



HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 15, 2025

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a special called meeting on April 15, 2025, **in person and via zoom**, 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	ABSENT
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4	ABSENT
Terri Meadows	County Clerk	PRESENT

County Officials/Employees in person:

Kris Dyches	Insurance Coordinator	Present
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor	Present
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator	Zoom
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator	Present
Todd McConnell	IT	Present
Jan Pigford	Admin Assistant to the County Judge	Present
Darrellyn Smith	Assistant to the County Commissioners	Present
Matthew Van Egmond	HCSO/SGT	Present

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at **9:060 a.m.** Commissioner Lovell voiced the opening prayer followed by Judge Lovell leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

(2) Discuss and consider action on a transfer and budget amendment for expenses incurred by Precinct 2 due to flooding disaster FEMA DR-4781 pending reimbursement by FEMA.

Commissioner Kitchen announced that he was able to complete all the projects and came out in the black at about \$460,000. He's asking for this budget amendment so he can continue to do his job until the reimbursement from FEMA comes in which will take anywhere from 90 to 120 days. Commissioner Kitchen also said that he feels like he needs to amend his original request of \$250,000 to \$300,000. Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve a transfer and budget amendment of \$300,000 for expenses incurred by Precinct 2 due to flooding disaster FEMA DR-4781 pending reimbursement by FEMA. Commissioner Stokes seconded.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

- (3) Discuss and consider action on authorizing the Sheriff's Office to apply for the 2025 Digital Forensics Grant Program through DataPilot. **Melissa Jeter, County Auditor, and Sgt Van Egmond, HCSO, spoke about this DataPilot. This product allows cell phone data to be downloaded for investigations. They currently share a system called Cellebrite with Crockett PD. The DataPilot is a faster system, and will allow them to get on with their investigations quicker. The grant pays about ½ and County would be responsible for the remaining \$4,285. Commissioner Lovell made a motion to authorize the Sheriff's Office to apply for the 2025 Digital Forensics Grant Program through DataPilot. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (4) Adjourn. **Judge Lovell made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried by everyone rising and leaving the meeting at 9:16 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: April 24, 2025