



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on September 22, 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	(Joined after agenda item 6)
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 Commissioners
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Justin Killough	Sheriff
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Roger Dickey	Emergency Management Coordinator
Bonita Newman	911 Addressing
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator
Jo Smith	AgriLife Extension Office
Tasha Brent	AgriLife Extension Office
Sarah Clark	CCL Judge
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Will Johnson	The Messenger
Alton Porter	Houston County Courier

Visitors:

St. Francis, Denny Wheeler, Corey Hicks

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

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

- (2) Recognition and comments from guests: None
- (3) **Commissioner Henderson moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from September 1, 2020, September 8, 2020, and September 15, 2020. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (4) Consider approving budget amendments. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (5) 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 5 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 Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- Melissa Jeter announced that the OCA has sent down new requirements for tracking CPS cases and she is going to need the help of the court coordinators.**
- Jan Pigford reminded us all about the drive thru Health Fair at the Civic Center this Friday, September 25, 2020. County employees will be able to get a free flu shot by providing your insurance card.**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
- (a) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the six month raise for Cody English, Sheriff's Deputy from \$1238.37 bi-weekly to \$1300.29 bi-weekly in Pay Grade 19. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (b) Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the hiring of J Darius Pruitt as Sheriff's Office Dispatcher at bi-weekly salary of \$1018.81 in pay grade 15. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (c) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approving the hiring of Bobbie Stilwell as Administrative Assistant/Office Manager – Extension Office at bi-weekly salary of \$995.89 in pay grade 14. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (8) **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the appointment of Milton Ladimer as Houston County Veterans Service Officer. He will replace John McMillen who has retired. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (9) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to reappoint Dr. Chris Haeckler as County Health Authority. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0**

- (10) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **NONE**
- (11) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the salary reduction affidavits and approve budget amendments for County Judge Jim Lovell to Jan Pigford and Judge Calhoon and Judge Fletcher to Tina Teetz. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (12) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to grant discretionary exemptions for purchases of goods and services related to the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to Local Government Code §262.024 under the CARES Act/Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (13) **Riley Beaver gave a very moving talk about 4-H and the importance of this organization in her life and the lives of other young people. After her excellent talk Commissioner Lovell made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to proclaim October 4 – 10, 2020 as Nation 4-H week. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (14) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to adopt Resolution approving application for the 2021 Indigent Defense Formulary Grant Program. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (15) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to continue the Sheriff and Constable fees the same as last year effective October 1, 2020. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

At this point the electricity went out and Commissioners Court took a brief break until everyone could get logged back on.

- (16) Discuss and consider action on a contract with Northland Communications to upgrade the internet connection for the Houston County Justice Center and cancellation of current contract with Windstream. **PASS**
- (17) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept a donation from Jack Vickers of 400 yards of salvage road base to Precinct 2. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (18) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept a donation from Cliff Netterville of 312.5 yards of salvage road base to Precinct 2. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (19) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to contract with Rebekah L. Bear to purchase and remove an unspecified amount of iron ore gravel for Precinct 2. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (20) **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 October 8, 2020 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (21) **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to ratify the maintenance contract with Knowink for the poll/voting tablets and connectivity software and Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (22) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve Interlocal Agreement with the Houston and Trinity Counties Children’s Advocacy Center (Kalin’s Center) to provide services for the protection of children of Houston County and approve the annual monetary payment to Kalin’s Center in the amount of \$5000 to be paid out of the Family Protection Fund. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (23) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to renew contract with Lexis Nexis for legal research services for the County and District Attorney offices for FY 2021 and Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (24) Discuss and consider moving IT office from Courthouse Annex to bailiff office in the main Courthouse. **PASS**
- (25) **Commissioner Henderson made a motion receive as information notice of cancellation for medical services to county jail inmates from Merci LLC dba Alto Family Medical Clinic effective November 1, 2020. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (26) Hear update from Pinewoods Sanitation. Denny Wheeler was present and announced that he now has over 2000 residential customers and over 100 commercial customers. He said things are going well and they are excited about the new Transfer Station that they are putting in Houston County.
- (27) **Adjourn. Judge Lovell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 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