

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on July 10, 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:

Melissa Mosley	Houston County Auditor
Clyde Black	Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1
Daphne Session	Houston County Attorney
Janice Turner	Chief Deputy County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Sarah Naron	Grapeland Messenger

Visitors: Kim Johnson; Willia Wooten; Jeffield Jefferson; Sharon Luker and Jan Pigford

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

Judge Lovell recognized the guests. Jefferson Jeffield gave an update on the Rural Housing Loan Program. He said that they had received 27 applications from county citizens and six of those applications were expected to be approved within the week. He explained the different home-repair loans and said that an instruction meeting explaining the simple application would be held.

Judge Black explained to the Commissioners why he would like to have the Justice of the Peace Coordinators moved to a higher pay grade. He said that there would be no change in pay rates, but he would like to move them to a higher pay grade to show his appreciation for the outstanding job that both Jenny Driskell and Tresea Land do in their positions as Coordinators for the two Justice of the Peace Courts.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the minutes of the prior Commissioners Court meetings. The motion was seconded by Gary Lovell and the motion carried 5 to 0.

Melissa Mosley explained that some of the items in the proposed Budget Amendments would cause the Contingency Fund to be zeroed out. A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to approve the budget amendments. The motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion was made by Kennon Kellum and seconded by Pat Perry to approve the payment of all bills and expenses and to ratify payroll expenses. The motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to receive as information the Environmental Report. There was no Community Supervision report. The motion was seconded by Gary Lovell and the motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Gary Lovell and seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the 6-month raise to a \$12.68 hourly salary for the Commissioner/Auditor Assistant Sharon Luker. The motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the hiring of Tiarah Bailey as a full-time jailer to replace Veronica Hill at a bi-weekly salary of \$998.83. Gary Lovell made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willia Wooten, Houston County's representative on the Burke Center Board of Directors, gave a presentation explaining the importance of the work the Burke Center does for the citizens of Houston County. She went over some of the services that the Burke Center provides. Those include Early Childhood Intervention and Mental Health Outpatient Services as well as many others. She thanked the Commissioners for including the Burke Center in their yearly budget.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the renewal of membership with the State of Texas Cooperative Purchasing Program. The motion was seconded by Kennon Kellum. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to appoint Jerome Jansky as a representative to the Human Resources Committee. The motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to accept as information the Houston County Appraisal District's proposed budget for fiscal year 2019. Gary Lovell seconded the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

The Commissioners heard the presentation of the Fiscal Year 2017 Audit Report by Kim Johnson of the Todd, Hamaker & Johnson accounting firm. The audit showed Houston County to be in a good financial position at the end of fiscal year 2017.

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

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Jim L. Lovell, County Judge

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Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

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Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

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Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

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Kennon Kellum, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

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Bridget Lamb, County Clerk