

The Commissioner Court of Houston County met in a regular called meeting held on August 11, 2015 with the following members present to wit:

Erin Ford	County Judge
Roger Dickey	Commissioner Precinct #1
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner Precinct #2
Pat Perry	Commissioner Precinct #3
Kennon Kellum	Commissioner Precinct #4

Also present

Bridget Lamb	County Clerk
Melissa Mosley	County Auditor
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Danette Milican	County Tax-Assessor Collector
Clyde Black	Justice of the Peace, Precinct #1
Ronnie Jordan	Justice of the Peace, Precinct #2
Donna Kaspar	District Attorney
Angela Cross	Juvenile Probation officer
Darrel Bobbitt	Sheriff
Dina Herrera	County Treasurer
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Red Smith	Constable, Precinct #2

Media

Teresa Holloway	Houston County Courier
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Visitors: Roger Zink, G. P. Shearer, Michael Brown, Terry Myers, Mary Lucas, Jan Pigford and Jim Selman

County Judge Erin Ford called the meeting to order

Judge Ford opened the meeting with a prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of guests

Judge Ford opened the budget workshop to discuss the county budget for fiscal year 2016

Judge Ford stated he proposed a three cent per \$100 above the 2015 effective tax rate of \$.489 for a total of .519 per \$100 valuation.

Judge said the reason for the tax increase is the twenty-five percent subsidy annual payment to Lifeguard Ambulance, an increase in the county's road and bridge budget for rehabilitation of county roads damages, courthouse roof replacement, an increase in county medical insurance plan premiums,

a three percent cost of living adjustment for county employees and the possible purchase of the East Texas Medical Center Communications tower.

Ronnie Jordan Justice of the peace precinct #2 requested an increase in salary for the Justice of Peace Clerks.

Sheriff Bobbitt expressed concern about a reduction in their petroleum product budget and the potential loss of an officer due to the expiration of a grant.

Constable Red Smith also expressed concern about the reduction in his petroleum product budget

Dina Herrera County Treasurer requested that Texas Association of Counties take over the Cobra program for the County

County Attorney Daphne Session expressed concern over a grant for an investigator in her office and said it had not materialized as of yet

County Clerk Bridget Lamb requested the court to consider creating an Election Administrator position.

After hearing no further comments a motion was made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey that the budget workshop be adjourned. Motion carried 5 to 0.

At 9:25 AM Judge Ford called the regular commissioners court meeting to order

Commissioner Willie Kitchen opened the meeting with a prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of guests

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Pat Perry to approve the minutes of the last regular called meeting held on July 28, 2015. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Willie Kitchen to approve payment of bills and expenses. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Kennon Kellum to accept as information the Environmental Control Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Human Resource Coordinator Jan Pigford announced there will be a mandatory Houston County Open Enrollment on Thursday, August 13, 2015 in the First Community Bank room from 9:00am to 4:00 pm.

Motion made by Judge Ford seconded by Willie Kitchen to set the public hearing dates for the proposed budget and proposed tax rate. Motion carried 5 to 0.

August 25, 21015 - Adoption of Budget for fiscal year 2016 and first public hearing
September 1, 2015 - Second public hearing
September 8, 2015 – Adoption of tax rate

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Kennon Kellum to continue the burn ban in unincorporated areas of Houston County. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to authorize the County Judge to negotiate with the fire marshall. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to receive as information the management letter for Fiscal Year 2014 from Todd, Hamaker & Johnson, LLP. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve Texas Association of Counties Health plan pool to administer COBRA program for Houston County and associated fee schedule. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to adopt the resolution supporting “Regional Fall Prevention Awareness Day”. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Pat Perry that this meeting be adjourn.

Erin Ford, County Judge

Roger Dickey, Comm. Pct. #1

Willie Kitchen, Comm. Pct. #2

Pat Perry, Comm. Pct. #3

Kennon Kellum, Comm. Pct. #4

Attest:

Bridget Lamb, County Clerk

