Road and Bridge Now Hiring.**

Commissioner Ortega announced two job openings in the Road & Bridge Department. The opening have been posted on the Brewster County website, <http://www.brewstercountytx.com>

Commissioner Ortega recognized Johnny Valencia and Merced for their work updating the Marathon Community Center.

**5. Emergency Management Department**

**A. General Report including:**

**Recent emergency responses; emergency planning update; recent work with cooperating emergency responders: (ESD #1, all VFD's and EMS); update on needs, programs, training, recent work with other governmental entities; equipment for emergency response and updates regarding needs, maintenance, repairs, replacement, and additions; burn bans, emergency management issues related to public and private insurance coverage, personnel issues related to emergency response, matters related to pending & future Homeland Security, FEMA Grant & Updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19) / Discussion and appropriate action**

Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator, reported an update on Coronavirus, COVID-19. Local statistics up to date as of January 18, 2022: 38 active cases, 2 hospitalizations, and 24 fatalities. Test kits are running out and a shortage will affect how many come in. STAR requests for the hospital have been sent to the State, requesting help at the Big Bend Regional Medical Center. The Federal government’s website where anyone can request four free at-home covid test kits per household will go live tomorrow, January 19, 2022 at [www.covidtests.gov](http://www.covidtests.gov) .

**B. EMS Task Force work group update**

EMC Elmore and Judge Cano presented an update on the EMS Task Force.

**6. Brewster County Tourism**

**A. Report from Robert Alvarez, Executive Director: General update, travel shows, marketing, finances, visitation status, project reports. personnel issues, (vacancies, new hires, and performance)**

Judge Cano presented the Brewster County Tourism report on behalf of Robert Alvarez, Executive Director.

**B. Discussion and appropriate action for general work of Brewster County Tourism to go forward**

Commissioner Ortega announced the annual Fish Fry and auction will be held on February 19, 2022 in Marathon, Texas.

**7. Brewster County Sheriff's Office**

**A. Annual Racial Profiling Report / Traffic stop statistics**

Sheriff Ronny Dodson presented the Annual Racial Profiling Report.

**9. Marathon Historic Resources Survey update/ Discussion only**

Steph McDougal, principal consultant with McDoux Preservation LLC, gave a presentation on the Marathon Historic Resources Survey.

**10. Treasurer Office**

**A. Review and discuss current emergency paid sick leave policy/ Discussion and appropriate action**

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the County’s Covid Leave Policy. Treasurer Morton suggested calling a meeting with all department heads to review the policy. Commissioner Ortega moved to have Treasurer Morton meet with all department heads to review and reinforce the current covid policy for paid leave. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Pallanez had stepped out and returned after the vote.

**11. Officials' Monthly Report**

Commissioner Colando read the first Officials’ Monthly Report. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the report as read. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**12. Scheduled Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on January 25, 2022 at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Cano announced the next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on January 25, 2022, at 9:30 A.M. in Alpine, Texas.

**14. Adjourn**

Commissioner Pallanez moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

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**Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge**

**ATTEST:**

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**Kawana Bourbon, Deputy Clerk**