



HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 9, 2026

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on June 9, 2026 in **person and via zoom**, with the following members present, to wit:

The Court

Jim Lovell	County Judge	PRESENT
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1	PRESENT
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2	PRESENT
Gene Stokes	Commissioner, Precinct #3	PRESENT
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4	PRESENT
Terri Meadows	County Clerk	PRESENT

County Officials/Employees in person:

Zak Bengé	Sheriff	Present
Sarah Bergman	First Assistant Auditor	Zoom
Hugh Coleman	Assistant County Attorney	Zoom
Kris Dyches	Insurance Coordinator	Present
Laura Goolsby	District Clerk	Present
Donna Gordon	PT Assistant to Commissioners	Present
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor	Present
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator	Present
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator	Zoom
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator	Zoom
Ryan Martin	Chief Deputy Sheriff	Present
Todd McConnell	IT	Present
Mike McCreight	JP1	Present
Lila McNiel	Summer Student Intern	Present
Heath Murff	Emergency Management	Present
Jan Pigford	Assistant to County Judge	Present
Matthew Van Egmond	S/O	Zoom
Brittani Womack	Tax Assessor-Collector	Zoom

Media: Greg Ritchie (Zoom)

Visitors: Maegan Kaminsky (Disc Golf League), Bradley (Shawn) Ebbs (Disc Golf League), Charlene Martin (Adult Protective Services), Rebeca Huffman (City of Crockett)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

On Tuesday, June 9, 2026, Judge Lovell called the regularly scheduled Houston County Commissioners Court meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., Commissioner Lovell voiced the opening prayer followed by Judge Lovell leading the Pledge to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

(2) Recognition and comments from guests. (For informational purposes only, with no deliberation and no action taken, except that the Court may discuss whether to include any matter on a future agenda for deliberation and/or action.) ***Bradley Ebbs with the Disc Golf League spoke about the group they are trying to organize. He talked about the course that they have set up and asked about the possibility of using some property that belongs to the county. Judge Lovell told him the Court could not discuss, or make a decision today, but they will put it on the next agenda.***

(3) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court minutes. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes for May 26, 2026. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(4) Consider approving budget amendments. **NONE**

(5) Consider payment of bills and expenses:

- a. Accounts Payable
- b. Fund Transfers
- c. Ratify Salary expenses

Commissioner Lovell made a motion to pay all the bills and expenses for a. (Accounts payable), b. (Fund transfers), and c. (Ratify Salary expenses). Commissioner Henderson seconded. The Motion carried 5 to 0.

(6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:

- a. Community Service/Environmental Report
- b. District Clerk Report
- c. County Clerk Report
- d. Tax Assessor Report
- e. Auditor's Office

Commissioner Kitchen moved to receive as information the Community Service/Environmental Report, District Clerk Report, County Clerk Report, Tax Assessor Report, and Auditor's Office. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees.

Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the salary of Christopher Grimaldo as part-time temporary summer employee in various departments at hourly pay of \$10.00 effective June 3, 2026 AND Lila McNiel as part-time temporary summer employee in various departments, but will not be taking any pay. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. (Treasurer) **Commissioner Stokes moved to approve payment of compensatory, and vacation time for Jessi Cunningham in dispatch in the amount of \$3,247.44. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(9) Discuss and consider declaring received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. (Auditor) **Commissioner Henderson moved to declare received**

information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

- (10) Discuss and consider proclamation declaring June as Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. ***Charlene Martin, Director of Adult Protective Services, was present to share some of the statistics for the year. She shared that Houston County had 124 cases reported and worked this past year.*** Commissioner Kitchen moved to adopt a proclamation declaring June as Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (11) Discuss and consider action on an application and interlocal agreement for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund for Piney Woods Fine Arts, Davy Crockett Memorial Park, Summer Series June 5th, 12th & 19th, 2026. **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve an application and interlocal agreement for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund for Piney Woods Fine Arts, Davy Crockett Memorial Park, Summer Series June 5th, 12th & 19th, 2026 in the amount of \$3,000.00. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (12) Discuss and consider designating Billy Ballow, Architect with Goodwin Lasiter/Strong, as Houston County's agent to act on its behalf with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation with regard to Phase I of the renovation of the existing bank building. **Commissioner Kitchen moved to designate Billy Ballow, Architect with Goodwin Lasiter/Strong, as Houston County's agent to act on its behalf with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation with regard to Phase I of the renovation of the existing bank building. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (13) Receive and consider action on adopting the 2026-2027 Preservation Plan for the Houston County Clerk Office Records Management, Preservation and Archives. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve adopting the 2026-2027 Preservation Plan for the Houston County Clerk Office Records Management, Preservation and Archives. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (14) Discuss and consider approving contract with Revolution Data Systems (RDS) to continue Phase II of the Archival Indexing of Typed Land Records amount of \$75,000. **Commissioner Henderson moved to approve contract with Revolution Data Systems (RDS) to continue Phase II of the Archival Indexing of Typed Land Records in the amount of \$75,000. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (15) Discuss and consider approving amendment to bylaws from the Houston County Historical Commission dated May 28, 2026. **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve amendment to bylaws from the Houston County Historical Commission dated May 28, 2026. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (16) Discuss and consider action on renewing the annual membership with Texas Hotel & Lodging Association for advertising and marketing services for those properties collecting hotel occupancy taxes. **Commissioner Henderson moved to approve renewal of the annual membership with Texas Hotel & Lodging Association for advertising and marketing services for those properties collecting hotel occupancy taxes. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (17) Adjourn. **Judge Lovell made a motion for the Commissioners Court Meeting to Adjourn. The motion carried by everyone rising and leaving the meeting at 9:24 a.m.**

Jim Lovell, County Judge

Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

Gene Stokes, Commissioner, Precinct #3

Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

Terri Meadows, County Clerk

Date Approved: June 23, 2026