



ARANSAS PASS CITY NEWS

Issue 29

March 2020

AN ACCURATE 2020 CENSUS COUNT IS CRITICAL TO ARANSAS PASS PROGRESS

During the 2010 census, Aransas Pass was an “undercounted” city. In other words, our population was higher than reported because ten years ago, the census did not count everyone. This year City and APISD staff are working to prevent a repeat of 2010 by reaching out to citizens to let them know of the importance of filling out the census forms. All information is confidential. It is crucial for Aransas Pass to have an accurate census count so we can receive needed Federal and State grant dollars for city and school infrastructure. Please respond to the census when it is received at your home. The pic below on the left is of a City and School committee now set up to get the word out about the importance of the census to Aransas Pass. The Pic on the right is of a booth set up by the Census Committee at a February 29th Civic Center event.

“Aransas Pass has been moving forward rapidly since Hurricane Harvey. It is important for that momentum to continue and an accurate census count in AP will help accomplish that goal for the City and the School system.”

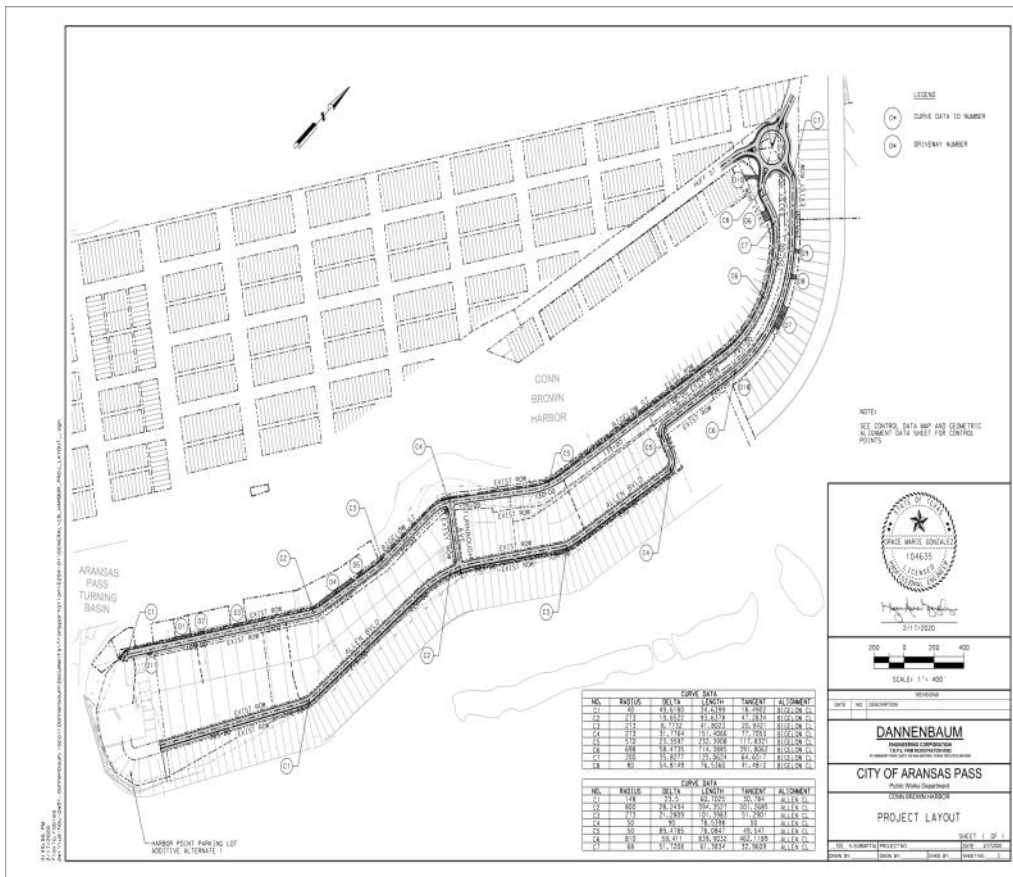
- Sandra Garcia, Census Committee Chair



ARANSAS PASS CENSUS ON THE MOVIE SCREEN

A City of Aransas Pass census count video can be seen during the pre—movie portion at the Aransas Pass Movie Inc. theater. It begins in Mid-March and goes until early April.





Conn Brown Development being re-searched

If you have ever wondered why Conn Brown Harbor has not developed over the past 20+ years, there are two primary reasons. One is the environmental work being required by Texas General Land Office. In fact, over a decade ago the GLO put liens on Conn Brown until the environmental work in three different areas are cleaned up (see map below). The current City Council authorized the clean-up to proceed. One of the three was completed last year. A second is virtually completed and the third is waiting on responses from TCEQ. We recently met with the GLO who said they will work with us on the Conn Brown development even with the liens in place. The second reason for the lack of development at Conn Brown is the City Charter Language that prevents land at Conn Brown from being sold. As is pointed out by our City Attorney, any lease agreement over 40 years is considered a sale, which makes it difficult for developers to get financing. Don't anticipate voters will change that language anytime soon. But there are other ways to develop Conn Brown that have not been explored yet. On March 2nd the City Council will vote to work with specialists in this area of municipal development. Any costs to the City will be reimbursable.

Conn Brown Harbor Improvement Project Going Out To Bid This week

The Design is Complete (see above), Now It Is Time To Go Out For Construction Bids

For about a year you have been hearing about the Conn Brown Improvement project. The design work is completed, so it now is time to go out to bid for the actual construction work. Funding for this very large project comes from a \$5 million grant from the Economic Development Administration.

Bid Alternates include completing the first time extension of Allen Blvd to the Harbor Point Parking lot. And the paving of the Harbor Point parking lot

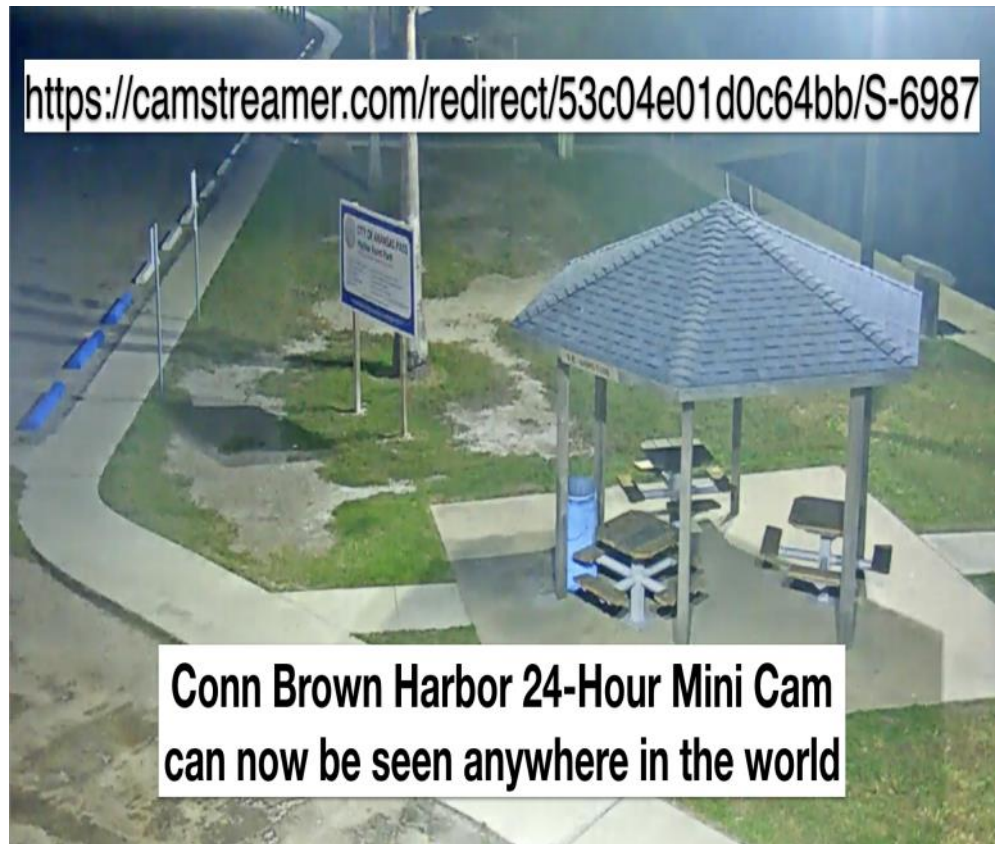
The deadline for submitting proposals is April 2nd. There is a pre-bid Conference on March 12th. Construction Should start this Spring. Because this is a large project, it is anticipated that bids will be submitted from across Texas and probably nationally.





THE ARANSAS PASS WATER TOWER NOW IS OPERATIONAL

The old Aransas Pass water tower collapsed during Hurricane Harvey. A new replacement was built with funding from FEMA and the Rebuild Texas Fund. On February 13th the tower became operational and is now circulating water throughout the system. The brand new structure is working well.



Work On The City's First Emergency Operations Center Well Underway

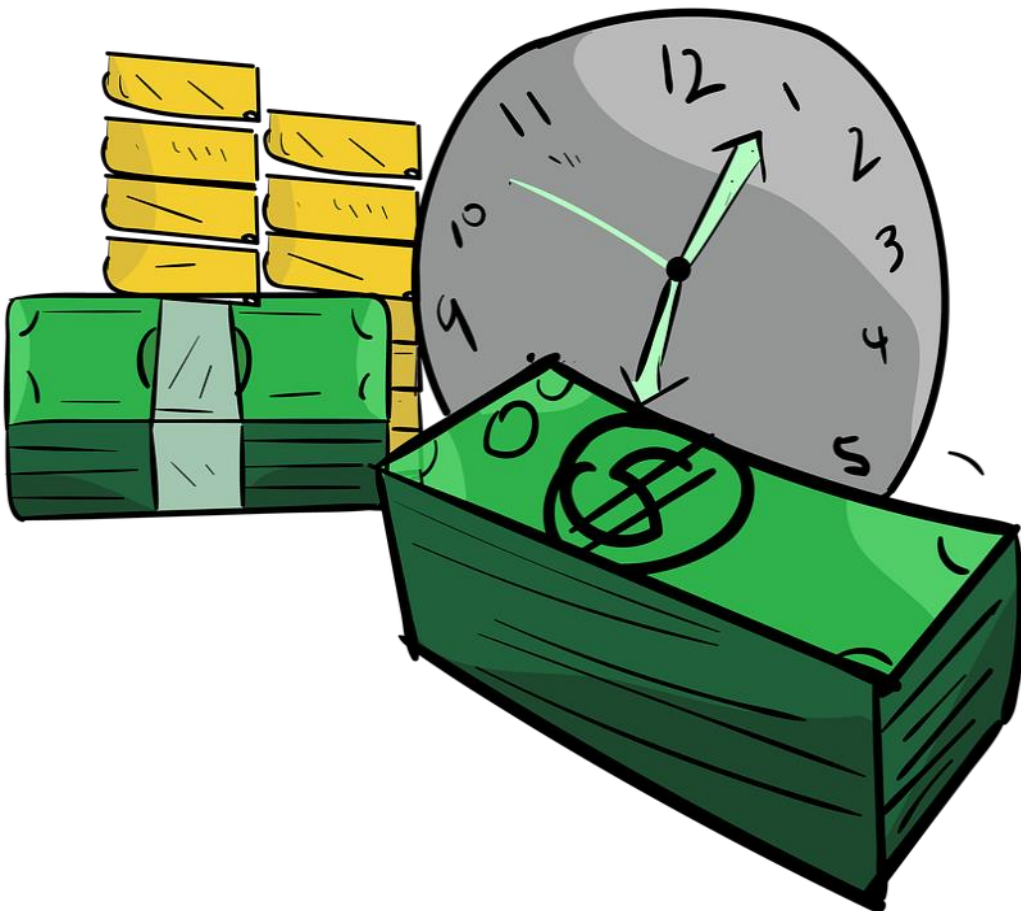
The picture below is of the City's council chambers after work has started on its conversion to a joint purpose EOC and council chambers. A substantial amount of emergency equipment will be purchased as part of the EOC operation. Once completed this room will be able to withstand winds up to 175 MPH. During Hurricane Harvey, Aransas Pass experienced winds up to approximately 130 mph. This work is being conducted in conjunction with roof work on the entire City Hall Building. The EOC is possible because of funding from the Rebuild Texas Fund.



FY 2019 Audit Is Completed

The annual audit is complete and is being presented to the City Council during it's March 2nd Regular Meeting. It is a good audit that was submitted on schedule. As management points out in the audit narrative:

Overall, the long-term economic picture for Aransas Pass continues to be bright. The recovery from Hurricane Harvey is well underway; Sales tax revenues and property tax revenue continue to be strong. New homes and apartments continue to be built; hotels are under construction, a movie theater is now open; a new bank is under construction as is a new bowling alley. Importantly, the number of water and sewer customers is strongly rebounding and is surpassing pre-Harvey numbers. City staff continues to work hard to keep expenditures down while continuing to provide quality services. Impressively, the City's water loss, which has been a problem for over 10 years, is now reduced and is in line with national averages; but we plan to do even better.



Contact Us

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WHO ARE YOUR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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2. Carrie Scruggs—Place 1
3. Billy Ellis—Place 2
4. Mayor Pro-Tem Jan Moore – Place 3
5. Vicki Abrego—Place 4

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