



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 10, 2020**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on November 10, 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
Pat Perry	<b>ABSENT</b> , 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
Bonita Newman	911 Addressing
Janis Omelina	County Treasurer
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Jerry Kaelin	Chief Deputy
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Roger Dickey	Emergency Management Director
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Tresea Land	Administrative Assistant to JP Precinct 1
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Will Johnson	The Messenger
Alton Porter	Houston County Courier

Visitors:

Janice Slaughter, James Gentry (Crockett Economic Development), Liza Clark (Crockett Area Chamber Director), Ann Walker (Piney Woods Fine Arts Association Director), Jim Kelly (Lincoln Lumber), R.C. "Chris" von Doenhoff (Crockett Economic Development Board Member)

- (1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:  
Judge Lovell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Henderson led the opening prayer and then Judge Lovell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.
- (2) Conduct Public Hearing on a Proposed Tax Abatement Agreement with Lincoln Lumber Crockett LLC located at 215 W. Austin, Crockett, Texas pursuant to the Houston County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria authorized under Chapter 312, Tax Code. The location of Lincoln Lumber Crockett is in a Reinvestment/Enterprise Zone within the City of Crockett and is purposed to provide construction improvements, and economic development within Houston County. **The Court entered into this public hearing at 10:02 a.m. Mr. Gentry asked the Commissioners to notice on the Tax Abatement Agreement 2. (a) the amount of \$10,276,853. is incorrect. It should be \$11,083,361.00. This corrected amount is reflected on the new draft.**
- (3) Close Public Hearing. **Judge Lovell closed the Public Hearing at 10:05 a.m.**
- (4) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to enter a Tax Abatement Agreement with Lincoln Lumber Crockett LLC pursuant to the Houston County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria authorized under Chapter 312, Tax Code for the economic development of Houston County. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (5) Recognition and comments from guests: **NONE**
- (6) **Commissioner Henderson moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from October 27, 2020. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (7) Consider approving budget amendments. **NONE**
- (8) 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 Henderson. The motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (9) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
  - a. Environmental Report
  - b. Community Service Report **(Not Available)**  
**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information the Environmental Report. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

Other County Announcements:  
**Judge Lovell shared with everyone that we will forego the Annual County Thanksgiving Gathering, but we will have an Employee Appreciation Dinner at First United Methodist Church on December 3, 2020 where we will adhere to social distancing and safety measures due to COVID.**
- (10) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees: **NONE**

- (11) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve payment to HCSO Deputy Hutcherson in the amount of \$1042.39; Elections Administrator Cynthia Lum in the amount of \$1732.53; and HCSO Jailer A.C. Rains in the amount of \$388.01. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (12) Discuss and consider action on granting 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). **NONE**
- (13) **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to accept donation of 42 cases (this number on the agenda is 92 and is incorrect) of egg rolls and 4 cases of chicken leg quarters from Good Shepherd Outreach Ministry to be used by the Sheriff's Department for inmate meals for the month of September. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kitchen. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (14) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to adopt a Resolution to accept the Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division Airport Project Grant for Runway upgrades at Houston County Airport, and designate Judge Jim Lovell as the agent and authorize matching funds to come from Community Development Fund in the amount of \$26,500. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (15) **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to enter an Interlocal Agreement with Crockett Economic & Industrial Development Corporation to assist with the TxDot Aviation Runway Grant Match up to \$26,500.00 for infrastructure and improvements at the Houston County Airport and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (16) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve proposed 2021 Holiday Schedule as recommended by the Human Resource Committee. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (17) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Lovell seconded to appoint members for Houston County Historical Commission as presented. (Wanda Jordan – CHC Chair, Barbara Wooten – Marker Chair, Mary Barton, Vaden Caldwell, Polly Caldwell, Charlie Darsey, Frank Foster, Pipp Gillette, Grady Grounds, Carol Hoch, Alice Jones, Al Kreger, Erline Kreger, Elizabeth McCoy, Cecil Miles, Fran Miles, Hallie Murphy, LeRoy Pickens, Jr., Jim Renfro, Angela Steptoe, Tom Streetman, Sandra Sucec, Charles Vest, Ray Wollgast. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (18) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve Hotel Occupancy Tax Application and Interlocal Agreement for Piney Woods Fine Arts Association in the amount of \$1000.00 for the Roger Creager Concert to be held on Friday, November 20, 2020. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (19) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to accept the grant award of \$18,779.25 from the Center for Tech and Civic Life for election costs and necessary budget Amendments. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(20) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to authorize the expenditures for continuing education expenses for newly elected officials prior to officer's term of office for Randy Hargrove, Gene Stokes and Laronica Wooten-Smith, as authorized under LGC 152.907. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(21) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the contract with Northland Communications for 14 fax lines in county offices of the Courthouse and Annex and Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(22) Commissioner Henderson moved to receive as information the Indigent Defense Expenditure Report for FY 2020 and Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(23) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the Unfunded Mandate Survey for Houston County. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(24) Adjourn. Judge Lovell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lovell 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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Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

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Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

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Terri Meadows, County Clerk