



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 23, 2019**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on April 23, 2019 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:

Sharon Luker	Assistant to the County Commissioners
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Melissa Jeter	Houston County Auditor
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator
Gail Thompson	Assistant to the Elections Administrator
Donna Kaspar	District Attorney
G.P. Shearer	Houston County S/O Chief Deputy
Terri Meadows	Houston County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
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Visitors: Gwendolyn Scott, Clayton Starr (Sons of the Republic), Cindy Pugh, Frank Womack, Jack Currie, Ruenette Starr, Jewelisa Johnson, Linzey Thornton, Charlene Martin (Adult Protective Services), Tracey Beln, Darryl L.

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

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

(2) Recognition and comments from guests:

Judge Lovell recognized the guests and asked if there were any comments. There were none.

- (3) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court Minutes:
Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from April 9, 2019. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (4) Consider approving budget amendments:
Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the necessary Budget Amendments. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (5) Consider payment of bills and expenses:
- a. Accounts payable
 - b. Fund transfers
 - c. Ratify Salary expenses
 - d. Johnson Controls Payment due 5/1/19 in the amount of \$31,201.37 (\$30,000 goes to the principle and \$1,201.37 goes to the interest – The Auditor ask the Court to add this item for approval).
Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to pay the all of the bills and expenses for a, b, c, and d. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lovell. The motion carried 5 to 0.
- (6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
- a. County Treasurer’s Report (not available)
 - b. Compensatory Report
Commissioner Lovell moved to receive the Compensatory Report as information, Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
- a. Assistant Elections Administration - Cynthia Lum, Elections Administrator said that this is the title that was approved February 13, 2018 by Commissioner’s Court. There was some discussion including the Commissioners Court, Melissa Mosely - Auditor, and Cynthia Lum - Elections Administrator. Commissioner Kitchen asked if the job duties are still the same no matter the title of the job? Cynthia Lum replied that they are. A motion was made by Commissioner Kitchen to approve the position under this title. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
 - b. Full-time Jailer – Gordon Denman replacing Tristan Elem at pay grade 15 and a bi-weekly salary of \$1018.81.
 - c. Full-time Dispatcher – Cristian Hernandez replacing Vicki Lovell at pay grade 15 and bi-weekly salary of \$1018.81.
A motion was made by Commissioner Lovell and seconded by Commissioner Kitchen to approve the salary and hiring of Gordon Denman and Cristian Hernandez as stated in **b** and **c**. The motion carried 5 to 0.
 - d. Part-time Equipment Operator – Darrell Brown at pay grade 14 and part-time hourly wage of \$12.13.
Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the hiring of Darrell Brown as stated in **d**. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, vacation and holiday time for previous County employees and necessary budget amendments.
Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve this request. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(9 and 10)

Commissioner Kitchen moved to receive as information a Letter to Governor Abbott concerning major weather event resulting in severe public health and safety hazard and loss of life and Disaster Declaration and to adopt the proclamation declaring State of Disaster for Houston County. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(11) Consider adopting proclamation declaring May as Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. Charlene Martin, Director for our local Adult Protective Services apologized for not having the current stats at this time, but as soon as she gets them she will get them to Commissioners Court. Mrs. Martin recognized the board members that were present and commended them for their work with elder care. Mrs. Martin also informed the Court that she has been assigned to Trinity County in addition to her duties here in Houston County. Commissioner Kitchen moved to adopt the proclamation. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(12) Consider proclaiming May 15, 2019 as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Day". Commissioner Lovell moved to sign the Official Proclamation proclaiming May 15, 2019 as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Day". Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(13) Discuss and consider taking action to approve payment for rock purchased out of county contract for protection of public health and safety per Texas Local Government Code §262.024 and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Kitchen explained that in Precinct 2 due to the storms the equipment stuck in the road there was an out of county contractor within 2 miles that could deliver quickly. This was an extenuating circumstance and the contractor should be paid for the rock. Commissioner Perry stated that Precinct 3 had also faced the same predicament. Motion made by Commissioner Perry and seconded by Commissioner Kitchen to approve the payment for the out of county rock purchase. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(14) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to amend contract with Lifeguard Ambulance Services to allow for a lower monthly subsidy through September 30, 2019 and amend the Interlocal Agreement with Houston County Hospital District to allow the District to reimburse the county the lower monthly subsidy through September 30, 2019. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(15) Discuss and consider action on advertising to accept bids and award a contract for Disaster Recovery services including debris management, removal and disposal. Melissa Jeter said that she understands this is a disaster but may not meet the FEMA threshold for funding. There was a FEMA representative on site April 22, 2019, but they did not currently see enough disaster to rise to the necessary level. We may need to wait and piggyback off of other agencies. Commissioner Perry made a motion to table taking any action at this time. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(16)

(a) Discuss and consider action on awarding a contract from received bids for Road Materials: After some discussion on the lowest bidder Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to award the bid for Road Materials to all 3 (Frost Crushed Stone Co., Inc., Connors Crushed Stone, and CRB Materials, LLC). Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(b) Discuss and consider action on awarding a contract from received bids for Hauling/Delivery of Road Materials:

Commissioner Lovell made a motion to award the bid for Hauling/Delivery of Road Materials for Precinct 1 to the low bidder, Womack Trucking. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to award the bid for Hauling/Delivery of Road Materials for Precinct 2 to the low bidder, Garry Kellum Trucking. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Commissioner Perry made a motion to award the bid for Hauling/Delivery of Road Materials for Precinct 3 to the low bidder, Womack Trucking. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Commissioner Henderson made a motion to award the bid for Hauling/Delivery of Road Materials for Precinct 4 to the low bidder, Womack Trucking. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(c) Discuss and consider action on awarding a contract from received bids for Fuel for County vehicle/AV gas for airport:

Commissioner Kitchen moved to award the bid to Crockett Farm and Fuel. Commissioner Lovell seconded the Motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(17) Discuss and consider taking action to accept a donation to Precinct # 2 from Scull Timber Company, Inc. for improvements to CR 2290.

Commissioner Kitchen moved to accept the donation. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(18) Discuss and consider taking action to appoint a member to Emergency Services District #2 Board of Directors to replace Marietta who resigned.

Commissioner Henderson said that he spoke with Josh Bobbitt about filling the position and he was agreeable to do so. Commissioner Henderson moved to appoint Josh Bobbitt to Emergency Services District # 2 Board of Directors. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(19) Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve 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. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(20) Accept as information waste report from Dean Wheeler of Pineywoods Sanitation. Mr.

Wheeler reported there are 1716 residential customers and 83 commercial customers. He also offered to help with the clean-up in Houston County by providing 5 roll off boxes for collection of debris.

No action taken.

(21)Adjourn:

Commissioner Kitchen made the motion to adjourn. Judge Lovell seconded. Motion carried with everyone standing.

The meeting was adjourned.

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