



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

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on November 8, 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	PRESENT
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
Sharon Luker	Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners
Janis Omelina	Treasurer
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator
Heath Murff	EMC/Fire Marshall
Meagan Frizzell	9-1-1 Addressing
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator

County Officials/Employees by Zoom:

Brittani Womack	First Assistant County Auditor
Laronica Wooten-Smith	Tax Assessor Collector
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Randy Hargrove	Sheriff

Media:

Jan White – Houston County Courier (via Zoom)

Visitors: Jason Frizzell (Crockett Fire Chief), Carey Minter (Chief Appraiser/Appraisal District), Byron Underwood (Bane Equipment)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:
Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. , he led the opening prayer followed by 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.)

(3) **PUBLIC HEARING**

Hearing on creating and designating a Reinvestment Zone at Houston County, Texas (see attached map and list of properties – “Solar I”) pursuant to the Houston County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria authorized under Chapter 312, Tax Code. The reinvestment zone will be known as Houston County Solar I and is purposed to provide construction, improvements, and economic development within Houston County.

Hearing on creating and designating a Reinvestment Zone at Houston County, Texas (see attached map and list of properties – “Solar II”) pursuant to the Houston County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria authorized under Chapter 312, Tax Code. The reinvestment zone will be known as Houston County Solar II and is purposed to provide construction, improvements, and economic development within Houston County.

(4) **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

(5) Discuss and consider action on creating and designating Houston County Solar I as a reinvestment zone pursuant to the Houston County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria authorized under Chapter 312, Tax Code. **PASS**

(6) Discuss and consider action on creating and designating Houston County Solar II as a reinvestment zone pursuant to the Houston County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria authorized under Chapter 312, Tax Code. **PASS**

(7) Discuss and consider action on accepting application for tax abatement from Houston County Solar I and from Houston County Solar II and setting public hearing. **PASS**

(8) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court minutes.
Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court Minutes from October 25, 2022. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(9) Consider approving budget amendments. **NONE**

(10) 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.

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

- a. County Treasurers Report
- b. County Clerk's Fine Report (October 2022)
- c. District Clerk's Fine Report (October 2022)

Commissioner Henderson moved to receive the County Treasurers Report, County Clerk's Fine Report (October 2022), and District Clerk's Fine Report (October 2022) as information. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

- a. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve Jesse Johnson as Part-time Custodian at the Sr Center at \$12.97 per hour, pay grade 13 (Jesse is a fill in as needed for James). Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- b. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the transfer of Delman Orme from Deputy Sheriff to Full Time Community Service/Work Program/Inmate Work Crew at bi-weekly pay of \$1,582.28 in Pay Grade 20 and cell phone allowance of \$18.46. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- c. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve Josh Bobbitt as Part Time R & B Advanced Heavy Equipment Operator in Precinct 4 at \$15.48 per hour, pay grade 17. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- d. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve promotion of Mathew VanEgmond from Deputy Sheriff to Patrol Sergeant at bi-weekly salary of \$1,659.38 in Pay Grade 23. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(13) 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 of compensatory, and vacation time for Lareesa Koen, Jailer, in the amount of \$1,159.76. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(14) Discuss and consider action on paying accumulated comp time quarterly for County employees.
PASS

(15) Discuss and consider action on renewing the liability insurance policy at the Houston County Airport. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the renewal of liability insurance policy at the Houston County Airport. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(16) Discuss and consider action on an application request for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Agreement with:

- a. The Loft of Crockett Jack Nelson Concert to be held on December 31, 2022. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the request from The Loft of Crockett for Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Agreement for the Jack Nelson Concert to be held on December 31, 2022. Commissioner Stokes seconded. After some discussion Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to withdraw his motion and Commissioner Stokes seconded to withdraw his second to the motion and Commissioner Kitchen moved to deny the application due to estimated amount of people staying overnight is not enough. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

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

- a. Remove Budget Item for Ratcliff Area Repeater \$17,914.50 (include Repeater and SO/Dispatch console)
- b. Decrease Budget Item for Lovelady Area Repeater from \$17,914.50 to \$12,839.51 (separate Repeater and SO/Dispatch console)
- c. Add separate Budget Item for Sheriff Office/Dispatch console equipment \$10,149.98
- d. Add Budget Item and approve purchase of: Grapeland Area Repeater from Nalcom wireless Communications under DIR State purchasing contract #DOR-TSO-3979: NXR-710K 136-174 MHZ and necessary equipment \$11,855.56

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve budget amendments through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Fund, as designated from a-d. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(18) Discuss and consider action on amending the Houston County Fixed Asset Policy:

- a. To require transfer between departments to have Commissioners Court approval
Commissioner Lovell made a motion require Department Head to present transfers between departments to Commissioners Court, items \$500 or more, as information, and can be presented after-the-fact. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- b. To establish the policy that the purchase of any vehicle will be for the replacement of a current vehicle in inventory, except as authorized by Commissioners Court.
Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to clarify that when purchasing a new vehicle it must be designated whether or not the vehicle is a replacement or an additional vehicle in the department. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(19) Adjourn. **Judge Lovell made a motion for the Commissioners Court Meeting to Adjourn at 10:59 a.m. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

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