



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 27, 2022**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on December 27, 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
Gwen Womack	Chief Deputy County Clerk
Melissa Jeter	Auditor
Kris Dyches	Insurance Coordinator
Daphne Session	County Attorney

County Officials/Employees by Zoom:

Laronica Wooten-Smith	Tax Assessor Collector
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Media:

Jan White – Houston County Courier, Greg Ritchie - Messenger

Visitors: Gene Kellum, Billy Riemenschneider, Marco Hayes – Bear Hall, Eunice Kitchen, Melba Turbifield (Eunice Kitchen sister)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order, 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 Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court Minutes from December 13, 2022. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (4) Consider approving budget amendments. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve budget amendments as presented. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (5) Consider payment of bills and expenses:
- a. Accounts payable
 - b. Fund transfers
 - c. Ratify Salary expenses
- Commissioner Stokes 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 Lovell. The Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
- a. County Treasurers Report
 - b. Compensatory Report
- Commissioner Kitchen moved to receive the County Treasurers Report and the Compensatory Report. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
- a. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve salary of Thomas Morgan Phillips as full certified jailer in the Houston County Jail at \$1,424.00 bi-weekly, pay grade 17. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **PASS – document not in packet**
- (9) Discuss and consider action on application request for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Agreement with:
- a. Bear Hall for LOGO Annual Music Event (live music) to be held on December 30 & 31, 2022.
Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve \$2000 to Bear Hall for LOGO Annual Music Event (live music) to be held on December 30 7 31, 2022. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (10) Discuss and consider approving donation to the Senior Citizens Center in the amount of \$2000.00 received from J B & Kathryn Sallas Charitable Foundation. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to accept donation to the Senior Citizens Center in the amount of \$2000.00 received from J B & Kathryn Sallas Charitable Foundation. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (11) Discuss and consider action on an additional line and phone for the Insurance Coordinator to the phone system through the Vyve contract. **Commissioner Henderson moved approve an additional line and phone for the Insurance Coordinator to the phone system through the Vyve contract. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (12) Hear update from Gene Kellum on the Houston County Search & Rescue. **Gene Kellum was present to give an update on Houston County Search & Rescue. No action taken because this was not an action item.**
- (13) Discuss and consider Resolution calling for additional measures to secure the border, stop the Invasion at the Border, and Protect our Communities. **Commissioner Lovell moved to adopt a Resolution calling for additional measures to secure the border, stop the Invasion at the Border, and Protect our Communities. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (14) Discuss and consider action on applying to renew the fuel storage tank pollution liability insurance policy for the Houston County Airport. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to apply to renew the fuel storage tank pollution liability insurance policy for the Houston County Airport. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (15) Discuss and consider adopting Proclamation designating Tuesday, December 27, 2022 as “Eunice Kitchen Day”. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to adopt a Proclamation designating Tuesday, December 27, 2022 as “Eunice Kitchen Day”. Commissioners Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (16) Discuss and consider action on approval of the necessary bonds for the newly elected and re-elected officials: County Judge, County Court at Law Judge, District Clerk, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Surveyor, Commissioner Precinct 2, Commissioner Precinct 4, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 to be sworn in January 1, 2023. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion approving the necessary bonds for the newly elected and re-elected officials: County Judge, County Court at Law Judge, District Clerk, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Surveyor, Commissioner Precinct 2, Commissioner Precinct 4, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 sworn in January 1, 2023. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(17)Adjourn. **Judge Lovell made a motion for the Commissioners Court Meeting to Adjourn. Commissioner Kitchen 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