

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular called meeting on August 8, 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
Darrel Bobbitt	County Sheriff
Morris Luker	Constable, Precinct 1
Red Smith	Constable, Precinct 2
Amber Bewley	Assistant County Attorney
Ronnie Jordan	Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2
Janice Turner	Chief Deputy County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	Grapeland Messenger

Visitors: Jan Pigford, Mary Lucas, G. P. Shearer, Randy Worsham, Tina Teetz, David Lawrenz, Glenda Dowell and Paul Stringer

The meeting was called to order by County Judge Jim Lovell.

Judge Lovell opened the meeting with a prayer.

Judge Lovell led the Pledges of Allegiance.

Judge Lovell opened the Budget Workshop to discuss the proposed county budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2017.

Pay scale adjustments to jail staff were discussed with input from Darrel Bobbitt and G.P. Shearer.

Judge Pam Fletcher proposed a pay grade adjustment for the new Court Coordinator, Tina Teetz.

Red Smith talked about his department needs for the new year.

Morris Luker made a presentation requesting that he be paid as a full-time rather than part-time department head.

Judge Lovell declared the Budget Workshop closed and the regular meeting began.

Motion made by Kennon Kellum to approve the minutes with a correction from the July 25, 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 approve fund transfers. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the Environmental Report. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the hiring of two new, full-time jailers, Mark Sloan to replace Jocelyn Machuca and Alexis Hataway, at bi-weekly salaries of \$998.83. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen to approve the hiring of a new, part-time jailer, Edward Colbert, at a pay rate of \$12.49 per hour until full time starts on August 8, 2017. Motion seconded by Gary Lovell. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to approve the hiring of Josh Bobbitt as a part-time heavy equipment operator for Precinct 1 at a minimum pay grade of \$13.77. Willie Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion and Gary Lovell seconded to approve the renewal of the ACA Reporting and Tracking Service (ARTS). Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the Hotel Occupancy Tax Application and Interlocal Agreement for World Championship Fiddlers Festival to be held on September 22 and 23, 2017. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Danette Millican discussed possible dates for public hearing on proposed tax rate.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve a proposed tax rate of .55. The motion was seconded by Kennon Kellum. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion, seconded by Gary Lovell, to set the Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate for August 22, 2017 at 9:00 am to be followed by the regular meeting of Commissioners Court. 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