



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 25, 2021**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on February 25, 2021, **in person and via zoom due to Covid**, with the following members present, to wit:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Jim Lovell      | County Judge                              |
| Gary Lovell     | Commissioner, Precinct #1                 |
| Willie Kitchen  | <b>**ABSENT</b> Commissioner, Precinct #2 |
| Gene Stokes     | Commissioner, Precinct #3                 |
| Jimmy Henderson | Commissioner, Precinct #4                 |

Also present:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Jan Pigford    | Administrative Assistant to the County Judge |
| Sharon Luker   | Assistant to the Commissioners               |
| Janis Omelina  | Treasurer                                    |
| Randy Hargrove | Sheriff                                      |
| Roger Dickey   | Chief Deputy                                 |
| Daphne Session | County Attorney                              |
| Heath Murff    | Emergency Management Coordinator             |
| Melissa Jeter  | County Auditor                               |
| Cynthia Lum    | Elections Administrator                      |
| Jennifer Kulms | 911 Addressing Coordinator                   |
| Tasha Brent    | AgriLife                                     |
| Corey Hicks    | AgriLife                                     |
| Jo Smith       | AgriLife                                     |
| Terri Meadows  | County Clerk                                 |

Media:

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Will Johnson | Messenger |
|--------------|-----------|

Visitors:

James Gentry (Crockett Economic Development Director, Denny Wheeler (Pineywoods Sanitation), James Gentry (Director of Economic Development), Gary Keeling (Lincoln Lumber), Jim Kelly (Lincoln Lumber)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Stokes led the opening prayer. Following the prayer Judge Lovell led the Pledge to the American flag and to the Texas Flag.

- (2) Recognition and comments from guests: **NONE**
- (3) **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from February 9, 2021. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (4) Consider approving budget amendments. **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 Stokes. The motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
  - a. County Treasurers Report
  - b. Compensatory Report**Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the County Treasurers Report and the Compensatory Report. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

**\*\*In other office reports Judge Lovell recognized Heath Murff for all of his hard work during recent snow and ice storm in Houston County.**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:  
**Commissioner Henderson made a motion and Commissioner Stokes seconded to approve salaries of the following Houston County Sheriff Office Employees:**
  - (a) Mike W. Molnes as Certified Jailer with bi-weekly salary of \$1069.75 in pay grade 16
  - (b) Lynn Gentry as Bailiff Deputy with bi-weekly salary of \$1069.75 in pay grade 15 plus phone stipend of \$18.46 bi-weekly
  - (c) Rocky Hoch as Transport Deputy with bi-weekly salary of \$1300.29 in pay grade 19 plus phone stipend of \$18.46 bi-weekly.**Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to pay the following employees for Vacation/Comp Time: Dustin Brown with HCO \$5.09 and Katie Cook with HCSO \$120.00. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (9) Hear annual summary interpretation presentation of Agri-Life Extension Service Education for 2020. **Jo Smith, Tasha Brent, and Corey Hicks each gave a portion of the report and gave us a glimpse of how they adapted with virtual programs during the Covid Pandemic. Judge Lovell thanked them for their presentations.**
- (10) **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to accept donation of \$2,000.00 from the City of Kennard for Precinct 4. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

- (11) Discuss and consider action on building renovation project at Precinct 2 Office building located at 601 Cedar Street and necessary budget amendments. **PASSED**
- (12) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to adopt Order Declaring an Exemption from bidding necessary to preserve and protect the public health and safety of the residents of the county as authorized under Local Government Code 262.024(a)(2). Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. The vote was For: 4 Against: 0
- (13) Discuss and consider taking action to approve a new contract with Pineywoods Sanitation Services, Inc for solid waste collection service in unincorporated areas of Houston County. Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the contract with Commissioner Henderson seconding the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (14) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to set a public hearing on APRIL 13, 2021 regarding the Tax Abatement Agreement with Houston County and Lincoln Lumber Crockett LLC to modify or terminate the agreement and to consider entering a Tax Abatement Agreement with the City of Crockett and Lincoln Lumber Crockett LLC. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (15) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to appoint Commissioner Jimmy Henderson to negotiate for right of way and construction/temporary easements on CR 1060 and CR 1050 for the Hickory Creek tributary as necessary for the Texas Dept of Transportation bridge improvement project. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (16) Commissioner Stokes made a motion to appoint Commissioner Gene Stokes to negotiate for right of way and construction/temporary easements on CR 3585 for the Wright Creek tributary as necessary for the Texas Dept of Transportation bridge improvement project. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (17) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to appoint Commissioner Willie Kitchen to negotiate for right of way and construction/temporary easements and relocation of utilities on CR 2215, CR 2230 and CR 2120 for Little Elkhart Creek and Big Elkhart Creek tributaries as necessary for the Texas Dept of Transportation bridge improvement project. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (18) Commissioner Lovell made a motion and Commissioner Stokes seconded to receive as information the Racial Profiling reports from Houston County Law Enforcement Agencies. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (19) Commissioner Lovell moved to receive as information ESD #2 Audit as of September 30, 2020. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

**(20) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to receive as information the Declaration of Local Disaster issued for Houston County. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

**(21) Judge Lovell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

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Jim 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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Gene Stokes, Commissioner, Precinct #3

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Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

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Terri Meadows, County Clerk