



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on February 25, 2020 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
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Sharon Luker	Assistant to the County Commissioners
Janis Omelina	Treasurer
Melissa Jeter	Auditor
Justin Killough	Chief Deputy-S/O
Terri Meadows	Houston County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	The Messenger

Visitors: Sonny Hubbard (Piney Woods Sanitation), Clayton Starr (SRT), Ruenette Starr, Thomas Gilson, Ann Walker (PWFAA)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Kitchen gave the opening prayer. Judge Lovell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

(2) Recognition and comments from guests:

Judge Lovell recognized the guests and asked if there were any comments. None

(3) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from February 11, 2020. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(4) Considering approving budget amendments. There were none.

(5) Consider payment of bills and expenses:

- a. Accounts payable
- b. Fund transfers
- c. Ratify Salary expenses

Commissioner Lovell made a motion to pay all of the bills and expenses for a. (Accounts payable), b. (Fund transfers), and c. (Ratify Salary expenses). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kitchen. The motion carried 5 to 0.

(6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:

- a. County Treasurers Report
- b. Compensatory Report

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information the Treasurers Report and the Compensatory Report. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

County Office announcements/information included:

- 1. **Jan Pigford stated that we are gearing up for the Healthy County Boot Camp and she encouraged everyone to join.**

(7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:

- a. Approve the hiring of Cody English as Full-Time Sheriff's Deputy at a pay grade #19 and an hourly rate of \$15.48.
- b. Approve the hiring of Mathew Van Egmond as Part-Time Sheriff's Deputy at pay grade #19 and hourly salary of \$16.68.
- c. Approve the promotion of Michael Cochran as Full-Time Sheriff's Deputy at pay grade #19 and bi-weekly salary of \$1365.38 and bi-weekly cell phone allowance of \$18.46.
- d. Approve a 6 month raise of Curtavious Watts as Sheriff's Deputy at pay grade #19 and bi-weekly salary of \$1326.30 and bi-weekly cell phone allowance of \$18.46.
- e. Approve a 6 month raise of Mathew Millican as Sheriff's Deputy at pay grade #19 and bi-weekly salary of \$1326.30 and bi-weekly cell phone allowance of \$18.46.
- f. Approve a 6 month raise of Blake Dickey as Sheriff's Dispatcher at pay grade #15 and bi-weekly salary of \$1091.15.
- g. Approve a 6 month raise of Cristian Hernandez as Sheriff's Dispatcher at pay grade #15 and bi-weekly salary of \$1091.15.

Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve these new/promoted hires. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, vacation and holiday time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve necessary budget amendments and payments to Thomas Shafer (\$2758.80) and Mathew VanEgmond (\$2928.58). Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(9) Consider adopting proclamation for Sons of the Republic celebrating Texas Independence Day. As in past times, Clayton Starr enlightened us on Texas History through a brief informative talk. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to adopt the proclamation celebrating Texas Independence Day. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (10) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve Hotel Occupancy Tax of \$1000 for Piney Woods Fine Arts Association (PWFAA) for the Jeanne Robertson event March 7, 2020 and \$3000.00 for the PRCA Rodeo May 7, 8, & 9, 2020. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (11) Discuss and consider taking action to approve contract between Houston County and the Department of Public Safety in accordance with Texas Government Code 2167 and Texas Transportation Code Chapter 521 for office space for DPS Driver License and THP (Texas Highway Patrol) located at 112 E Houston Avenue, Crockett TX. **ITEM PASSED**
- (12) Discuss and consider action on authorizing the County Judge to select and sign a contract for electricity through HGAC under the state contract options when the market pricing is favorable. **Commissioner Lovell made this in the form of a motion. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (13) Discuss and consider action on advertising to accept bids for a Patrol Truck for Constable Precinct 1 and authorizing a Lease Purchase Agreement through Citizens Nation Bank. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to advertise for bids. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (14) Discuss and consider action on adopting a policy applicable to all Procurements made with Federal Funds. Melissa Jeter, County Auditor, said this is step 1 of new grant trying to get CBDG/TDA/HUD for most recent disaster through office of Agriculture. These procedures we already do we just need to put it into a policy. **Commissioner Kitchen moved to adopt a policy applicable to all Procurements made with Federal Funds. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (15) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to receive as information the FY 2019 Juvenile Probation Grant Audit as prepared by Todd, Hamaker and Johnson, CPA. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (16) Commissioner Kitchen bragged on Mike and Ginger Lawless for adopting County Road Beautification for CR 210 and he hopes this will encourage others to do the same. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to adopt a resolution for County Road Beautification for CR 2140. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (17) **Commissioner Lovell moved to declare as surplus a 1995 Ford bucket truck, 1500 PSI power washer for Precinct 2; 2002 Dodge Ram pickup for Precinct 4 and to approve advertising to accept bids to sell. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (18) Sonny Hubbard gave an update from Pinewoods Sanitation. First, he let us know that Danny had a CAT Scan and he is consider cancer free. As of the end of the month there are 2050 customers and only 1 complaint and it was weather related and was resolved right away.

(19) Judge Lovell moved to adjourn the Meeting. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0. The meeting was adjourned.

Jim Lovell, County Judge

Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

Terri Meadows, County Clerk