

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on November 2, 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	Tax Assessor
Janice Turner	Chief Deputy County Clerk

Media:

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

Visitors: Jan Pigford, Sharon Luker, David Lawrenz, Gary Shearer and Michael Molnes

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

Kennon Kellum opened the meeting with a prayer and Judge Lovell led the Pledges of Allegiance.

Judge Lovell recognized the guests and offered to hear any comments if there were any. Melissa Mosley had one comment: GO ASTROS!

Motion was made by Kennon Kellum to approve the minutes of the prior Commissioners Court Meetings. Motion was seconded by Gary Lovell. Motion carried 5 to 0.

There were no line-item budget amendments.

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

Willie Kitchen made a motion to accept as information the Environmental Report and the Community Service reports and Kennon Kellum made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen informed the Court that he had received several calls complaining about the garbage pickup in the County. It was decided that the Judge's office would try to contact the representative of the garbage company and place an item on the agenda to discuss the problem.

Jan Pigford explained the Human Resource Committees recommendations regarding the salary of the Dispatch Supervisor. Willie Kitchen made a motion to accept the Committees' recommendations and Gary Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the Supplemental Retiree Medical Policy through the Texas Association of Counties Health and Employee Benefits Pool. Gary Lovell made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Pat Perry made a motion to table Item 7c regarding a replacement member to represent Road and Bridge on the Human Resources Committee. Frank Womack has asked to be replaced. Willie Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion, seconded by Gary Lovell, to approve salaries for Charles Graham and Veronica Hill as part-time jailers and Dustin Brown as a full-time jailer. Gary Lovell made the second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to approve moving Jerry Kaelin and Billy Christian from Patrol Deputies to Investigator positions. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Lovell made the motion which was seconded by Willie Kitchen, to move CID Investigator Mike Molnes to Courthouse Security. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to approve moving Investigator Michael McCreight to Investigator Sergeant. Willie Kitchen made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Gary Lovell and seconded by Willie Kitchen to move Lorenzo Simpson from Investigator to Patrol Sergeant. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Kennon Kellum made a motion approving the move of Ryan Martin from Patrol Sergeant to CID Investigator. Willie Kitchen made the second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell, to move Dispatcher Katie Cook to the position of Dispatch Supervisor. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the employment and salary of Sharon Luker as a part-time Commissioners' Assistant. Kennon Kellum made the second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen to move the position of Courthouse Security Sergeant from pay scale 19 to pay scale 21 due to assigned additional duties. Gary Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

The application for a Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal Agreement for the Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce/Grapeland Chamber of Commerce Annual New Year's Eve Fireworks Event has been withdrawn. Any action on this item was passed.

Willie Kitchen made a motion, seconded by Kennon Kellum, to approve the Title IV-E County Legal Services Annual Review Contract with Texas Department of Family and Protective Services for County legal services for Fiscal Year 2018. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Gary Lovell and seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the replacement for board member for Houston County Emergency Services District #1. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to accept as information the Fiscal Year 2017 Seizure and Forfeiture reports for the District Attorney, County Attorney, Sheriff's Office and Precincts 1 and 2 Constables. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

The motion was made by Gary Lovell and seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the Retention Agreement and adopt the Resolution for approval of bringing suit on behalf of Houston County, Texas vs various drug manufacturers, developers, suppliers and others of a class of pharmaceutical class of drugs commonly referred to as opioids and to approve the Professional Services Agreement for Special Counsel. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion which was seconded by Kennon Kellum, to accept as information the Fiscal Year 2017 Task Force on Indigent Defense Report of Court-Appointed Attorney Costs for Houston County Courts. Motion carried 5 to 0.

It was decided to pass on the discussion and approval of purchasing three motorgraders and a ten-year lease purchase agreement through Citizens National.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to decline the acceptance of a donation of property known as Brewer Park from the Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce. Pat Perry made a second to the motion and it carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to declare listed inventory items as surplus. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion which was seconded by Pat Perry, to use an online-auction company to manage the auction of the surplus inventory items. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the lease contract at a rate of 75 cents per square foot with Texas Facilities Commission for Texas Health and Human Services Commission Office. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Judge Lovell made a motion and Willie Kitchen made a second to that motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned.

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