

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on August 22, 2017 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
Kennon Kellum	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Melissa Mosley	County Auditor
Danette Millican	County Tax Assessor/Collector
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Sarah Clark	County Court-at-Law Judge
Janice Turner	Chief Deputy County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	Grapeland Messenger
Edward Grisham	KIVY

Visitors: Jan Pigford, Mary Lucas, G. P. Shearer, Justin Killough, Julie Lobpries and Chad Lawson

The Public Hearing was opened by County Judge Jim Lovell.

Kennon Kellum opened the meeting with a prayer.

Judge Lovell led the Pledges of Allegiance.

Judge Lovell opened the Public Hearing on proposed 2018 ad valorem tax rate of \$0.54 per \$100 of value.

Julie Lopries made a plea to the Commissioners Court to consider not increasing the tax rate for 2018.

Judge Lovell declared the Public Hearing closed and the regular meeting began.

Motion made by Kennon Kellum to approve the prior minutes from the August 8, 2017 meeting. Motion was seconded by Pat Perry. Motion carried 5 to 0.

There were no line-item budget amendments.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen to approve payment of bills and expenses. The motion was seconded by Kennon Kellum. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to accept as information the County Treasurer's report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion which was seconded by Gary Lovell to accept as information the compensatory report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Jan Pigford made a report on the upcoming Open Enrollment to be held August 29, 2017 at the bank room. Representatives will be available to talk to everyone between 9 am and 4 pm.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen to approve the hiring of Jeremiah Smith to replace Alexis Hataway as a part-time jailer at a pay rate of \$12.49 per hour. Gary Lovell made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made the motion and Gary Lovell seconded the motion to approve the hiring of Matthew Moore as the new IT Technician at a bi-weekly salary of \$1,101.21. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to accept the grant for the Victim Assistance Coordinator position within the County Attorney's Office for the period September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2019. The grant is \$41,995 with the Office of the Attorney General. The motion was seconded by Gary Lovell. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion was made by Pat Perry and seconded by Kennon Kellum to accept a donation of \$1200 for improvement to County Road 4150 in Precinct 3 with the necessary budget amendments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made the motion which was seconded by Kennon Kellum, to accept an anonymous donation to purchase a body camera for the Sheriff's office along with the necessary budget amendments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Shearer explained the no-match grant for rifle armor vest for law enforcement in the amount of \$14,065.00 through the Office of the Governor. Willie Kitchen made a motion to accept that grant and Gary Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Pat Perry to accept as information the Annual Road Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to approve the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund Application and Interlocal Agreement in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the Grapeland Peanut Festival to be held October 12-14, 2017 and the Application and Agreement in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the Lions Club Third Annual Golf Tournament October 26, 2017. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve renewal of liability insurance coverage with the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool for Houston County Law Enforcement and Public Officials, general liability and auto physical/liability for fiscal year 2018. Gary Lovell made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

There was a discussion regarding renewal of the Aviation Support and Maintenance Service Contract with DBT Transportation Services for support of the Houston County Airport Automated Weather Observation System for fiscal year 2018. Willie Kitchen made a motion which was seconded by Gary Lovell, to approve renewal of the contract. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to accept the proposed tax rate of \$0.54 and Kennon Kellum seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Kennon Kellum made a motion that Public Hearings on the proposed tax rate be set at 8:00 am September 1st and 8:00 am September 5th. Gary Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Melissa Mosley explained the Attorney General Opinion on procedures and policies concerning payment of salaries and payables for county employees. A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and the second made by Gary Lovell to table further discussion on this matter. Motion carried 5 to 0.

There was a closed session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to Government Code §551.071 and 551.074.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve an amendment to request additional budget for visiting court reporters for the Houston County Court at Law. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Judge Lovell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Gary Lovell. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Jim L. Lovell, County Judge

Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

Kennon Kellum, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

Bridget Lamb, County Clerk