



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 11, 2022**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on January 11, 2022 in person and via zoom due to Covid, with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge	<b>PRESENT</b>
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1	<b>PRESENT</b>
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2	<b>PRESENT</b>
Gene Stokes	Commissioner, Precinct #3	<b>PRESENT</b>
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4	<b>PRESENT</b>

Also present:

Sharon Luker	Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to County Judge
Todd McConnell	IT
Terri Meadows	County Clerk
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Janis Omelina	County Treasurer
Lt. Jackson	Jail Administrator
Lt. Molnes	Jail
Randy Hargrove	Sheriff
James Bond	Surveyor's Office
Joel Martin	Bailiff
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator
Brittani Womack	1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Auditor
Roger Dickey (Zoom)	Chief Deputy Sheriff
Belinda Hinson (Zoom)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Auditor
Chili Hodges	Houston County Surveyor
Judy Hodges	Admin Assistant at Houston County Surveyor Office
Heath Murff (Zoom)	Emergency Management Director

Media:

Will Johnson (Zoom)	The Messenger
Jan White (Zoom)	Houston County Courier

Visitors:

Tim Allen (Pastor/Ministerial Association/Child Welfare Board)

- (1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:  
Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and voiced the opening prayer followed by 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) **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from December 28, 2021. 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). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stokes. The motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
  - a. Environmental Report (not available)
  - b. Community Service Report (not available)
  - c. County Clerk Fine Report for December 2021**Commissioner Stokes made a motion to receive the County Clerk Fine Report for December 2021 as information. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**  
  
**At this time Judge Lovell called Chili Hodges, County Surveyor, to the front and presented him a plaque recognizing him for 50 years of service to Houston County.**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:  
**Commissioner Stokes made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to approve the following:**
  - a) **Promote Casey Bradshaw from Part-time Deputy Bailiff to Full-time Deputy Bailiff at bi-weekly salary of \$1,112.54 in pay grade 15 and a bi-weekly cell phone allowance of \$18.46.****Motion carried 5 to 0.**  
  
**Judge Lovell brought attention to Sheriff Hargrove's letter stating that Lynn Gentry is no longer employed by the Houston County Sheriff's Office as his last date was December 31, 2021. He has used up all of his time and due to health issues is unable to return to work at this time.**

- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve payment to Ana Wiley, Tax Office, for vacation and comp time in the amount of \$90.25. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (9) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the 2022 agreement with Armstrong Forensic Laboratory, Inc. pertaining to blood and controlled substance analysis for the Houston County Attorney's Office. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (10) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the Crockett Civic Center Rental and Use Agreement for Jury Selection and Jury Trial for County Court at Law February 15-16, 2022. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (11) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the Continuing Education Hours for the County Clerk for 2021. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (12) Discuss and consider paying out current accumulated Comp time over 40 hours and necessary budget amendments as requested by Sheriff Randy Hargrove.

Sheriff Hargrove addressed the issues COVID has caused with the jailers and with them being off with COVID and others having to cover extra shifts due to being shorthanded in the jail. He said that he believes if their comp time could be paid out as they accrue (overtime) that would "sweeten the pot" and make it easier to work all of the extra hours. Judge Lovell told him that we do not currently have a policy to pay this way. The Judge also told him the Court could not take action on paying out the comp time because a current comp payment has not been provided.

**Passed at this time to allow Auditor/Treasurer to compile the comp time and pay off.**

- (13) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to rescind award previously given to Frost for CTIF Grant projects based on LGC 262.027(c) for Precincts 2 and 4 because the bid was incorrect and award the bid to Conners. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

**Bids for Contract Hauling – CTIF are a tie and the remedy is to draw lots from identical lowest and best bids. Judge Lovell produced a short and long straw to draw for the award for Precinct 2 and the winner was Garry Kellum Trucking. Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to award Contract Hauling-CTIF for Precinct 2 to Garry Kellum Trucking and award Womack Trucking to Precinct 4 as the lowest bidder in that precinct. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (14) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information the updated IRS standard mileage rate for 2022, up to 58.5 cents, an increase of 2.5 cents for reimbursement of business travel. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

**(15) Judge Lovell made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried by everyone standing and leaving the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.**

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Jim 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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Gene Stokes, Commissioner, Precinct #3

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Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

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Terri Meadows, County Clerk