



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a special called meeting on September 15, 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
Melissa Jeter	Auditor
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator
Roger Dickey	Emergency Management Director
Justin Killough	Sheriff
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Sharon Luker	Administrative Assistant to the County Commissioners
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Bonita Newman	9-1-1
Janis Omelina	County Treasurer
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Will Johnson	The Messenger
Alton Porter	Houston County Courier

Visitors:

Ann Walker (PWFAA Director),

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

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

- (2) Recognition and comments from guests: None
- (3) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Elections Administrator to Election Judge for number of clerks to appoint in the November 3, 2020 election. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0. (Commissioner Kitchen had not joined the meeting at this point but he joined right after this agenda item)
- (4) Pat Perry moved to approve branch early voting locations in Lovelady and Grapeland on October 29 and October 30, 2020. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (5) Commissioner Kitchen moved to receive as information the list of designated Deputy Early Voting Clerks for the November General Election. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (6) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the FY 2021 Longevity Policy (policy changed expiration date and increased the pay from \$8.00 per month of service to \$10.00 per month of service) and set the date for disbursement on December 4, 2020. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (7) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to renew the Employee Retiree Health Insurance Medical policy and approve necessary funding through September 30, 2021. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0. There was discussion on whether or not to keep this on a year by year basis or adopt future funding costs for payment. The county outside auditor suggested that the county needs to look at this benefit and make a decision. An Actuary would need to be hired to gather the information and make a recommendation for the county to future fund the benefit. The Court decided this is something they will consider this next year.
- (8) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve updating the Project List and Certification under the County Transportation Infrastructure Fund (CTIF) Grant award. Motion seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (9) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the purchase of equipment to outfit two Patrol trucks for the Sheriff's Department from the Title III/Timber funds and necessary budget amendments up to \$25,976.00. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (10) Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Hotel Occupancy Tax Application and Interlocal Agreement for \$1000.00 with Piney Woods Fine Arts Association for John Michael Montgomery concert to be held on October 2, 2020. The Motion was seconded by Jimmy Henderson. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (11) After discussion about whether or not to go with a partial roof repair or a complete roof replacement on the old jail Commissioner Lovell made a motion to make expenditure for roof replacement in the amount of \$88,980.00 with Lucas Roofing on the Old Houston County Jail building located at 112B East Houston and adopt order granting exemption pursuant to LGC 262.024(3). Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(12) Commissioner Henderson moved to approve right of way permanent easement on Gail Creek and Gail Creek Relief for bridge replacements on CR 4025 and payment to property owner. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(13) Judge Lovell said that in regards to the Covid-19 pandemic, as recommended under CDC guidelines and the Houston County Court Operational Plan, I hereby make a motion to authorize the purchase of 3 model 10-30 UM Geneon battery operated mist sprayer/blower and 2 model 20-50 UM Geneon mist sprayer/blower along with 5 cooker/mixers and 5 cases of electrolyte disinfectant at a total cost of \$10,512.00 for the Courthouse, Annex, Senior Center, Justice Center, and Jail to be used to regularly sanitize the County buildings and ensure the health and safety of the public and employees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henderson and the motion carried 5 to 0.

(14) Discuss and consider action on a contract from quality Consulting and Security Services Inc. for armed uniformed security screeners necessary under the COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Courts of Houston County. **Pass**

(15) A motion was made by Commissioner Kitchen and seconded by Commissioner Lovell to approve order authorizing exemption from inscription requirements for 2020 Chevrolet pickup, unit #0084 as requested by the Houston County Sheriff. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(16) Adjourn. **Judge Lovell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

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