



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2019**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on December 10, 2019 with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2
Pat Perry	Commissioner, Precinct #3 <u>ABSENT</u>
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Sharon Luker	Assistant to the County Commissioners
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Janis Omelina	Treasurer
Melissa Jeter	Auditor
Doug King	S/O Bailiff
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Terri Meadows	Houston County Clerk

Media:

Will Johnson	The Messenger
Alton Porter	Houston County Courier

Visitors: Thomas Gilson, Clint Jones (TxDot), Nolan Arnold (TxDot), Jan Blackwell (TxDot/ROW)

- (1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:
Judge Lovell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Lovell gave the opening prayer, and Judge Lovell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.
- (2) Recognition and comments from guests:
Judge Lovell recognized the guests and asked if there were any comments. There were none.
- (3) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from November 26, 2019. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(4) Consider approving Budget Amendments. There were none.

(5) Consider payment of bills and expenses:

- a. Accounts payable
- b. Fund transfers
- c. Ratify Salary expenses

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to pay all of the bills and expenses for a. (Accounts payable), b. (Fund transfers), and c. (Ratify Salary expenses). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lovell. The motion carried 4 to 0.

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

- a. Environmental Report
- b. Community Service Report (NOT AVAILABLE)

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive the Environmental Report as Information. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Other reports given orally:

- c. Commissioner Kitchen said that he had been discussing the condition of time sheets being turned into the Treasurer, and that they are not being coded correctly, and there are other errors. He suggested that we have training on filling out the timesheets. Judge Lovell suggested that someone from TAC could come to our next department heads meeting (in January) and speak on the subject.
- d. Commissioner Kitchen mentioned he had a letter from a pipeline company that said they were coming through Houston County, and they had included a little map showing the route. He asked if anyone else had heard about this. No one knew anything more than Commissioner Kitchen.
- e. Judge Lovell stated there was some confusion over the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the shutting down of the courthouse. He said that he recognized that some offices decided to use their time and leave early, but he did not sanction a shutting down of the courthouse.
- f. Melissa Jeter, Auditor, announced that more money has been received from Fema Grant.
- g. Terri Meadows, County Clerk, announced that her office has achieved 5 Star Status with the State of Texas Health and Human Services for excellence in the Vital Statistics Registration Process. She commended her employees for a job well done.

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

(a) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the hiring of Jennifer Pierce as full time District Deputy Clerk II (Jury) at bi-weekly rate of \$1069.75, effective December 10, 2019. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, vacation and holiday time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. None

(9) Discuss and consider taking action to change date for next meeting of December due to conflict with Christmas holiday. Judge Lovell said that our next meeting will be December 24, 2019 and that is a county holiday. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to move the next commissioner court date from Tuesday, December 24, 2019 to Monday, December 23, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. since the county is observing December 24, 2019 as a county holiday. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(10) Discuss and consider action on renewing copier leases for Sheriff's Department, County Jail, Auditor, Treasurer, Justice of the Peace and Juvenile Probation with Texas Document Solutions for 48 months. **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the copier leases. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(11) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept donation of \$673.00 from Big Creek Operating Company, LLC for improvements to Navarro Road in Precinct 2. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(12) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to accept donation of \$1000.00 from Walsh Timber Company for improvements to ACR 3585 in Precinct 3. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(13) Discuss and consider to take action to approve adopt Resolution and approve agreement with Texas Department of Transportation for the following bridge replacements:

- a. 11-114-0-AA02-20-002 CR 1060 @ Hickory Creek Tributary
- b. 11-114-0-AA02-14-001 CR 1050 @ Hickory Creek
- c. 11-114-0-AA03-57-001 CR 3585 @ Wright Creek
- d. 11-114-0-AA22-15-001 CR 2215 @ Little Elkhart Creek
- e. 11-114-0-AA01-20-001 CR 2330 @ Big Elkhart Creek
- f. 11-114-0-AA02-67-001 CR 2120 @ Little Elkhart Creek
- g. 11-114-0-AA02-03-001 CR 4555 @ Lake Creek
- h. 11-114-0-AA02-10-001 CR 4545 @ Camp Creek

TxDot reps (Clint Jones) spoke about the work and the cooperation that will be needed especially for road closures. If we are able to close the road that is being worked on and reroute traffic there would not be any extra expense to us, but if we do not close the road and they have to install a temporary bridge that could cost us as much as \$100,000. It was decided each commissioner would work with TxDot to make the road/bridge as accessible as possible.

Commissioner Henderson moved to adopt the resolution and approve agreement. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(14) Commissioner Henderson moved to adjourn the Meeting. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0. The meeting was adjourned.

Jim Lovell, County Judge

Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

Terri Meadows, County Clerk