

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on March 13, 2018 with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2
Pat Perry	Commissioner, Precinct #3
Kennon Kellum	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Dina Herrera	Houston County Treasurer
Daphne Session	Houston County Attorney
Melissa Mosley	Houston County Auditor
Janice Turner	Chief Deputy County Clerk
Michael Molnes	Houston County Sheriff's Office
Wanda Jordan	Houston County Historical Commission
Fred Newtz	Houston County Veterans Representative

Media:

Will Johnson	Grapeland Messenger
Alton Porter	Houston County Courier

Visitors: Jan Pigford; Sharon Luker; Vicki Braun and Glenn Barnhart, PWFAAA.

Judge Jim Lovell called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer. The Pledges of Allegiance were led by Judge Lovell.

Judge Lovell recognized the guests and asked if there were any comments from the audience. There were no comments.

Motion was made by Kennon Kellum to approve the minutes of the prior Commissioners Court Meeting. Motion was seconded by Pat Perry and the motion carried 5 to 0.

There were no budget amendments.

Motion was made by Gary Lovell to approve the payment of accounts payable; fund transfers and to ratify payroll expenses. The motion was seconded by Willie Kitchen. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to accept as information the Environmental and Community Service Reports. The motion was seconded by Gary Lovell. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Gary Lovell to approve the transfer and salary of Willie Spurlock, the Courthouse Maintenance Supervisor, from full time to part time and to approve the hiring of Billy Riemenschneider as a part-time heavy equipment operator at the pay rate of \$13.77 per hour. Willie Kitchen seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to approve payment of compensatory time for a terminated employee. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion and commented that the department heads need to keep a careful watch on employee's compensatory time. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Gary Lovell and seconded by Kennon Kellum to pay additional life and health insurance premiums for employees for the February 23, 2018 payroll. Motion carried 5 to 0.

There was a discussion regarding a contribution to Texas County and District Retirement System (TCDRS) to pay employee-contributed retirement funds and employer-matching retirement funds in the amount of \$2526.59 since hire date for two Houston County employees and a contract with two Houston County Employees for an installment repayment plan in the amount of \$1,357.34 towards retirement contributions to TCERS since their hire date. Kennon Kellum made a motion to approve these items and Gary Lovell seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Kennon Kellum made a motion to approve renewal of the Affordable Care Act Reporting and Tracking Service through Texas Association of Counties for 2018 after Dina Herrera explained the importance of having this service. Gary Lovell seconded the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Gary Lovell and seconded by Kennon Kellum to adopt a resolution to adhere to procurement practices as required by federal and state grants including FEMA, Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Office of the Governor. The motion carried 5 to 0 and the Resolution was adopted.

Vicki Braun explained the need for lawn and door posters regarding the Houston County Democratic Convention to be held March 24, 2018 in the Houston County Courthouse. A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to approve the placement of these posters. Motion carried 5 to 0.

No action was taken on the proposed lease/purchase plan with BancorpSouth Equipment Finance for two Mustang Caterpillar 140K Motorgraders for Precincts 1 and 2.

Kennon Kellum made a motion to declare as surplus and approve the sale of a Mack truck and belly dump trailer to the City of Crockett in the amount of \$45,000 per §LCG 263.152(a)(1). Pat Perry made a second to the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to accept as information the Historical Commission Annual Report. Kennon Kellum made a second and the motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to approve the Resolution and Grant Application of the Texas Department of Agriculture's Feral Hog Abatement Technologies Program. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Gary Lovell and seconded by Pat Perry to approve orders allowing retail fireworks permit holders to sell fireworks to the public in celebration of San Jacinto Day and Memorial Day. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Glenn Barnhart of Piney Woods Fine Arts Association made a presentation regarding the Piney Woods Fine Arts Association Music and Arts Festival to be held March 23-24, 2018. Gary Lovell made a motion to approve the Hotel Occupancy Tax Application and Interlocal Agreement for the Music and Arts Festival. Pat Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat Perry made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0 and the meeting was adjourned.

Jim L. Lovell, County Judge

Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

Kennon Kellum, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

Bridget Lamb, County Clerk