



HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

JULY 29, 2025

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a special called meeting on July 29, 2025, **in person and via zoom**, with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge	PRESENT
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1	PRESENT
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2	ZOOM
Gene Stokes	Commissioner, Precinct #3	PRESENT
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4	PRESENT
Terri Meadows	County Clerk	PRESENT

County Officials/Employees in person:

Kris Dyches	Insurance Coordinator	Present
Laura Goolsby	District Clerk	Present
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor	Present
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator	Present
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator	Present
Todd McConnell	IT	Present
Heath Murff	Emergency Management	Zoom
Jan Pigford	Assistant to the County Judge	Present
Darrellyn Smith	Assistant to the County Commissioners	Present
Brittani Womack	First Assistant County Auditor	Zoom

<u>Media:</u> Greg Ritchie	Messenger	Zoom
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Public/Guests:

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Lovell led the Opening Prayer followed by Judge Lovell leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

(2) Discuss and consider enrollment of County employees for Cybersecurity Training and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Lovell moved to authorize enrollment for county**

employees for Cybersecurity Training and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

- (3) Discuss and consider purchase of Refrigerator for Senior Center and make necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Henderson moved to approve the purchase of the True Refrigeration T-72-HC at the retail price of \$7,214.12 for the Senior Center with necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (4) Discuss and consider action on Houston County's support of Burke Center's application for the "Mental Health Grant for Justice-Involved Individual Program Expansion" and grant authority to the Grant Administrator to apply to Burke Center for the Mental Health Deputy Program. **Commissioner Lovell moved for Houston County's support of Burke Center's application for the "Mental Health Grant for Justice-Involved Individual Program Expansion" and grant authority to the Grant Administrator to apply to Burke Center for the Mental Health Deputy Program. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (5) Discuss and consider action on selection of Texas County and District Retirement System Calendar Year 2026 plan for county employees. **Commissioner Stokes made the motion that we keep same employer matching rate of 160% with Texas County and District Retirement System Calendar Year 2026 plan for county employees. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (6) Discuss and consider action on designating James Angerstein, Houston County Tax Assessor-Collector, to calculate the no-new-revenue and voter-approval tax rate for 2025 tax year. **Commissioner Stokes moved to designate James Angerstein, Houston County Tax Assessor-Collector, to calculate the no-new-revenue and voter-approval tax rate for 2025 tax year. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (7) Discuss and accept the certified appraisal roll from the Houston County Appraisal District. **Commissioner Lovell moved to accept the certified appraisal roll from the Houston County Appraisal District. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (8) Discuss and receive as information the Deep East Texas Self Insurance Fund premium for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to receive as information the Deep East Texas Self Insurance Fund premium for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (9) Discuss and consider action on County Provided Insurance Policies for FY 2026:
 - a. Health Insurance
 - b. Group Life
 - c. GAP Policy to reduce deductible**Commissioner Stokes moved to table a decision on County Provided Health Insurance Policy for FY 2026. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
Commissioner Lovell moved to table all of the insurance decisions on County Provided Insurance Policies for FY 2026 until the next Commissioners Court Meeting. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(10) Discuss and consider action on Employee paid Supplemental Insurance Policies (optional) for FY 2026:

- a. Vision
- b. Voluntary Life & Dependent Life
- c. GAP Policy for Dependents
- d. Dental
- e. Accident
- f. Critical Illness/Cancer
- g. Hospital Indemnity
- h. Short Term & Long Term Disability

No Action Taken

****COMMISSIONERS COURT TOOK A BREAK FROM 9:56 A.M. TO 10:01 A.M.**

(11) Discuss and consider action to authorize a contract from received Requests for Qualifications from Professional Architecture/Engineering Services for upcoming County building projects. **Commissioner Kitchen recommended that the county authorize a contract with Goodwin Lasiter from received Requests for Qualifications from Professional Architecture/Engineering Services for upcoming County building projects because of access, proximity and past relationship. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(12) Discuss and consider action on authorizing participation in public funds investment agreements with:

- a. Local Government Investment Cooperative (LOGIC) Trust
- b. Texas Short Term Asset Reserve Program (TexSTAR)

****Melissa Jeter, County Auditor, spoke about how we can invest the tax note that the Commissioners Court approved previously until it is needed. Commissioner Lovell made a motion to authorize participation in public funds investment agreements with (a) Local Government Investment Cooperative (LOGIC) Trust and (b) Texas Short Term Asset Reserve Program (TexSTAR). Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(13) Adjourn **Judge Lovell made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed by everyone standing up and leaving the meeting at 10:07 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: August 12, 2025