



HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 9, 2025

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on December 9, 2025 **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:

Hugh Coleman	Assistant County Attorney	Present
Missy D'Angelo	Assistant Auditor	Zoom
Kris Dyches	Insurance Coordinator	Present
Meagan Frizzell	9-1-1 Addressing	Zoom
Laura Goolsby	District Clerk	Present
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor	Present
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator	Zoom
Todd McConnell	IT	Present
Heath Murff	Emergency Management	Present
Jan Pigford	Assistant to County Judge	Present
Darrellyn Smith	Assistant to the County Commissioners	Present
Brittani Womack	Tax Assessor-Collector	Present

Media: Greg Ritchie (Zoom)

Visitors: Gene Kellum (Houston County Search and Rescue), Toney Osborn (State Director of Dealer Services Network), Sonny Hubbard (LiveOak/Pineywoods Sanitation)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:01 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.) **Toney Osborn with Dealer Services Network was here to meet everyone and update on the substation they are putting in Grapeland.**

- (3) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court minutes. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes for November 20, 2025, November 25, 2025, and November 26, 2025. 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 Henderson made a motion to pay all the bills and expenses for a. (Accounts payable), b. (Fund transfers), and c. (Ratify Salary expenses). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. 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
- f. Comp Report

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

Jan Pigford shared a reminder about the Christmas Employee Appreciation Banquet to be held at the First United Methodist Church in Crockett on December 12, 2025 from 6 pm – 8 pm.

- (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. **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments to: Thomas Shafer – DA Investigator - \$1,989.30; Skyler Laza – Deputy - \$1,531.66; Sherri Taylor – Jailer - \$288.84. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (9) Discuss and consider declaring received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. **Commissioner Henderson moved to declare received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (10) Hear 2025 year-end update from Houston County Search and Rescue. (HCSR) ***Gene Kellum was present from Houston County Search and Rescue. He said they had 25 active members and 4 reserve. They took 22 calls for the year. They have 2 trucks. They were pleased to add a water***

rescue boat. They have 14 certified and fully trained members in water rescue. The goal is to make Houston County Search and Rescue (water rescue) one of the top in East Texas. He said they were able to add a health and life policy this year. They spent \$15,778.40 this past year with \$10,000 of that being provided by the county and the rest in fundraisers and donations. Gene Kellum thanked the Commissioners Court for their support. Judge Lovell thank Gene Kellum for all the Search and Rescue Team does in Houston County.

- (11) Discuss and consider accepting donations for Travis Letter project. (HCHC) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept donations for Travis Letter project: 3/18/25 Moosehead Donation Box \$45.37, 3/25/25 Moosehead Donation Box \$10.41, 4/3/24 Moosehead Donation Box \$8.43; 7/22/25 Cash Donations – HCHC Office \$5.00, 9/9/25 Cash Donations HCHC Office \$9.00, and 11/24/25 Cash Donations – Christmas in Crockett \$72.60. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (12) Discuss and consider action on approving a quote from LGS for a new jury application setup and install for the District Clerk's office and necessary budget amendments. (LG) **Laura Goolsby, District Clerk, shared the necessity of this program. Commissioner Stokes moved to approve a quote from LGS for a new jury application setup and install for the District Clerk's office for a one time setup and installation fee of \$1,000.00 and monthly fee of \$120.00 and necessary budget amendments to be paid from District Clerk Records Management Fund. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (13) Discuss and consider accepting donation for Precinct 2 Willie Kitchen from Consolidated Water Supply for \$250.86. (WK) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to accept donation for Precinct 2 Willie Kitchen from Consolidated Water Supply for \$250.86. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (14) Discuss and consider adding the following private roads to Houston County Map. (911 Addressing)
- a. Trophy Oak Trail
 - b. Trophy Oak Court
 - c. Piney Hollow Trail
 - d. Timber Lane
- Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the addition of the following private roads to Houston County Map: Trophy Oak Trail, Trophy Oak Court, Piney Hollow Trail, and Timber Lane. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (15) Discuss and consider action on renewing a lease for the mail machine for County Offices through Pitney Bowes. (Tax) **Commissioner Henderson moved to renew a lease at \$406.41 per month for 60 months for the mail machine for county offices through Pitney Bowes. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (16) **Closed Executive Session** as authorized by Texas Government Code §551.071: Discuss and consider consulting with attorney concerning pending litigation on acquisition of Right of Way.
- (17) **Closed Executive Session** as authorized by Texas Government Code §551.071: Discuss and consider consulting with attorney concerning possible cancelation of franchise agreement for solid waste collection.

Commissioner Court entered into Closed Executive Session on Items 16 and 17 at 9:20 a.m. and returned to Open Session at 10:12 a.m.

(18) Discuss and consider adopting Resolution and Court Order for the acquisition of right of way located at Hurricane Bayou and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to adopt a Resolution and Court Order for the acquisition of right of way located at Hurricane Bayou and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(19) Discuss and consider action on the renewal or cancelation of a Franchise Agreement with Live Oak Environmental formerly known as Piney Woods Sanitation Inc. **Assistant County Attorney, Hugh Coleman, suggested that the Court not take any action.**

(20) Adjourn. **Judge Lovell made a motion for the Commissioners Court Meeting to Adjourn. The motion carried by everyone rising and leaving the meeting at 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: December 9, 2025