



HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 23, 2026

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on June 23, 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
Hugh Coleman	Assistant County Attorney	Present
Missy D'Angelo	Assistant Auditor	Zoom
Kris Dyches	Human Resources Administrator	Present
Meagan Frizzell	9-1-1 Addressing	Zoom
Laura Goolsby	District Clerk	Present
Christopher Grimaldo	Summer Student Intern	Present
Rocky Hoch	Transport Officer	Present
Charlie Hooks	Assistant County Attorney	Zoom
Melissa Jeter	Auditor	Present
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator	Zoom
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator	Present
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator	Zoom
Ryan Martin	Chief Deputy Sheriff	Present
Kristina Massey	County Attorney	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
Daphne Session	District Attorney	Present
Darrellyn Smith	Admin to Commissioners	Present
Red Smith	Constable Pct 2	Present
Matthew Van Egmond	S/O	Zoom
Brittani Womack	Tax Assessor-Collector	Zoom

Media: Greg Ritchie (Zoom)

Visitors: Maegan Kaminsky-Ebbs (Disc Golf League), Bradley (Sean) Ebbs (Disc Golf League), All of the following where here to hear about DATA Center: Wade Thomas, Gail Thomas, Norma Lane, Cather Marie Woods, Donald Ards, Michael House, Samuel Spauldines, Travis Martin, Pamela Lowery, Lee Ohl, John Angerstein (City Administrator), Richard Harrison, Karen Clark, Ray Ritchie, Brooke Kuza, June Ashley, Tami Barugh, Terri Briggs, Brian Henderson (DATA Center – Rep), David Gucker (DATA Center Rep), Amber Stelly (Consolidated Water), Rebeca Huffman (City of Crockett), Michael Billing, Leon Wallace, Linda Jaquess, Kenneth Jaquess, Senator Jim Turner, Tim Howard, the following appeared by zoom: Carol Henderson, Jason Frizzell, Jasmine Wolf, Marie Carino, Jennifer Patton, Allan Carr

- (1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

On Tuesday, June 23, 2026, Judge Lovell called the regularly scheduled Houston County Commissioners Court meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., Commissioner Kitchen 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.) **NONE**

- (3) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court minutes. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes for June 9, 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 Stokes seconded. The Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

- a. County Treasurers Report
- b. Compensatory Report

Commissioner Stokes moved to receive as information the County Treasurers Report and the Compensatory Report. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the following salaries and Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Gavrielle Scates as new full-time Dispatch with temporary license at HCSO at annual salary of \$38,000.00 in Pay Grade SO7 effective June 23, 2026.

Jonathon Castillo moving to full-time Jailer with temporary license at HCSO at annual salary of \$42,000.00 (County base \$39,676.00 and Supplement \$2,324.00) in Pay Grade S04 effective June 26, 2026.

James Hague as new full-time Jailer with temporary license at HCSO at annual salary of \$42,000.00 (County base \$39,676.00 and Supplement \$2,324.00) effective June 24, 2026.
Jason Scates as new full-time Investigator in the District Attorney's Office at annual salary of \$67,529.14 (County base \$47,529.14 and Supplement \$20,000) in Pay Grade 21 effective June 29, 2026.

- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. (Treasurer) **Commissioner Henderson moved to approve payment of compensatory, and vacation time for Jonathon Castillo-dispatch-\$253.13; Spencer Lightfoot-Cadet-\$590.10; Jonathon Strong-Cadet-\$2,881.65. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (9) Discuss and consider declaring received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. **NONE**
- (10) Discuss and consider enrollment of County employees for Cybersecurity Training and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the enrollment of County employees for Cybersecurity Training and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (11) Discuss and approve the Volunteer Intern Employment Agreement for a volunteer intern. **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the Volunteer Intern Employment Agreement for a volunteer intern. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (12) Discuss and approve the Non-terminal Agency Agreement between the Sheriff's Office and County Attorney's Office. **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Non-terminal Agency Agreement between the Sheriff's Office and County Attorney's Office. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (13) Discuss and consider allowing Benevolent Disc Golf/Bradley and Maegan Ebbs to use County property on Houston Ave. for use as a Disc Golf Course . **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve Benevolent Disc Golf/Bradley and Maegan Ebbs to use County property on Houston Ave. as a Disc Golf Course. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (14) Discuss and consider action on insurance renewals through the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool for:
 - a. Accepting the renewal for Property/Fire policy 7/1/26-6/30/27. **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve renewal for Property/Fire Policy 7/1/26-6/30/27 through the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
 - b. Submitting for renewal questionnaire for Auto/Public Officials & Law Enforcement Liability policies for 10/1/26-9/30/27. **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve submitting renewal questionnaire for Auto/Public Officials & Law Enforcement Liability policies for 10/1/26-9/30/27 through the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(15) Discuss and consider action to accept the Sheriff Immigration Endorsement Grant (Warrant Service Officer Program) from the Texas State Comptroller and necessary Budget Amendments. **Commissioner Stokes moved to accept the Sheriff Immigration Endorsement Grant (Warrant Service Officer Program) from the Texas State Comptroller and necessary Budget Amendments. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(16) Discuss and consider action on an application and interlocal agreement for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund for the following: The Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce, Crockett Civic Center parking lot and field, Freedom Over Crockett – America 250, Saturday July 4th, 2026. ***Rebeca Huffman, with the City of Crockett, was present to share all of the exciting and fun activities they have planned for the event. Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve agreement in the amount of \$1,000 for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund for the following: The Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce, Crockett Civic Center parking lot and field, Freedom Over Crockett – America 250, Saturday July 4th, 2026. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.***

(17) Discuss proposed data center by Vultr. ***David Gucker from Vultr and Nick McGuirl from Deloitte was present to share about the DATA Center their team is looking at bringing to Houston County. They answered questions from the Commissioners. Several of the citizens of Houston County shared about their opposition of the DATA Center – Richard Harrison, Lee Ohl, Joe Martin, Terrie Briggs, Pamela Lowery, and Wade Thomas. **There was no action taken on this item.***

(18) Discuss and consider authorizing the Grant Administrator to submit a request to participate in DETCOG's Regional 9-1-1 Network Strategic Plan to replace the voice recorder system. ***The Court passed on discussing or taking any action on this item.***

(19) Executive Session:

The Court entered into Executive Session at 10:24 a.m.

Government Code 551.087 – Deliberation regarding economic development negotiations with a business prospect.

Government Code 551.074 – Deliberation regarding the duties of the Fire Marshal/EMS Coordinator.

(20) Reconvene into regular session and consider action, if any, on executive items.

The Court reconvened into open session at 11:40 a.m.

(21)Adjourn. **Judge Lovell made a motion for the Commissioners Court Meeting to Adjourn. The motion carried by everyone rising and leaving the meeting at 11:41 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: July 14, 2026