



HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 10, 2024

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on December 10, 2024 **in person and via zoom**, with the following members present, to wit:

The Court

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
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator
Mike McCreight	JP1
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Jo Smith	Extension Office
Brittani Womack	1 st Assistant Auditor

County Officials/Employees by Zoom:

Laura Goolsby	District Clerk
Jim Lovell	County Judge
Heath Murff	Emergency Management
Laronica Wooten-Smith	Tax-Assessor Collector

Media:

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

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Commissioner Kitchen called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Rev. Cindy Doran voiced the opening prayer followed by Commissioner Kitchen 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 made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes for November 26, 2024. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 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 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 Henderson. The Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (6) 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 (n/a)
 - e. Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund Tourism Payments (n/a)
- Commissioner Henderson made a motion to receive as information the Community Service/Environmental Report, District Clerk Report and County Clerk Report. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees.
- a. Employee Status change Sheriff's Office – Deputy to Patrol Sergeant – **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the request for change in employee salary of Zach Allen as Full-Time Patrol Deputy to Full-Time Patrol Sergeant at \$1,852.46 bi-weekly with cell phone allowance of \$18.46 to remain the same in Pay Grade 23 effective December 10, 2024. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
 - b. Sheriff's Office Part-time & full-time jailer (same person). **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Part-time to Full-time promotion of Kane Leos as Jailer at bi-weekly salary of \$1,538.46 in Pay Grade 17, effective December 10, 2024. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
 - c. Sheriff's Office 2 full time jailers – **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve the bi-weekly salaries of Alex Long as Full-time Jailer at \$1,538.46 in Pay Grade 17 effective December 10, 2024 AND Robert Stuart as Full-time Jailer at \$1,626.92 in Pay Grade 17 effective December 10, 2024. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion and Commissioner Stokes seconded to approve compensatory payment to Zachary Allen, Deputy, in the amount of \$63.69; Jaidan Jones, Dispatcher, in the amount of \$209.76; J'darius Pruitt,**

Dispatcher, in the amount of \$209.76; and James R. Hutcherson, Deputy, in the amount of \$147.89. Motion carried 4 to 0.

- (9) Discuss and consider declaring received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to declare received information as surplus inventory and approve transfers between departments. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

- (10) Discuss and consider accepting recommendation to appoint Rebekah Bear as Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Family and Community Health agent for Houston County. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to accept the recommendation to appoint Rebekah Bear as Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Family and Community Health agent for Houston County. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

- (11) Discuss and consider action on designating specific FY 2025 operating expenses for Precinct 4 as eligible for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Fund and LATCF Grant and necessary budget amendments for repairs on 2012 Mack truck Sr #2453.

AROA	\$11,013.19
<u>LATCF</u>	<u>\$ 5,056.68</u>
Total cost	\$16,069.87

Commissioner Henderson made a motion to designate specific FY 2025 operating expenses for Precinct 4 as eligible for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Fund and LATCF Grant and necessary budget amendments for repairs on 2012 Mack truck Sr #2453 with ARPA being \$11,013.19 and LATCF \$5,056.68 for a total cost of \$16,069.87. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0

- (12) Discuss and consider action on Temporary Construction Easement with property owners, Rebekah Bear and Walter Stewart for TXDOT Bridge Replacement Program at Hurricane Bayou Relief, authorize payment and necessary budget amendments. **No Action Taken**

- (13) Discuss and consider approving Spectrum to install Fiber Optics along the following County Roads in Precinct #3 as part of their deployment of fiber-based broadband and other services to residents of Houston County.

- a. CR's 4035, 4037, 4025, 4160
- b. CR's 4140 & 4045
- c. CR 4505 in Precinct 3 & 4
- d. CR's 3420 & 4020
- e. CR's 4020 & 4025
- f. CR's 4065 & 4200
- g. PR9155
- h. CR 4050
- i. CR 4025
- j. CR's 3315 & 4015

No Action Taken

(14)Adjourn. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion for the Commissioners Court Meeting to Adjourn. Commissioner Lovell seconded. The motion carried by everyone rising and leaving the meeting at 9:18 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 23, 2024