



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 28, 2020**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on April 28, 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	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	Auditor
Justin Killough	Sheriff
Roger Dickey	Emergency Management Coordinator
Bonita Newman	9-1-1 Addressing
Janis Omelina	Treasurer
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Will Johnson	The Messenger
Alton Porter	Houston County Courier

Visitors:

A. Britz, Sonny Hubbard (Pineywoods Sanitation), John Angerstein (City Administrator)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Lovell led the opening 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 Kitchen made a motion to approve Commissioners Court minutes from April 14, 2020. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(4) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #19-05. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #20-05. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(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 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 5 to 0.**

(6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:

- a. County Treasurer's Report
- b. Compensatory Report

**Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the County Treasurer's Report and the Compensatory Report. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

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

**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Lovell seconded to approve salaries for new and/or transfer of the following employees. Motion carried.**

- a Earnest Lee Standley FT Jailer, PG 15, Bi-weekly Pay \$1018.81
- a Jacob Waller PT Jailer, PG 16, Hourly Pay \$14.04
- b Lucas Mahan Certified Jailer, PG 15, Bi-weekly Pay \$1123.24
- b Gordon Denman Certified Jailer, PG 15, Bi-weekly Pay \$1123.24
- b Zachary Reed Certified Jailer, PG 15, Bi-weekly Pay \$1123.24

**Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the hiring of Arthur Tims, PT Equipment Operator in Precinct 4, PG 14, Hourly Pay \$12.13. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, vacation and holiday time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Justin Killough, HCSO \$946.00 and Martha Jackson, HCSO \$60.56.**

**Commissioner Lovell made a motion to pay the compensatory, vacation and holiday time. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(9) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve Kennedy Foster-North as a volunteer for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (10) Consider approval of request to State Comptroller for refund of unclaimed capital credits received from electric cooperatives in accordance with §381.004 of the Texas Local Government Code. **Auditor Melissa Jeter stated this is our annual request. Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to request the refund as stated above. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (11) Discuss and consider taking action to approve contract between Houston County and the Department of Public Safety in accordance with Texas Government Code 2167 and Texas Transportation Code Chapter 521 for office space for DPS Driver License and THP (Texas Highway Patrol) located at 112 E. Houston Avenue, Crockett TX. **Judge Lovell asked Melissa Jeter to confirm that all back payments from DPS have been made and she responded that all payments have been made. Commissioner Henderson moved to approve the contract with Commissioner Kitchen seconding the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (12) Discuss and consider action on authorizing the purchase of a used 2014 Freightliner Dump Truck for Precinct #3 for \$28,000 and declaring the 2006 Peterbuilt Dump Truck as surplus for a trade in of \$15,000 for a net purchase price of \$13,000 and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Perry made a motion to approve the above purchase/surplus/budget amendment and Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (13) **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to accept donation of \$1500.00 to the Sheriff's Office for Law Enforcement equipment and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (14) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept a donation of \$1275.00 from Rojo's Logging for road materials for County Road 2290 and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (15) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to proclaim the week of April 26 - May 3, 2020 as "Soil & Water Stewardship Week." Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (16) Discuss and consider action on advertising to accept bids for a contract for a consultant and grant administer associated with Disaster Recovery under State and Federal programs. **Melissa Jeter informed the Court that this is the next step in getting things in line to have someone assist the county with grant applications. Commissioner Kitchen moved to go forward with accepting bids for a contract for a consultant and grant administer associated with Disaster Recover under State and Federal Programs. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (17) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information the FY 2019 Financial Report as prepared by County Auditor to be submitted for Audit. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (18) Hear update from Pineywoods Sanitation and discuss setting a date for large item county-wide garbage collection. **Sonny Hubbard gave an update and said that things are going well and that they would work with the commissioners on whatever they decided with the large item garbage collection. The Commissioners Court approved by Acclamation large item garbage collection for July 11 (Pct 1), July 18 (Pct 2), July 25 (Pct 3), and August 1 (Pct 4).**

**(19) PUBLIC HEARING**

Judge Lovell opened the hearing at 10:48 a.m. To adopt guidelines and criteria governing tax abatement agreements and the designation of reinvestment zones in areas of the county by Houston County as authorized by under Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code. **Melissa Jeter said this must be adopted every 2 years. Daphne Session County Attorney said this tax abatement guidelines and criteria is the same as the one adopted in 2016 except that it does involve City of Crockett in the wording it states Houston County (and that includes ALL of Houston County).** Judge Lovell closed the Public Hearing at 10:54 a.m.

**(20) Commissioner Kitchen moved to adopt guidelines and criteria governing tax abatement agreements and the designation of reinvestment zones in areas of the county by Houston County as authorized by under Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

**(21) Judge Lovell moved to adjourn the Meeting. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0. The meeting was adjourned.**

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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