



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 26, 2022**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on July 26, 2022 in person and via zoom due to Covid, with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge	PRESENT
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1	PRESENT
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2	ZOOM (no sound)
Gene Stokes	Commissioner, Precinct #3	PRESENT
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4	PRESENT

County Officials/Employees in person:

Todd McConnell	Information Technology
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to County Judge
Terri Meadows	County Clerk
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Sharon Luker	Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Joel Martin	Bailiff
Janis Omelina	County Treasurer
Laronica Wooten-Smith	Tax-Assessor Collector
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator

County Officials/Employees by Zoom:

Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Brittani Womack	First Assistant County Auditor
Heath Murff	Emergency Management

Media:

Will Johnson (Zoom)	Messenger
Jan White (Zoom)	Courier

Visitors:

Jason Frizzell (Crockett Fire Chief), Taylor Lewis – Doug Burnside – Tiger Worsham – Patrick Woods – Meme Thomas (Perdue Brandon), Byron Underwood (George P Bane)

- (1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:
Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Henderson led 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 moved to approve the Commissioners Court Minutes from July 12, 2022 and July 19, 2022. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (4) Consider approving budget amendments. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (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 4 to 0.
- (6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
 - a. County Treasurer's Report (**not available**)
 - b. Compensatory Report
Commissioner Henderson moved to receive Compensatory Report as information. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the following salaries for new and/or transfer employees. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
 - a. **Roy Tims, part time Equipment Operator in Precinct 4, \$13.00 per hour in pay grade 14.**
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **None**
- (9) Ratify Declaration of Disaster and Order prohibiting outdoor burning issued by County Judge on June 22, 2022 and extend until August 9, 2022. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to ratify Declaration of Disaster and Order prohibiting outdoor burning issued by County Judge on June 22, 2022 and extend until August 9, 2022. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

- (10) Discuss and consider action on an application request of the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal Agreement with The Loft for the Jarrod Sterrett & The Hired Guns Event to be held September 16, 2022. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve request of the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal Agreement with The Loft for the Jarrod Sterrett & The Hired Guns Event to be held September 16, 2022 for \$1000. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (11) Discuss and consider approval of elections surplus fund expenditure of \$3,200 to purchase 4 ExpressVote Printers. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the elections surplus fund expenditure of \$3,200 to purchase 4 ExpressVote Printers. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (12) Discuss and consider Approving appointments for Election Judge/Alternate Judges for the 2022-2023 election year.
Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve appointments for Election Judge/Alternate Judges for the 2022-2023 election year as presented by Cynthia Lum, the Elections Administrator. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (13) Discuss and accept the certified appraisal roll from the Houston County Appraisal District and the total appraised, assessed and taxable values as calculated by the Tax Assessor Collector. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to ACCEPT the certified appraisal roll from the Houston County Appraisal District the total appraised, assessed and taxable values as calculated by the Tax Assessor Collector. Net Real \$1,262,185,468.00 + Mineral Real \$649,920,450.00 = \$1,909,105,918.00 Less Freeze \$0 gives the Net Total of \$1,909,105,918.00. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (14) Discuss and consider action on designating Laronica Smith, Houston County Tax Assessor/Collector, to calculate the no-new-revenue and voter-approval tax rate for Houston County for the 2022 tax year. **Commissioner Stokes moved to designate Laronica Smith to calculate the no-new-revenue and voter-approval tax rate for Houston County for the 2022 tax year. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (15) Consider submitting nomination and adopting resolution for a replacement representative for the Houston County Appraisal District Board of Directors. **Passed**
- (16) Discuss and consider approving Houston County Airport lease agreement, terms and amount of liability insurance coverage and property damage insurance coverage for hangar lease agreement with John Hudson. **Judge Lovell made a motion to approve Houston County Airport lease agreement, terms and set the amount of liability insurance in an amount not less than 5 million dollars per injury and accident and property damage insurance in an amount not less than 2 million dollars for hangar lease agreement with John Hudson. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (17) Discuss and consider action on awarding a contract from received bids on the purchase of a used semi-truck for hauling for Road & Bridge Precinct 3. **One bid totaling \$140,000 was received. Commissioner Stokes made a motion to award a contract to MAW Contracting, LLC dba Woods Trucking in the amount of \$140,000 for a used semi-truck for hauling for Road & Bridge Precinct 3. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(18) Discuss and consider action on authorizing the following items through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Fund and necessary budget amendments:

- a. Purchase for Road & Bridge Precinct 1 from Collins Tractor and Equipment, Inc. under Buy Board contract #611-20: (1) 2022 TS 6.120 New Holland Tractor TOTAL \$80,890.96. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to purchase Collins Tractor and Equipment, Inc. under Buy Board contract #611-20: (1) 2022 TS 6.120 New Holland Tractor TOTAL \$80,890.96 for Road and Bridge Precinct 1. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- b. Purchase for Road & Bridge Precinct 1 from Bane Equipment under Tiger Buy Board contract #611-20: (1) 22' Boom Mower with 3OS-BB Rear Stow; 50" Rotary Head with Disc & Hyd Door; Joystick controls; Field Mount; Grill Guard with Pump Guard; Front Axle Stabilizer; 50" Rotary Disc Kit (knives, bolts, nuts, filter, grease) Brush with installation on 2022 New Holland Tractor TOTAL \$81,040.50. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to purchase for Road & Bridge Precinct 1 from Bane Equipment under Tiger Buy Board contract #611-20: (1) 22' Boom Mower with 3OS-BB Rear Stow; 50" Rotary Head with Disc & Hyd Door; Joystick controls; Field Mount; Grill Guard with Pump Guard; Front Axle Stabilizer; 50" Rotary Disc Kit (knives, bolts, nuts, filter, grease) Brush with installation on 2022 New Holland Tractor TOTAL \$81,040.50. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- c. Purchase and authorize payment for Road & Bridge Precinct 3 from received bids Used Semi Truck for Hauling and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to purchase and authorize payment for Road & Bridge Precinct 3 from received bids Used Semi Truck for Hauling and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(19) Discuss and consider accepting a donation of a desk for use in the County Attorney's office described as: Realspace® Magellan 59"W L-Shape Corner Desk, classic cherry valued at \$259.99. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to accept the donation of a desk for use in the County Attorney's office described as: Realspace® Magellan 59"W L-Shape Corner Desk, classic cherry valued at \$259.99. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(20) Receive as information status report from Meme Thomas from Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott LLP. **Patrick Woods, Partner/Project Manager spoke first and shared a little bit of history and information about the company. Meme Thomas, Associate Attorney, spoke about the collection process and said she was available to answer any questions.**

(21)Adjourn

Judge Lovell made the motion for Commissioners Court to adjourn. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0. Court adjourned at 9:46 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