



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**JULY 13, 2021**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on July 13, 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	Commissioner, Precinct #2
Gene Stokes	Commissioner, Precinct #3
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to County Judge
Janis Omelina	Treasurer
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Brittani Womack	First Assistant Auditor (Zoom)
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Randy Hargrove	Sheriff
Heath Murff	Emergency Management (Zoom)
Laronica Smith	Tax Assessor-Collector (Zoom)
Jennifer Kulms	9-1-1 Addressing
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	The Messenger (Zoom)

Visitors:

Mike Hunsucker (Windstream), Luke Sanderson (Windstream), Mikael Craig (citizen), Maydine Hill (citizen), Mickey Slimp (DETCOG), Mr. Vest (citizen), Judge Melton by Zoom (Sabine County Judge)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Kitchen 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 Kitchen moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from June 22, 2021 and June 30, 2021. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

**Commissioner Lovell joined the meeting in progress at this time.**

- (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 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 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 the Treasurers Report and the Compensatory Report as information. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

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

**(a) Cook for Senior Center – PASS AT THIS TIME**

**(b) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve promotion and salary of Meagan Frizzell as Dispatch Supervisor in the Sheriff Office at a bi-weekly salary of \$1230.21 in pay grade 16 and bi-weekly phone stipend of \$18.46. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

**(c) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the hiring and salary of James Ryan Hutcherson at the Sheriff Office as full-time Deputy with a bi-weekly salary of \$1238.37 in pay grade 19 and bi-weekly phone stipend of \$18.46. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

**(d) Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve the hiring and salary of Schayne Schultz as full-time Jailer at the Sheriff Office with bi-weekly salary of \$1018.81 in pay grade 15 and Caleb Wood as full-time Jailer at the Sheriff Office with bi-weekly salary of \$1018.81 in pay grade 15. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 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 and Commissioner Stokes seconded to approve payment of vacation, holiday, and comp time to employees that worked at the HCSO: D. Brown \$65.25, D. Mahan \$62.18, J. Hallmark \$160.44, K. Cook \$3059.56, C. English \$117.75, and F. Rea \$2673.87. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (9) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve Crockett Civic Center Rental Use Agreement for:
- (a) Jury Selection & Jury trial for County Court at Law August 9-13, 2021
  - (b) Jury Selection & Jury trial for County Court at Law September 13-17, 2021
  - (c) Jury Selection for District Court July 13, 2021
- Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (10) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to accept \$1200.00 donation from Roy B Gibson for improvements to County Road 2126 in Precinct 1. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (11) Commissioner Stokes made a motion to accept donation of 763 tons of rock from ET Gas with estimated value of \$10,685 for improvements to County Road 3510 in Precinct 3. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (12) Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve updated DETCOG Regional Mutual Aid Agreement. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (13) Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve FY 22-23 Interlocal Agreements with DETCOG for 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point Services. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (14) Commissioner Kitchen moved to Advertise for bids for
- (a) 1995 GMC Sierra  
VIN: 552458 for Precinct 2. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- Commissioner Stokes made a motion to carry to salvage yard and dispose of
- (b) 2003 Ford 1-150 VIN A75096 for Precinct 3. Commissioner Henderson seconded.  
Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (15) Commissioner Lovell moved to approve Interlocal Agreements with ESD #1, ESD #2, Houston County Hospital District, and Grapeland Hospital District for tax collection. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (16) Commissioner Lovell made a motion designate Tax-Assessor Collector, Laronica Wooten-Smith, as officer to calculate tax rates per Property Tax Code 26.04. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (17) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion with Commissioner Stokes seconding the approval of contract with Vyve for additional phone line to be placed in the Houston County Aging Services office. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (18) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to purchase 2022 Mac Dump truck in the amount of \$134,742.37 to be financed with a lease-purchase and necessary budget amendments (still waiting on financing proposal and asking for discretion to go with best interest rate the county can receive). Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (19) Judge Lovell made a recommendation that the county go with a no-cost contract through Voltus for demand response revenue from generators due to energy savings. Commissioner

**Lovell voiced a motion for the same and Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(20) Hear presentation from Windstream concerning proposed fiber optic and broadband coming to Houston County. Luke Sanderson and Mike Hunsucker, representatives from Windstream were on hand to make the presentation. This was not an action item.

**(21) Judge Lovell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 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