



HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES REGULAR MEETING JUNE 10, 2025

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on June 10, 2025 in **person and via zoom**, with the following members present, to wit:

The Court

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
Terri Meadows	County Clerk	PRESENT

County Officials/Employees in person:

James Angerstein	Tax Assessor-Collector	Present
Mike Cochran	Bailiff	Present
Steven Countz	HCSO Investigator	Present
Kris Dyches	Insurance Coordinator	Present
Yanira Garcia	Community Supervision Supervisor	Present
Laura Goolsby	District Clerk	Present
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor	Present
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator	Present
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator	Zoom
Wanda Jordan	Historical Commission	Present
Al Kreger	Historical Commission	Present
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator	Zoom
Kristina Massey	County Attorney	Present
Todd McConnell	Information Technology	Present
Heath Murff	Emergency Management	Present
Jan Pigford	Admin Assistant to the County Judge	Present
Darrellyn Smith	Assistant to the County Commissioners	Present
Brittani Womack	First Assistant Auditor	Zoom

<u>Media:</u> Greg Ritchie	Messenger	Zoom
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Visitors: Rebecca Huffman (Chamber/Liason/Secretary), John Angerstein, Greg Wassberg

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Henderson 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.) **NONE**

- (3) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court minutes. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes for May 27, 2025 and June 5, 2025. Commissioner Stokes 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 Henderson. The Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

- a. Community Service/Environmental Report
- b. District Clerk Report
- c. County Clerk Report
- d. Tax Assessor Report
- e. Sheriff's Report

Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the Community Service/Environmental Report, District Clerk Report, County Clerk Report, Tax Assessor Report, and Sheriff's Report as presented. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the salary/promotion of Dustin Brown from Jailer to Jail Lieutenant at bi-weekly salary of \$1,864.61 (includes allowance and supplement) in Pay Grade 20, effective June 10, 2025, replacing Donya Duke. Commissioner Henderson Seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the 6 month raise of Alex Long, Jailer, at bi-weekly salary of \$1,626.92 (includes supplement) in Pay Grade 17, effective June 10, 2025. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the salary of new hire Stacy Rojo, Jailer, at bi-weekly salary of \$1,538.46 (supplement included) in Pay Grade 17, effective June 10, 2025, replacing Lane Agan. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the salary of new hire Brooke Fritz, Jailer, at bi-weekly salary of \$1,626.92 (supplement included) in Pay Grade 17, effective June 10, 2025, filling a vacant position. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the salary of Katie Sandifer, Deputy Clerk 1 in County Clerk Office, at bi-weekly salary of \$1,264.80 (includes allowance), in Pay Grade 15, effective June 16, 2025, replacing Kayla Walker, who was recently promoted. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the salary of Loyce Netardus, Chief Deputy in the Tax Office, at bi-weekly salary of \$1,706.88, in Pay Grade 18, effective June 9, 2025, replacing Chief Deputy Addie Hicks. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the mid-year increase of Joyce LeMoine, Senior Clerk MtrVh, at bi-weekly salary of \$1,499.78, in Pay Grade 17, effective June 9, 2025. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the salary for Chenece Houston, Senior Clerk in the Tax Office, at bi-weekly salary of \$1,499.78, in Pay Grade 17, effective June 9, 2025, promotion to fill new senior position. 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 payment of compensatory, and vacation time and necessary budget amendments to Jaidan Jones, Dispatcher, in the amount of \$128.45; Julia Evans, Dispatcher, in the amount of \$96.25; Theresa Hayes, Jail Sgt, in the amount of \$391.55; and Carl Smotherman, Jailer, in the amount of \$641.85. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (9) Discuss and consider declaring received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to declare received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments.**

Inventory Item	Barcode	Description	Serial Number	Releasing Dept	Requesting Dept
Computer	1077	Lenovo Laptop	WB14409646	Sheriff's Dept	Info Technology
Computer	5411	Dell Desktop Optiplex	56X28V3	Info Technology	Sheriff's Dept
Monitor	4106	Viewsonic VS14517	5Z513300380	Info Technology	Sheriff's Dept

Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

- (10) Discuss and consider approving new job description in the Tax Assessor Collector Office – Senior Deputy Property Tax. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve new job description in the Tax Assessor Collector Office – Senior Deputy Property Tax. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (11) Discuss and consider approval of changes needed to the Adult Probation Office to comply with ADA standards. ***Yanira Garcia, Chief Community Supervision Officer, was present to present their needs. She said the Health and Human Service Auditor was by to view the facility and stated the restrooms were not ADA compliant. ADAC is willing to pay for the necessary upgrades. Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the necessary changes needed to***

the restrooms at the Adult Probation Office to comply with ADA standards. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

- (12) Receive as information: Required Continuing Education hours for James Angerstein, Tax Assessor-Collector. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information the required continuing education hours for James Angerstein, Tax Assessor-Collector. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (13) Discuss and consider action on authorizing the Alamo Letter project including:
- Purchase of a Lt. Col. William Travis Letter "Victory or Death" plaque.
 - Erect monument for plaque display on Courthouse Lawn.
 - Authorize the Houston County Historical Commission to receive donations for project's installation and ceremony.
 - Authorize expenses for available sources, and necessary budget amendments.

****Judge Lovell mentioned that he spoke with our Auditor, Melissa Jeter, and funds from our HOT Tax can be used to cover these expenses.*** Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to authorize the Alamo Letter project by assisting in purchasing Lt. Col. William Travis Letter "Victory or Death" plaque, erecting a monument for plaque display on Courthouse Lawn, authorizing the Houston County Historical Commission to receive donations for project's installation and ceremony, and authorize expenses from available resources and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

- (14) Discuss and consider accepting Donation of \$322.00 from Consolidated Water Supply Corporation for improvements to County Road 2055. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion accept a donation of \$350 (\$322 was an incorrect amount) from Consolidated Water Supply Corporation for improvements to County Road 2055. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (15) Discuss and consider and authorize the Grant Administrator to apply for a grant related to ALERRT Travel Assistance grant for FY2025 from the Governor's Office. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to authorize the Grant Administrator to apply for a grant related to ALERRT Travel Assistance grant for FY2025 from the Governor's Office. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (16) Discuss and consider approving Resolution concerning groundwater withdrawal applications by Redtown Ranch Holdings LLC and Pine Bliss LLC. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve a Resolution concerning groundwater withdrawal applications by Redtown Ranch Holdings LLC and Pine Bliss LLC. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (17) Discuss and consider appointing a member for the DETCOG Board of Directors for a one-year term to end on June 20, 2026. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to re-appoint Judge Lovell for the DETCOG Board of Directors for a one-year term to end on June 20, 2026. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(18) Discuss and consider action on a proposal with Vyve Business Services for:

- a. Senior Center/Extension Agent hosted phone internet service
- b. Adult Probation hosted phone internet service

Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve a proposal with Vyve Business Services for (a) Senior Center/Extension Agent hosted phone internet service and (b) Adult Probation hosted phone internet service.

Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(19) Discuss and consider action on Indemnifying Tax Assessor Collector James Angerstein of \$100 in counterfeit money received by his office, as authorized under LGC 157.903. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve Indemnifying Tax Assessor Collector James Angerstein of \$100 in counterfeit money received by his office, as authorized under LGC 157.903.**

Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(20) Discuss and consider action on renewing an annual membership with Texas Hotel & Lodging Association for advertising and marketing services for those properties collecting hotel occupancy taxes. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to renew an annual membership with Texas Hotel & Lodging Association for advertising and marketing services for those properties collecting hotel occupancy taxes. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(21) Receive as information the FY 2024 Houston County Appraisal District audit. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the FY 2024 Houston County Appraisal District audit as presented. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(22) Discuss and consider action on the FY2026 Budget for the Houston County Appraisal District. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the FY2026 Budget for the Houston County Appraisal District as presented. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Commissioner Kitchen announced that he was going to abstain from the vote because of his position on the Houston County Appraisal District Board. Motion carried 4 to 0 with Commissioner Kitchen abstaining.**

(23) Discuss and consider action on an application for an interlocal agreement with the Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce for the "Freedom over Crockett" July 4th event at the Civic Center. ***Rebecca Huffman with the chamber was present to present the plans for the July 4th event and ask for the Courts support.* Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve \$1000 on an application for an interlocal agreement with the Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce for the "Freedom over Crockett" July 4th event at the Civic Center. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(24) Discuss and consider going out for RFQ'S for renovation of Houston County-owned bank building. ***Commissioner Kitchen asked the County Clerk, Terri Meadows, if she could look at historical data on RFQ'S for the Annex around 2001-2005, and get back with him on her findings.* Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to go out for RFQ'S for renovation of Houston County-owned bank building. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(25) Closed executive session as authorized by Texas Government Code §551.071: Discuss and consider consulting with attorney for contemplated litigation.

***From 9:37 to 9:44 the Court took a brief recess.**

***The Court entered into Executive Session at 9:44 a.m. and returned to open session at 10:29 a.m.**

(26)Adjourn. Judge Lovell made a motion for the Commissioners Court Meeting to Adjourn. The motion carried by everyone rising and leaving the meeting at 10:30 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

Date Approved: June 24, 2025