



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on February 8, 2022 in person and via zoom due to Covid, with the following members present, to wit:

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|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 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 |

Also present:

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|------------------------------|---|
| Sharon Luker | Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners |
| Jan Pigford | Administrative Assistant to County Judge |
| Todd McConnell | IT |
| Terri Meadows | County Clerk |
| Janis Omelina | County Treasurer |
| Melissa Jeter | County Auditor |
| Randy Hargrove | Sheriff |
| Carl Johnson | Facilities Administrator |
| Carolyn Rains (Zoom) | District Clerk |
| Jennifer Kulms | 9-1-1 Addressing |
| Joel Martin | Bailiff |
| Daphne Session | County Attorney |
| Brittani Womack (Zoom) | First Assistant County Auditor |
| Laronica Wooten-Smith (Zoom) | Tax Assessor Collector |
| Heath Murff (Zoom) | Emergency Management Director |

Media:

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

Visitors:

Adrian Shepherd, Norman Giles (Zoom), Gerald Reichl, Andrea Beard (Zoom)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Commissioner Stokes 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.)

**Adrian Shepherd addressed the Court on concerns he has about PR 6215 in Precinct 2.

**Gerald Reichl addressed the Court about the Spay & Neuter Clinic coming up. He thanked the Court and everyone that assisted in the last Clinic. He reiterated all of his concerns about the stray animal program in the county and the need for a county animal shelter.

- (3) **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from January 25, 2022. 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 Kitchen 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 Henderson. The motion carried 5 to 0.

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

- a. County Treasurers Report
- b. Environmental Report
- c. Community Service Report (not available)
- d. County Clerk's Fine Report for January 2022

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information the County Treasurers Report, the Environmental Report, and the County Clerk's Fine Report. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Commissioner Stokes made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to approve the following:

- a) **Approve hiring of Neatis Montgomery as Part Time Jailer thru 2/11/22 and then move to Full Time Jailer 2/12/22 in Pay Grade 16 with bi-weekly salary of \$1,112.54. and Theresa Hayes as Part Time Jailer thru 2/11/22 and then move to Full Time Jailer 2/12/22 in Pay Grade 15 with bi-weekly salary of \$1,059.56.**

Motion carried 5 to 0

Commissioner Lovell made the motion and Commissioner Kitchen seconded to approve the following:

- b) **Approve hiring of Brooke Steubing as Part Time Dispatcher in Pay Grade 15 with hourly pay of \$13.24.**

Motion carried 5 to 0.

- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve payment to Cody English, Deputy, for comp time in the amount of \$1,453.89. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (9) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information 2021 Annual Report from Houston County Historical Commission. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (10) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to accept a donation of \$1000.00 from Patsy L. Harrington for improvements to CR 2126 in Precinct 1. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (11) **Jennifer Kulms, 9-1-1 Addressing Coordinator spoke about the necessity to add PR 5222 to the ArcGIS 9-1-1 Database Map and to the County Map to aid first responders to be able to locate residents that live on this road and may be in need of emergency help. Commissioner Lovell moved to add Private Road 5222 to the ArcGIS 9-1-1 Database Map in Precinct 1 and to the County Map in Precinct 1. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (12) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept a donation of \$3000.00 from Charles Cunningham for improvements to Navarro Crossing Road located in Precinct 2. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (13) **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to accept the following donated items from Sam Houston State University Surplus:**
- a. **Desk/Credenza (Facilities Admin Office)**
 - b. **Small office table (Facilities Admin Office)**
 - c. **Six office chairs with wheels (Houston County Airport Pilot's Lounge)**
 - d. **Four desk chairs (2-Auditor's Office, County Attorney, Facilities Admin Office)**
- Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (14) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Stokes seconded to accept donation of two bullet-proof vests to the Houston County Sheriff's Office by the Houston County Law Enforcement Association. The value of each vest is \$650.00 for a total of \$1300.00. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (15) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve Houston County Hotel Occupancy Tax Application for \$1000.00 for Pineywoods Fine Arts Association for Grand Funk Railroad Concert to be held on March 11, 2022 AND \$3000.00 for Crockett Lions Club 59th Annual PRCA Rodeo to be held May 12, 13, and 14, 2022. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (16) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve Bill of Sale for Houston County to purchase an airport hangar from Mark Whitfill for an agreed amount of \$42,500 to be paid with ARPA Funds. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (17) **Judge Lovell made a motion to appoint Ken Lair to ESD No. 2. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(18) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to receive as information FY 2021 Hotel Occupancy Tax collections and expenses. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(19) Commissioner Stokes made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to renew and amend the Interlocal Housing Agreement with Angelina County for inmates to be housed in the Houston County Jail. The address was amended and Civil Liability that had been omitted was added back. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(20) Closed executive session as authorized by Texas Government Code §551.071 for a consultation with the County Attorney and other legal representatives about pending litigation, a settlement offer, claims, legal issues, potential liabilities, or other matters for which the attorney's duties to the client under the Texas State Bar Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct conflicts with the Open Meetings Act.

****The Court entered into executive session at 10:09 a.m. The Court reconvened in open session at 10:45 a.m.**

(21) Discuss and consider action to enter into or reject settlement offer agreement in Civil Action Cause No. 9:18-CV-0182 styled Kyle Ray v. Houston County, Texas. Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to take no action. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(22) Judge Lovell made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried by everyone standing and leaving the meeting at 10:51 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