



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 24, 2022**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on May 24, 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
Sharon Luker	Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to County Judge
Terri Meadows	County Clerk
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Janis Omelina	County Treasurer
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor

County Officials/Employees by Zoom:

Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Brittani Womack	First Assistant Auditor
Heath Murff	Emergency Management Director

Media:

Will Johnson (Zoom)	Messenger
Jan White (Zoom)	Houston County Courier

Visitors:

Charlene Martin (Adult Protective Services)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Kitchen 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 Henderson moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from May 10 and May 17, 2022. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (4) Consider approving budget amendments. **NONE**
- (5) 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.**
- (6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
 - a. County Treasurer's Report (**not available**)
 - b. Compensatory Report**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive the Compensatory Report as information. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
 - a. **Commissioner Kitchen made the motion to approve the hiring of Kim Burris as Part-Senior Citizen Cook in Pay Grade 10 and hourly wage of \$11.18. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
 - b. **Commissioner Kitchen made the motion to approve the hiring of Jerome Jansky as Part Time Heavy Equipment Operator in Precinct 2 in Pay Grade 17 and hourly wage of \$15.74. 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. **None.**
- (9) Discuss and consider policies and pay grades on part time road hands and any necessary action and budget amendments. **After some discussion led by Commissioner Henderson the Commissioners agreed to bring this item back on the next Commissioners Court Agenda.**
- (10) Discuss and consider approving adopting proclamation declaring June as Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness Month.
Commissioner Lovell made a motion to adopt the Proclamation declaring June as Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (11) Discuss and consider action on an application request of the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal Agreement with Pineywoods Fine Arts for the Lightnin' Hopkins Summer Series to be

held June 3, June 17 & June 24, 2022 in the Davy Crockett Park. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve \$2000.00 to Pineywoods Fine Arts for the Lightnin' Hopkins Summer Series to be held June 3, June 17 & June 24, 2022 in the Davy Crockett Park. Commissioner Lovell seconded. There was discussion that \$3000.00 could not be approved because the request must be made 30 days prior to the event and the June 3, 2022 event is within 30 days. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(12) Consider approval of request to State Comptroller for refund of unclaimed capital credits received from electric cooperatives in accordance with §381.004 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve request to State Comptroller for refund of unclaimed capital credits received from electric cooperatives in accordance with §381.004 of the Texas Local Government Code. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(13) Discuss and consider action to authorize and accept as a donation the Volunteer services of a Legal Intern employee (Lawson Hamilton) within the County Attorney's Office from June 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022.

Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve the volunteer services of Lawson Hamilton, as a Legal Intern employee within the County Attorney's Office, from June 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(14) Discuss and consider action on advertising to accept requests for qualifications for engineers licensed under Chapter 1001 of the Occupations Code as required under Govt Chap 2269 to assist Houston County with upcoming construction projects. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to advertise to accept requests for qualifications for engineers licensed under Chapter 1001 of the Occupations Code as required under Govt Chap 2269 to assist Houston County with multiple upcoming construction projects. Commissioner Stokes and Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(15) Discuss and consider action increasing the limit of the individual fuel cards used by the Houston County Sheriff's Office due to rising prices. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to raise the limit from \$1000 to \$1500 of the individual fuel cards used by the Houston County Sheriff's Office due to rising prices.**

(16)Adjourn

Judge Lovell made the motion for Commissioners Court to adjourn. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0. Court adjourned at 9:43 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