



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2020**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on August 11, 2020, **via Zoom due to Covid 19**, with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2
ABSENT	Commissioner, Precinct #3
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Sharon Luker	Assistant to the Commissioners
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Justin Killough	Sheriff
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Danette Millican	County Tax Assessor Collector
Janis Omelina	County Treasurer
Roger Dickey	Emergency Management Coordinator
Bonita Newman	911 Addressing
Nathan Turner	Information Technology
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Will Johnson	The Messenger
Alton Porter	Houston County Courier

Visitors:

Tim Coffey

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order and Judge Ronnie Jordan led the opening prayer. Following the Prayer Judge Lovell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

- (2) Budget workshop session to discuss the new County budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2020.
- (3) Adjourn budget workshop.
- (4) Recognition and comments from guests: None
- (5) **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from July 28, 2020. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (6) Consider approving budget amendments. **None**
- (7) Consider payment of bills and expenses:
 - a. Accounts payable
 - b. Fund transfers
 - c. Ratify Salary expenses**Commissioner Henderson 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 4 to 0.**
- (8) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
 - a. Environmental Report
 - b. Community Service Report (not available)**Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the Environmental Report. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (9) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
(a) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve Ana Wiley as Part Time Deputy Clerk in the Tax Assessor Collectors Office, Bi-Weekly Salary of \$534.80, Pay Grade 16. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (10) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to pay Billy Christian \$37.70, Ryan Hutcherson \$72.19, and Martha Jackson \$26.32 (all employees work for the Sheriff's Department) and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0**
- (11) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information the Certified Appraisal Roll as of July 28, 2020 from the Chief Appraiser Carey Minter. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (12) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to receive as information the 2020 Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet as prepared by the Tax Assessor/Collector for Budget Year 2021. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (13) **Commissioner Henderson moved to approve the proposed tax rate of 53.20 (down from 54.00). Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

- (14) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to authorize the purchase of a winch for Game Warden Benge of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Houston County Office at a total cost of \$549.89. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (15) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion on the Resolution and Agreement accepting the grant awarded to the County by the County Transportation Infrastructure Fund Grant Program administered by the Texas Department of Transportation pursuant to Chapter 256 of the Texas Transportation Code and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (16) **Commissioner Henderson moved to approve the donation of 20 box fans (approximately \$350-\$375) from Good Samaritan Charity for distribution to clients of the Houston County Aging Services. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (17) **Discuss and consider taking action by accepting food donation through January 1, 2021 under direction of Good Shepherd Church for Houston County Sheriff's Office. PASS**
- (18) **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve Houston County Premises Permit for Porter Springs Baptist Church to conduct prayer rally with music and brief message to be held on HC Courthouse lawn on August 27, 2020 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (19) **Discuss and consider taking action to approve plat for Pipeline Road Land Company Subdivision to be located on CR 2125, Latexo, Houston County, TX. Commissioner Kitchen moved to table until he could visit with the County Attorney about the plat. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (20) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve renewing insurance coverage with Texas Association of Counties for general and auto liability policies beginning October 1, 2020. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (21) **Adjourn. Judge Lovell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

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