



HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 26, 2024

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on November 26, 2024 **in person and via zoom**, with the following members present, to wit:

The Court

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
Terri Meadows	County Clerk	PRESENT

County Officials/Employees in person:

Kris Dyches	Insurance Coordinator
Laura Goolsby	District Clerk
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Todd McConnell	IT
Heath Murff	Emergency Management
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Darrellyn Smith	Commissioners Assistant
Jo Smith	Extension Office

County Officials/Employees by Zoom:

Brittani Womack	1 st Assistant Auditor
-----------------	-----------------------------------

Media:

Visitors: Rebekah Bear (Extension Office), Sheila Harris (Extension Office), Cindy Doran (FUMC), Colton Bentz (Champion Health Services – Zoom), Lynn Markham (Champion Health Services), James Angerstein

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Rev. Cindy Doran voiced 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.) **Sheila Harris from the Extension Office introduced Rebekah Bear as the finalist for the position previously held by Tasha Brent.**
- (3) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court minutes. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes for November 1, 12, and 15, 2024. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (4) Consider approving budget amendments. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments as presented. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (5) Consider payment of bills and expenses:
- a. Accounts payable
 - b. Fund transfers
 - c. Ratify Salary expenses
- Commissioner Henderson 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 Stokes. The Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
- a. County Treasurers Report
 - b. Compensatory Report
 - c. Financial Report - Auditor
- Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the County Treasurers Report, Compensatory Report, and Financial Report – Auditor. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0. Judge Lovell reminded everyone about the Christmas Event on December 13, 2024. Commissioner Kitchen asked for prayer for Ben Childress.**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees.
- a. Part-Time Road hand for Precinct #2 – **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the hourly pay of Larry Wayne Walker as Part-time Road Hand in Precinct 2 at \$15.00 per hour in Pay Grade 13 effective November 26, 2024. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
 - b. Sheriff's Office Patrol Sergeant to Criminal Investigations Sergeant. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the pay for promotion of Patrol Sergeant Mathew Van Egmond to Criminal Investigations Sergeant at bi-weekly salary of \$1,945.08 plus \$18.46 cell phone allowance in Pay Grade 24, effective November 26, 2024. 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. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Lovell seconded to approve compensatory payment to Zachary Allen, Deputy, in the amount of \$111.46; Jaidan Jones, Dispatcher, in the amount of \$144.21; J'darius Pruitt, Dispatcher, in the amount of \$209.76; Jerrod Vickers, Community Supervisor, in the amount of \$123.22; and Lorenza (Lori) Aldaco, Tax Office, in the amount of \$475.52. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (9) Discuss and consider declaring received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to declare received information as surplus inventory and approve transfers between departments. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (10) Receive as information report from A & A Texas Capitol, L.P. as required by the TAX ABATEMENT AND INCENTIVES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CROCKETT, TEXAS HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS AND A & A TEXAS CAPITAL LP. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information report from A & A Texas Capitol, L.P. as required by the TAX ABATEMENT AND INCENTIVES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CROCKETT, TEXAS HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS AND A & A TEXAS CAPITAL LP. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (11) Discuss and consider approving an addendum to the LGS contract. **County Attorney announced this addendum is no longer necessary.**
- (12) Review the Champion Health Plan (supplemental employee insurance) comparative analysis and the savings to the County and consider approval of the implementation of the plan and execution of contract documents and set a proposed starting date. **Daphne Session, County Attorney, announced that she did not receive the contract until after 3:00 p.m., yesterday, and she has not had the time to review the contents. No Action Taken.**
- (13) Discuss and consider approving the agreement between Houston County Sheriff's Office and Turn Key Health for inmate Medical Services for 2024-2025 in the amount of \$19,884.09 and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the agreement between Houston County Sheriff's Office and Turn Key Health for inmate Medical Services for 2024-2025 in the amount of \$19,884.09 and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (14) Discuss and consider action on authorizing the following items through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Fund and necessary budget amendments.
- a. Authorize the purchase and installation of 5 Kenwood dash mount radios for Road & Bridge Precinct 2 from received quotes.
 - b. Authorize the purchase and installation of 10 Kenwood dash mount radios for Road & Bridge Precinct 1 from received quotes.
- Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to authorize through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Fund and necessary budget amendments the purchase and installation of 5 Kenwood dash mount radios for Road & Bridge Precinct 2 and purchase and installation of 10 Kenwood dash mount radios for Road & Bridge Precinct 1 from received quotes. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (15) Discuss and consider approving Airport Hanger Lease Agreement executed by Mark Whitfill for transfer to Craig and Alice Jones. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve Airport Hanger Lease Agreement executed by Mark Whitfill for transfer to Craig and Alice Jones. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (16) Discuss and consider approving the Houston County Truck Driving Academy Reimbursement agreement. **Commissioner Kitchen moved to adopt the revised version of the Houston County Truck Driving Academy Reimbursement agreement. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to amend his motion to raise the \$2,000.00 in paragraph #2 to \$3,000.00 and that the reimbursement be paid from the General Fund. Commissioner Henderson seconded the amended motion. Amended motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (17) Discuss and consider accepting a donation of \$500.00 from Few Land and Timber LLC for improvements to CR 1695 in Precinct 1. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to accept a donation of \$500.00 from Few Land and Timber LLC for improvements to CR 1695 in Precinct 1. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (18) Discuss and consider receiving donation of fabricated metal from Vulcraft for Precinct 1 Shop/Office in the estimated amount of \$1500.00. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive donation of fabricated metal from Vulcraft for Precinct 1 Shop/Office in the estimated amount of \$1500.00. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (19) Discuss and consider accepting donation from David Perry of 50 loads/600 yards of fill dirt valued at \$7.00 per yard to Precinct #3 for improvements to CR 4025. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to accept donation from David Perry of 50 loads/600 yards of fill dirt valued at \$7.00 per yard to Precinct #3 for improvements to CR 4025. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (20) Discuss and consider action on approving for Precinct 2 FY 2025 Mack Dump Truck Guarantee Buyback Program and necessary budget amendments including:
- Authorize trade in of 2024 Mack Dump Truck in the amount of \$150,000 under FY 2024 Buyback program.
 - Approve the purchase of a 2025 Mack Dump Truck for Precinct 2 in the amount of \$170,419.50 from East Texas Mack Sales under TIPS purchasing contract.
 - Approve Lease Purchase with Cadence Bank for the purchase of 2025 Mack Dump Truck.
 - Receive as information the guarantee buyback program for 2025 Mack Dump Truck in the amount of \$155,000
 - Approve the County Judge as the Authorized Signer.
- Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve for Precinct 2 FY 2025 Mack Dump Truck Guarantee Buy Program and necessary budget amendments including (a) Authorize trade in of 2024 Mack Dump Truck in the amount of \$150,000 under FY 2024 Buyback program. (b) Approve the purchase of a 2025 Mack Dump Truck for Precinct 2 in the amount of \$170,419.50 from East Texas Mack Sales under TIPS purchasing contract. (c) Approve Lease Purchase with Cadence Bank for the purchase of 2025 Mack Dump Truck. (d) Receive as information the guarantee buyback program for 2025 Mack Dump Truck in the amount of \$155,000 and (e) Approve the County Judge as Authorized Signer. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0. There was a call for a Record Vote: Judge Lovell voted Aye, Commissioner Lovell voted Aye, Commissioner Kitchen voted Aye, Commissioner Stokes voted Aye, and Commissioner Henderson voted Aye.**

- (21) Discuss and consider awarding bids for the sale of Precinct #2 vehicle 1991 Dodge (8301).
Commissioner Lovell made a motion to award the bid of \$2000 from Heath Murff for the sale of Precinct #2 vehicle 1991 Dodge (8301). Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (22) Discuss, consider and accept a Project Priority List for the 2025 TxCDBG Application.
Commissioner Stokes made a motion to accept a Project Priority List for the 2025 TxCDBG application consisting of \$500,000 for Road and Bridge Precinct 2 and 4 (to be split \$250,000 per precinct) and \$250,000 for Bank/Senior Center. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (23) **Closed executive session** as authorized by Texas Government Code §551.071 for a consultation with the attorney for the county and legal representatives about pending litigation, a settlement offer, claims, legal issues, potential liabilities, or other matters for which the attorney's duties to the client under the Texas State Bar Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct conflicts with the Open Meetings Act. ***The County Attorney, Daphne Session, requested this be passed to the next Regular Commissioners Court because she is waiting on a letter that has not been received.***
- (24) **Closed executive session** under §551.071:
- (25) County of Houston v. Purdue Pharma, L.P., et al., MDL PRETRIAL CAUSE NO. 2018-63587, in the 152d District Court of Harris County, Texas.
The Court entered into Executive Session at 9:58 a.m. and reconvened in Open Court at 10:06 a.m.
- (26) Consider authorizing the County Judge or other authorized officials to execute the Settlement participation and release forms regarding the settlement offers from Kroger in the matter of Texas opioid multi-district litigation for the County in the matter of County of Houston v. Purdue Pharma, L.P. et al. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to authorize County Judge, Judge Lovell, to execute the Settlement participation and release forms regarding the settlement offers from Kroger in the matter of Texas opioid multi-district litigation for the County in the matter of County of Houston v. Purdue Pharma, L.P. et al. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(27)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 10:13 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

Date Approved: December 10, 2024