



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES (AMENDED)
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 27, 2021**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on July 27, 2021, **in person and via zoom due to Covid**, with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	**ABSENT 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
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Brittani Womack	First Assistant Auditor (Zoom)
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator (Zoom)
Heath Murff	Emergency Management (Zoom)
Laronica Smith	Tax Assessor-Collector
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

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

Visitors:

Alice Jones (Houston County Historical Commission – HCHC), Wanda Jordan-HCHC, Albert Kroger-HCHC, Carol Hoch-HCHC, Dave Powell-Visitor, Ann Walker-PWFAA, Paul Stringer-Fiddler Festival

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Commissioner Kitchen called the meeting to order. Commissioner Kitchen led the opening prayer and 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 July 13, 2021. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.**

Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from July 16, 2021. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.

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

- (4) **Consider approving budget amendments. Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the budget amendments. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 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 the bills and expenses for a. (Accounts payable), b. (Fund transfers), and c. (Ratify Salary expenses). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lovell. 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 the Treasurers Report and the Compensatory Report as information. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

- (7) **Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees: NONE**

- (8) **Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Henderson made a motion and Commissioner Stokes seconded to approve payment of vacation, holiday, and comp time to employees that worked at the HCSO: D. Mahan \$87.78. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

- (9) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the Houston County Historical Commission Distinguished Service Award for the 2020 year of service. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0. Wanda Jordan spoke on behalf of the Houston County Historical Commission and stated she believes this is the 15th year they have received this award. She also paid tribute to Cecil Miles and his passing earlier this year.**

- (10) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the following applications requesting Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal Agreement:**

- a. **Salmon Lake Enterprises LP for Camp Rock Fest (Pitmasters Edition) to be held July 23-25, 2021 in the Salmon Lake Park for \$3000.**
- b. **World Champion Fiddlers Festival to be held on September 24-25, 2021 at the Porth Ag Arena for \$2000.**
- c. **PineyWoods Fine Arts Association for "Marshall Tucker Band" Concert Event to be held on August 6, 2021 at the Crockett Civic Center for \$1000.**

- d. **PineyWoods Fine Arts Association for “Exile Band” Concert Event to be held on August 20, 2021 at the Crockett Civic Center for \$1000.**
 - e. **PineyWoods Fine Arts Association for “Kevin Costner and the Modern West Band” Concert Band Event to be held on August 27, 2021 to be held at the Crockett Civic Center for \$1000.**
- (11) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve contract with County Information Resources Agency (CIRA) for email and website technology. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (12) **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve FY 22-23 Interlocal Agreements with DETCOG for GIS & NG-1-1 Automatic Location Information Maintenance Services. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (13) **Commissioner Lovell moved to adopt Resolution to establish the newly purchased voting equipment as the official election system for early and election day voting. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (14) **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to accept the donation of 20 box fans valued at \$357.60 from Houston County Good Samaritan Charity to be distributed to clients of the Houston County Aging Services. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (15) **Commissioner Stokes moved to accept the negotiated interest rates with the County Depository, Citizens National Bank, as authorized under LGC 116.021(b) for the final two years of the four-year contract. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (16) **Commissioner Lovell moved to accept the Certified Appraisal Roll Values as presented by Laronica Smith, Tax Assessor Collector. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (17) **Commissioner Henderson made the motion to amend the employee life insurance plan waiting period to coincide with the employee health insurance waiting period of first of the month following 60 days. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (18) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion with Commissioner Stokes seconding the approval of financing and necessary budget amendments on a lease purchase with BancorpSouth Equipment Finance for 13 months for a 2022 Mack Dump Truck for Precinct 2 in an amount not to exceed \$135,000. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (19) **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to amend the master contract with Valic for employee deductions for a 457(b) retirement account. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (20) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion with Commissioner Stokes seconding the approval of financing and necessary budget amendments on a lease purchase with BancorpSouth Equipment Finance for 5 years for a Mack Dump Truck for Precinct 1 in an amount not to exceed \$130,000. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(21) **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to submit the liability insurance renewal to Texas Association of Counties for 2021-2022. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(22) **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to designate a 2021 Chevy Impala (3116) as surplus and authorizing the advertisement to accept bids to sale. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(23) Closed executive session as authorized by Texas Government Code §551.071 for a consultation with the County Attorney about contemplated litigation, claims, legal issues, potential liabilities, or other matters for which the attorney's duties to the client under the Texas State Bar Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct conflicts with the Open Meetings Act. **The Court went in to closed executive session at 10:59 a.m. and then reconvened in open session at 11:25 a.m.**

(24) **Commissioner Henderson made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

Jim Lovell, County Judge

Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

Gene Stokes, Commissioner, Precinct #3

Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

Terri Meadows, County Clerk