



HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2026

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on February 24, 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
Andy Biscamp	Bailiff	Present
Hugh Coleman	Assistant County Attorney	Zoom
Kris Dyches	Insurance Coordinator	Present
Laura Goolsby	District Clerk	Present
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator	Zoom
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator	Present
Al Kreger	Historical Commission	Present
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator	Present
Ryan Martin	Chief Deputy Sheriff	Present
Todd McConnell	IT	Present
Mike McCreight	JP 1	Zoom
Jan Pigford	Assistant to County Judge	Present
Darrellyn Smith	Assistant to the County Commissioners	Present
Matthew Van Egmond	S/O	Zoom
Brittani Womack	Tax Assessor Collector	Zoom

Media: Greg Ritchie (Messenger on Zoom)

Visitors: Cather Woods (Murphy Cemetery), William McKnight (Murphy Cemetery), Jason Frizzell (Crockett Fire Chief)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Henderson 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.) ***William McKnight was here to speak about the Murphy Cemetery and the issue with a gate being placed over the road and it keeps people from getting to the cemetery. He said the cemetery has people buried back to 200 years ago. Cather Woods was also present to speak about the importance of being able to access the cemetery. Judge Lovell asked that this be placed on the next agenda.***
- (3) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court minutes. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes for February 10, 2026. Commissioner Henderson 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. County Treasurers Report
 - b. Compensatory Report
 - c. Tax Assessor/Collector Report

Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the County Treasurers Report, Compensatory Report, and Tax Assessor/Collector Report as presented. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Cindy Lum, Elections Administrator, updated the Court that she has managed to scrape together enough poll workers. She did speak some about the possibility of going to county-wide voting in the future.

- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees. **NONE**
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **NONE**
- (9) Discuss and consider declaring received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. **Commissioner Lovell moved to declare received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(10) Discuss and consider adding the following Private Roads to Houston County Map located in Commissioner Precinct 3 off of FM 2110 (911).

- a. Southview Creek Trail
- b. Woodstone Court
- c. Bobwhite Court
- d. Willow Run
- e. Hawks View Trail
- f. Wood Meadow Court
- g. Fox Knoll Court

Commissioner Stokes moved to add the following Private Roads (for 911 purposes) to Houston County Map located in Commissioner Precinct 3 off of FM 2110: Southview Creek Trail, Woodstone Court, Bobwhite Court, Willow Run, Hawks View Trail, Wood Meadow Court, and Fox Knoll Court. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(11) Receive as information the Racial Profiling Reports.

- a. Sheriff Office
- b. Constable 1
- c. Constable 2
- d. Fire Marshal
- e. District Attorney
- f. County Attorney

Commissioner Kitchen moved to receive as information the Racial Profiling Reports from Sheriff's Office, Constable 1, Constable 2, Fire Marshal, District Attorney, and County Attorney. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(12) Discuss and approve a Resolution to submit an application to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for the SB 8 Sheriff Immigration Law Enforcement Grant Program. (SJ) **Commissioner Stokes moved to approve a Resolution to submit an application to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for the SB 8 Sheriff Immigration Law Enforcement Grant Program. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(13) Discuss and consider action on renewing the maintenance contract for the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) at the Houston County Airport with DBT Transportation and Aviation Services. (MJ). **Commissioner Lovell moved to renew the maintenance contract for the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) at the Houston County Airport with DBT Transportation and Aviation Services. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(14) Discuss and consider action on declaring as surplus property items multiple unneeded truck parts from Kenworth Truck and determine disposition to advertise to see or recycle/scrap as authorized under LGS 263.152(a)(1) or 263. **Commissioner Kitchen moved to declare as surplus property items multiple unneeded truck parts from Kenworth Truck and determine disposition to advertise to see or recycle/scrap as authorized under LGS 263.152(a)(1) or 263. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(15) Discuss and consider action on the purchase of 2016 Kenworth T800 Truck for Precinct 2 from Vulcraft Carrier Corporation for \$25,000 necessary budget amendment and authorize payment upon receipt. Precinct 2. (WK) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the purchase of 2016 Kenworth T800 Truck for Precinct 2 from Vulcraft Carrier Corporation for \$25,000 and**

necessary budget amendment and authorize payment upon receipt. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(16)Receive as information 2025 Annual Report from Houston County Historical Commission. *Al Kreger, from the Historical Commission, was present to give the report. He emphasized the ceremony on March 2 at 10 am to commemorate the Travis Letter and the unveiling of the plaque. Commissioner Lovell thanked Al and all who played a part in making this plaque become a reality in Houston County.* **Commissioner Kitchen moved to receive as information 2025 Annual Report form Houston County Historical Commission. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(17)Receive as information the Continuing Education Hours as required for Brittani Womack, county Tax Assessor-Collector. **Commissioner Stokes moved to receive as information the Continuing Education Hours as required for Brittani Womack, County Tax Assessor-Collector. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(18)Discuss and consider action on an application and interlocal agreement to the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund for the following:

- a. The Piney Woods Fine Arts, Ritz Theatre, Divas of Soul March 6, 2026
- b. The Piney Woods Fine Arts, Ritz Theatre, Driving Miss Daisy March 20, 2026
- c. Downtown Crockett Association Camp Street Blues, Friday & Saturday - April 24/25, 2026
- d. Crockett Lions Club Rodeo, Porth Ag Arena May 7, 8 & 9, 2026

Commissioner Henderson made the motion to approve applications and interlocal agreement to the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund in the amount of \$1,000.00 for The Piney Woods Fine Arts, Ritz Theatre, Divas of Soul, March 6, 2026; \$1,000 for The Piney Woods Fine Arts, Ritz Theatre, Driving Miss Daisy, March 20, 2026; \$2,000 for Downtown Crockett Association Camp Street Blues, Friday & Saturday - April 24/25, 2026; and \$3,000 for Crockett Lions Club Rodeo, Porth Ag Arena May 7, 8 & 9, 2026. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(19)Discuss and consider action on accepting a donation for the Houston County Child Welfare Board Prom project and necessary budget amendment. **Commissioner Lovell moved to accept a donation for the Houston County Child Welfare Board Prom project and necessary budget amendment. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(20)Discuss and consider approving order to adopt burn ban. (HM) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve an Order to adopt burn ban for Houston County. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(21)Discuss and consider action on adding Texas Connect as an authorized option under the Houston County Investment Policy to invest public funds for increased revenues. **Commissioner Lovell moved to add Texas Connect as an authorized option under the Houston County Investment Policy to invest public funds for increased revenues. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(22)Discuss and consider action on proposals to hire consultants for required easement appraisals for the Hurricane Bayou Project, CR 2065 Bridge replacement by Texas Dept of Transportation:

- a. Valuation Appraisal Service - \$5,500 per parcel (3)
- b. Appraisal Review Service - \$2,000 per parcel (3)

Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the proposal from Appraisal Review Service at \$2,000 per parcel for a total of \$6,000, to hire a consultant for required easement appraisals for the Hurricane Bayou Project, CR 2065 Bridge replacement by Texas Department of Transportation. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(23)Adjourn. Judge Lovell made a motion for the Commissioners Court Meeting to Adjourn. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. The motion carried by everyone rising and leaving the meeting at 9:44 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: March 10, 2026