



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 9, 2021**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on March 9, 2021, **in person and via zoom due to Covid**, with the following members present, to wit:

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

Also present:

Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Sharon Luker	Assistant to the Commissioners
Janis Omelina	Treasurer
Randy Hargrove	Sheriff
Roger Dickey	Chief Deputy
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Heath Murff	Emergency Management Coordinator
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Will Johnson	The Grapeland Messenger
Alton Porter	Houston County Courier

Visitors:

Ann Walker (Piney Woods Fine Arts Association), Gwen Womack

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Henderson led the opening prayer. Following the prayer Judge Lovell led the Pledge to the American flag and to the Texas Flag.

(2) Recognition and comments from guests: **NONE**

(3) **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from February 25, 2021. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(4) Consider approving budget amendments. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments and Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(5) Consider payment of bills and expenses:

- a. Accounts payable
- b. Fund transfers
- c. Ratify Salary expenses

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

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

- a. Environmental Report
- b. Community Service Report (****Not Available**)

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information the Environmental Report. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

****In other office reports Judge Lovell announced with the latest executive order issued by Governor Abbott that it leaves lots of discretion and we should go back to our in-person Commissioners Court Meetings.**

****Judge Lovell announced that Bobby Hutcherson resigned his position on the ESD #2 Board and thanked him for his many years of service.**

****Judge Lovell shared about the Program for Covid Vaccines to Veterans. The first group is veterans 65 and over, then following is veterans under age 65 with underlying conditions, and lastly any remaining doses can go to veterans in general. This is a drive-thru vaccination process.**

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

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to approve the salary of Belinda Hinson as Accounts Payable Auditor in the amount of \$1230.21 in Pay Grade 16 and a biweekly cell phone allowance of \$18.46. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **NONE**

(9) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve Hotel Occupancy Tax Application and Interlocal Agreement with Pineywoods Fine Arts Association for Tracy Lawrence Concert to be held on Saturday, March 26, 2021 for \$1000.00. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(10) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to renew the contract with Texas Association of Counties Health and Employee Benefits Pool for required Affordable Care Act Reporting and Tracking Services (ARTS) and designate the County Treasurer as the primary contact. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (11) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Nacogdoches County to house inmates at a daily rate of \$35.00 per day. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (12) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept as information the Houston County Juvenile Probation audit for FY 2020 as prepared by Todd, Hamaker and Johnson. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (13) Judge Lovell, Sheila Johnson and Melissa Jeter scored the applications for engineering firm to provide application and project engineer services for the 2021-2022 TxCDBG program and they recommend Goodwin-Lasiter-Strong. **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the selection of Goodwin-Lasiter-Strong. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (14) Discuss and consider action on advertising to accept bids for:
- (a) Road Materials
 - (b) Contract Hauling/Delivery of road materials
 - (c) Gas and Diesel for County Vehicles
 - (d) AV Gas Lead 100 Aviation for County Airport Fueling Station
- Commissioner Kitchen said the commissioners need more time to get proper time and specs with items (a) and (b). Judge Lovell announced that (a) and (b) would be passed. Commissioner Stokes made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to go ahead and advertise to accept bids on (c) – Gas and Diesel for County Vehicles and (d) – AV Gas Lead 100 Aviation for County Airport Fueling Station. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (15) Discuss and consider approving Customer Service Agreement with UniFirst for Houston County Precinct 2 Uniforms. **PASSED**
- (16) **Judge Lovell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

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