



## HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES REGULAR MEETING APRIL 23, 2024

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on April 23, 2024 **in person and via zoom**, with the following members present, to wit:

### The Court

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>

### County Officials/Employees in person:

Kris Dyches	Insurance Coordinator
Laura Goolsby	District Clerk
Melissa Jeter	Auditor
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Al Kreger	Historical Commission
Sharon Luker	Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners
Todd McConnell	IT
Terri Meadows	County Clerk
Mike Molnes	Investigator - HCSO
Heath Murff	Emergency Management
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge

### County Officials/Employees by Zoom:

Randy Hargrove	Sheriff
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator
Laronica Wooten-Smith	Tax Assessor-Collector
Brittani Womack	1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Auditor

### Media:

None

Visitors: James Angerstein (Citizen), Gene Kellum (Houston County Search & Rescue)

### (1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

**Commissioner Kitchen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Stokes gave the Invocation and Commissioner Kitchen lead the Pledge to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.**

**\*\*Judge Lovell entered the meeting at 9:02 a.m.**

(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.) **Judge Lovell offered up Praise for John Jeter (Auditor's husband) and the great recovery he is experiencing since his surgery. Judge Lovell also shared that Todd's (IT) dad is in critical care following surgery and ask for prayer. He also reminded us to keep the family, friends, and co-workers of Jason Lowery in our prayers following his unexpected death.**

(3) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court minutes. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes for April 9, 2024 and April 12, 2024. 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 Kitchen. The Motion carried 5 to 0.**

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

- a. County Treasurers Report
- b. Compensatory Report
- c. Financial Report - Auditor

**Commissioner Kitchen moved to receive the County Treasurers Report, Compensatory Report, and Financial Report - Auditor as information. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

***\*Judge Lovell reminded everyone about the County Picnic on April 26, 2024 at Noon. He shared that Bane Equipment/Byron Underwood and Tiger Worsham/Perdue Brandon will be grilling and serving up the burgers.***

***\*Sheriff Hargrove gave an update on the inmate that is hospitalized. Until inmate is released from hospital Sheriff is only sending one security officer and has conveyed the same information to Badgehire. The DA is aware of the situation and is working on this pending case.***

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

- a. Part-time Deputy Clerk, Tax Assessor Collector's Office **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the salary of Tena Smith as Part-time Deputy Clerk in the Tax Assessor Collector's Office at the hourly rate of \$15.21 in Pay Grade 16, effective May 1, 2024. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- b. Legal Assistant, Six months raise in salary, County Attorney's Office **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the six month salary raise of Litzy Cruz in the County Attorney's Office raising her bi-weekly pay from \$1,180.30 to \$1,239.32 in Pay Grade 15. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- c. Part-time Clerk, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Office **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Transfer of Elizabeth Bridges to Part-time Clerk in the Justice of the Peace Office Precinct 1 at hourly pay of \$13.14 in Pay Grade 13, effective April 8, 2024. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. 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 and Commissioner Stokes seconded to approve compensatory payment to Jerrod Vickers, Comm Supervisor, in the amount of \$298.90, and Rocky Hoch, Transport Deputy, in the amount of \$124.68, because they are over the accrued compensatory limit. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (9) Discuss and consider declaring received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. **NONE**
- (10) Hear a presentation from Gene Kellum on the quarterly report for Houston County Search and Rescue. **Gene Kellum shared that things are going well with Search and Rescue. They have gained 32 new members this quarter. They are excited about getting some new equipment that will aid them in their search and rescue operations. They have had 2 cases this year that both resulted in successful recoveries.**
- (11) Receive as information the Certificate of Construction Completion for Force Account on the TxCDBG Contract No. CDV21-0354. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the Certificate of Construction Completion for Force Account on the TxCDBG Contract No. CDV21-0354. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (12) Discuss and consider action on authorizing the following items through the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund Grant Fund and necessary budget amendments:
  - a. Approve purchase and authorize payment of (1) 8'x20'x2' 30k lb. GVWR Gooseneck Trailer for **Road and Bridge Precinct 4** from Texas Pride Trailers – Total \$23,886.90. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve purchase and authorize payment of (1) 8'x20'x2' 30k lb. GVWR Gooseneck Trailer for Road and Bridge Precinct 4 from Texas Pride Trailers – Total \$23,886.90 through the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund Grant Fund and necessary budget amendments Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (13) Receive as information installation of pole-mounted power supply cabinets as part of the deployment of fiber based broadband service offered by Spectrum brand to be located in Precinct 2, CR 1825 N. of FM 2663. **Commissioner Kitchen voiced concerns about damage to roads in Precinct 2 and Spectrum's unwillingness to do anything about the damage. No action was taken on this item.**
- (14) Discuss and consider action on application for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and agreement with Montoya Enterprises LLC for the Davy Crockett Classic Bike Race to be held May 4-5, 2024 and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion approve \$2,000 on application for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and agreement with Montoya Enterprises LLC for the Davy Crockett Classic Bike Race to be held May 4-5, 2024 and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (15) Discuss and consider action on awarding a contract from received bids for:

- a. Road Material Hauling – per loaded mile
- b. Road Material Hauling – per hour

**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to award a contract to Womack Trucking from received bids for (a)Road Material Hauling – per loaded mile and (b)Road Material Hauling per hour. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(16)Discuss and consider accepting a donation of 1000 yards of iron ore/clay mix from Tommy Sprinkle valued at \$2 per yard. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept a donation of 1000 yards of iron ore/clay mix from Tommy Sprinkle valued at \$2 per yard in Precinct 2. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(17)Discuss and consider taking action to approve the sale of 2023 Cat 150 Motorgrader #0970 through Auctioneer Express. **NO ACTION TAKEN ON THIS AGENDA ITEM**

(18)Adjourn. **Judge Lovell made a motion for the Commissioners Court Meeting to Adjourn. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. The motion carried by everyone rising and leaving the meeting at 9:32 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**

**Date Approved: May 14, 2024**