

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on August 14, 2018 with the following members present, to wit:

|                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Jim Lovell     | County Judge              |
| Gary Lovell    | Commissioner, Precinct #1 |
| Willie Kitchen | Commissioner, Precinct #2 |
| Pat Perry      | Commissioner, Precinct #3 |
| Kennon Kellum  | Commissioner, Precinct #4 |

Also present:

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Melissa Mosley   | Houston County Auditor                |
| Mandy Patrick    | Houston County Extension Agent        |
| Danette Millican | Houston County Tax Assessor/Collector |
| Clyde Black      | Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1      |
| Michael Molnes   | Houston County Sheriff's Office       |
| G. D. Shearer    | Houston County Sheriff's Office       |
| Daphne Session   | Houston County Attorney               |
| Red Smith        | Houston County Constable, Precinct 2  |
| Morris Luker     | Houston County Constable, Precinct 1  |
| Janice Turner    | Chief Deputy County Clerk             |

Media:

|              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Sarah Naron  | Grapeland Messenger    |
| Alton Porter | Houston County Courier |

Visitors: John Angerstein; Sharon Berry; Paul Stringer; Ken Morris; Denny L. Wheeler, Piney Wood Sanitation; Sonny Hubbard, Pineywood Sanitation; Chris Bankhead, Waste Connections; Jimmy Esparza, Waste Connections; Matt Lowe; Sharon Luker and Jan Pigford

Judge Jim Lovell called the budget workshop portion of the meeting to order, gave the opening prayer and led the Pledges of Allegiance.

Judge Black discussed having his Court Coordinators moved to a higher pay grade. He explained that he had made a mistake in his math and explained the correct figures. A decision on his request was postponed until later in the meeting.

Kennon Kellum made a motion to adjourn the budget workshop. Pat Perry made a second to that motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

Judge Lovell opened the regular meeting and asked if there were any comments. There were no comments from the guests.

Kennon Kellum made a motion to approve the prior Commissioners Court minutes. Gary Lovell seconded the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

There were no budget amendments.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to pay the bills and expenses. The motion was seconded by Gary Lovell. The motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen to accept as information the Houston County Environmental and Community Service Reports. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Jan Pigford reminded the members of the Court of the upcoming Open Enrollment for the County employees. It will be held in the Pioneer Bank Meeting Room on Friday, August 24, 2018. Representatives from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Valic, Johnny Lawrence Insurance and Sam's Club will be there. It is a mandatory meeting for all county employees.

Gary Lovell made a motion to approve the employment and salary of Tresa Masters as a part-time jailer at a bi-weekly salary of \$12.49 per hour; Phileisha Mitchell as a part-time jailer at the bi-weekly salary of \$12.49 per hour and the promotion of Callie Kellum from part-time to full-time jailer at a biweekly salary of \$1,048.77. Kennon Kellum made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Mandy Patrick explained the need for new employee Barbara Carroll as a fill-in Activity Director. Ms. Carroll's bi-weekly salary for this part-time position will be \$321.28. Gary Lovell made a motion to approve this request with a second by Willie Kitchen. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen to approve the 6-month raise for District Court Coordinator Tina Teetz. Gary Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Pat Perry made a motion, seconded by Kennon Kellum, to approve payment of vacation time for former county employee Jason Brown along with the necessary budget amendments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to table the discussion of the Human Resource Committee's recommendation concerning the request from Justice of the Peace Clyde Black for changing the title of the clerks for the Justice of the Peace courts. The request will be returned to the Human Resource Committee for further review. The motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to accept as information the 2018 Certified Appraisal Roll for Houston County. A second was made by Kennon Kellum. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to propose a tax rate of .54 per \$100 valuation to support the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget. Willie Kitchen made a second to the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to set the first Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate for August 21, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., the second Public Hearing for September 4, 2018 at 10:00 am and the meeting to adopt the tax rate September 11, 2018 at 10:00 am. Gary Lovell seconded the motion and it carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen to continue participation in the Texas County and District Retirement System (TCDRS) and to set the contribution rate. Gary Lovell made a second to the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Angelina County to house inmates at a rate of \$35.00 per day when the need arises. Gary Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Kennon Kellum made a motion to approve the Hotel Occupancy Tax Applications and Interlocal Agreements for the World Champion Fiddlers Festival to be held September 22, 2018 in the amount of \$2,000 and the Grapeland Peanut Festival to be held October 11-13, 2018 in the amount of \$3,000. Pat Perry seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen with a second by Gary Lovell to approve the First Amendment to SAVNS Maintenance Grant Contract for 2019 with the Office of the Attorney General. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion, seconded by Gary Lovell, to continue the burn ban for unincorporated areas of Houston County for fourteen days. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service and Houston County pertaining to Information Technology Services. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the Sheriff's Department's budget amendment request for additional funds of \$14,000 to repair fleet patrol trucks. Gary Shearer presented their vehicle status as of August 2018. Gary Lovell seconded the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to designate available funds from the Title III USDA Forest Service to purchase patrol vehicles for the Houston County Sheriff's Department when vehicles are available. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to accept a grant for the Victim Assistance Coordinator position within the Houston County Attorney's Office for the period September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019 with the Office of the Attorney General. The motion was seconded by Kennon Kellum and carried 5 to 0.

Motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve renewal of liability insurance coverage with Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool for Houston County Law Enforcement and Public Officials, general liability and auto physical/liability for Fiscal Year 2019. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion which was seconded by Kennon Kellum to table the discussion and action on a contract with an internet provider for increased bandwidth for the County network until new bids are provided. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Kennon Kellum made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Harris County Department of Education to participate in the Choice Partners Purchasing Cooperative. The motion was seconded by Willie Kitchen and motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to declare as surplus inventory a Precinct 1 2006 Chevrolet pickup and authorize the trade-in on a 2018 Chevrolet pickup from Cutshaw Chevrolet. Willie Kitchen made a second to the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the contract for the Energy Saving Performance Project with Johnson Controls, Inc., subject to approval of a lease-purchase financing agreement and to authorize Judge Lovell to execute the contract upon final legal review. The motion carried 5 to 0.

It was decided to pass on taking action on the contract with Keith Reihl for third party engineering of the Energy Performance Contract.

A comprehensive presentation was heard from Denny Wheeler, District Manager of Pineywood Sanitation on County trash pickup service.


Kennon Kellum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gary Lovell made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0 and the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Jim L. Lovell, County Judge

  
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Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

  
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Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

  
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Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

  
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Kennon Kellum, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

  
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Bridget Lamb, County Clerk