



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 12, 2023**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on December 12, 2023 **in person and via zoom**, with the following members present, to wit:

The Court

Jim Lovell	County Judge	<b>PRESENT</b>
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1	<b>PRESENT</b>
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2	<b>PRESENT</b>
Gene Stokes	Commissioner, Precinct #3	<b>PRESENT</b>
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4	<b>PRESENT</b>

County Officials/Employees in person:

Terri Meadows	County Clerk
Todd McConnell	IT
Sharon Luker	Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Kris Dyches	Insurance Coordinator
Heath Murff	Emergency Management
Randy Hargrove	Sheriff
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Delman Orme	Environmental Officer
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator

County Officials/Employees by Zoom:

Brittani Womack	First Assistant Auditor
Laronica Wooten-Smith	County Tax Assessor Collector
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator

Media:

Greg Ritchie (Messenger) – via zoom

Visitors:

James Angerstein (citizen), Mike Fuller and Sonny Hubbard (Pineywoods Sanitation)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

**Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m., Commissioner Lovell gave 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) PUBLIC HEARING
- (4) Hearing on Petition to close roadway County Road 2275 and take action, if any, to close the roadway. **Judge Lovell opened the hearing on Petition to close roadway County Road 2275 at 9:03 a.m.**
- (5) CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING **After seconds of no response to a public hearing on the Petition to close roadway County Road 2275 Judge Lovell closed the hearing at 9:03 a.m.**
- (6) Discuss and consider the Petition to Close roadway County Road 2275 and take action, if any, to close the roadway. **Commissioner Kitchen gave a little history on the land and why the roadway should be closed. Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to CLOSE County Road 2275, roadway. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (7) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court minutes. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes for November 28, 2023. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (8) Consider approving budget amendments. **NONE**
- (9) 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 Kitchen. The Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (10) 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**Commissioner Henderson moved to receive the Community Service/Environmental Report, District Clerk Report, County Clerk Report, and Tax Assessor Report as information. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (11) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees. **NONE**
- (12) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **NONE**
- (13) Discuss and consider declaring received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as**

**information surplus inventory and approve transfers between departments as presented. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(14) Hear a presentation from Live Oak, the new owners of Piney Woods Sanitation. **Sonny Hubbard gave a presentation on the recent changes at Piney Woods Sanitation and the new owners Live Oak. He introduced Mike Fuller, General Manager of the Southern District. Mike Fuller shared how the company will continue to move forward and address some of the issues they have been experiencing. No action was necessary.**

(15) Discuss and consider accepting a financial donation from 2 P Logging for improvements to CR 1025 located in Precinct 4. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to accept the financial donation, of \$800, from 2 P Logging for improvements to CR 1025 located in Precinct 4. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0**

(16) Discuss and consider accepting a financial donation for the Houston County Senior Citizens Center from Hochheim Prairie Farm Mutual Insurance Association. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept a \$150 financial donation for the Houston County Senior Citizens Center from Hochheim Prairie Farm Mutual Insurance Association. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(17) Discuss and consider accepting a financial donation from Heidi A. Hutchens for improvements to CR 2155 located in Precinct 2. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept a financial donation from Heidi A. Hutchens for improvements to CR 2155 located in Precinct 2. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(18) Discuss and consider action on application requests for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal Agreement with Piney Woods Fine Arts Association for:

- a. The Collin Raye Concert to be held on January 27, 2024 at the Crockett Civic Center
- b. The Lee Rocker of the Stray Cats Concert to be held on February 2, 2024 at the Crockett Civic Center

**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve application requests for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal Agreement with Piney Woods Fine Arts Association for:**

- c. **The Collin Raye Concert to be held on January 27, 2024 at the Crockett Civic Center**
- d. **The Lee Rocker of the Stray Cats Concert to be held on February 2, 2024 at the Crockett Civic Center**

**These are approved at \$1000 each. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(19) Discuss and consider action on application request for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal Agreement with Latexo Athletic Booster Club for the Latexo Christmas Basketball Tournament to be held on Dec. 28 – Dec. 30, 2023 at the Latexo I.S.D. Gymnasiums. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the application request for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal Agreement for \$3000 with Latexo Athletic Booster Club for the Latexo Christmas Basketball Tournament to be held on Dec. 28 – Dec. 30, 2023 at the Latexo I.S.D. Gymnasiums. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(20) Discuss and consider action on decommissioning the Old Jail located at 112 E. Houston Avenue, Crockett, Texas, previously depopulated in December 2010. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve decommissioning the Old Jail located at 112 E. Houston Avenue, Crockett,**

**Texas, previously depopulated in December 2010. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(21) Discuss and consider action on awarding a contract from received bid for road material for Precinct 2 LATCF Road Project. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to award a contract from received bid for road material for Precinct 2 LATCF Road Project to Conners Crushed Stone. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(22) Discuss and consider action on an amendment to allocate unbudgeted ARPA funds to be divided between Road and Bridge Precincts. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve amendment to allocate unbudgeted ARPA funds to be divided equally between Road and Bridge Precincts (25% per precinct). Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(23) Discuss and consider recommendation from Human Resource Committee to clarify Full-Time Employee eligibility for Health Insurance and remove Part-Time Employee from the Employee Handbook. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve recommendation from Human Resource Committee to clarify Full-Time Employee eligibility for Health Insurance and remove “regular part-time employees” on page 59 from the Employee Handbook.**

(24) Discuss and consider setting date for second Commissioners Court meeting in December 2023. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to set the second Commissioners Court Meeting in December 2023 to December 22, 2023 because the regular meeting date, December 26, 2023, is a County Holiday. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(25) Adjourn. **Judge Lovell made a motion for the Commissioners Court Meeting to Adjourn. Commissioner Stokes seconded. The motion carried by everyone rising and leaving the meeting at 10:10 a.m.**

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Jim Lovell, County Judge

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Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

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Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

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Gene Stokes, Commissioner, Precinct #3

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Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

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Terri Meadows, County Clerk