



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 11, 2019**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on June 11, 2019 with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2
Pat Perry	Commissioner, Precinct #3
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator
Sharon Luker	Assistant to the County Commissioners
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Janis Omelina	County Treasurer
Darrel Bobbitt	Sheriff
Joel Martin	Sheriff's Office/Bailiff
Terri Meadows	Houston County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	The Grapeland Messenger

Visitors: Gwendolyn Scott, Thomas Gilson, Denny Wheeler (Pineywoods Sanitation)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Lovell gave the opening prayer. Judge Lovell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

(2) Recognition and comments from guests:

Judge Lovell recognized the guests and asked if there were any comments. There were none.

- (3) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court Minutes:  
Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from May 28, 2019. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (4) Consider approving budget amendments:  
There were no budget amendments.
- (5) Consider payment of bills and expenses:
- a. Accounts payable
  - b. Fund transfers
  - c. Ratify Salary expenses  
Before the vote Melissa Jeter, County Auditor, said that the county has received \$340,000 in timber funds and that has been sent out to the local school districts. At this time Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to pay the all of 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. Environmental Report  
Commissioner Lovell moved to receive the above referenced report. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.  
Judge Lovell announced that the Community Service Report and the Treasurer's Report are not available and will be added to the next Commissioners Court Agenda.
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
- a.  
Chief Deputy – Justin Killough at pay grade 27 and bi-weekly salary of \$1891.81. He is replacing Chief G P Shearer.  
Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the hiring of Justin Killough and Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
  - b. Full-time Senior Clerk – Anita Meador at pay grade 17 and bi-weekly salary of \$1123.24. Before voting, Terri Meadows, County Clerk, asked that this be changed from full-time to part-time at a rate of \$14.40 an hour.  
Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the hiring of Anita Meador with the change from full-time to part-time and Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
  - c. Part-time Road & Bridge Hand for Precinct 1 – Josh Castleberry at pay grade 13 and \$11.55 an hour.  
Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the volunteer road hand – Josh Castleberry and Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
  - d. 6 month increase for Assistant County Attorney, Lakisha Anderson-Sinville.  
Commissioner Lovell made a motion to increase the Assistant County Attorney Salary from current pay of \$2,335.13 to \$2,396.72 bi-weekly. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, vacation and holiday time for County employees and necessary budget amendments.  
Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve this request. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(9) Discuss and consider accepting a donation from Jack C. Beeson for improvements to CR 3355 in Precinct 3.

Commissioner Perry made a motion to accept the donation of \$600.00 for improvements to CR 3355 in Precinct 3. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(10) Discuss and consider the Petition to Close Roadway County Road 4640 and take final action to close the roadway.

Commissioner Henderson moved to close and abandon CR 4640 for the safety of the citizens. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(11) Discuss and consider approving order authorizing Fourth of July fireworks sales.

Commissioner Kitchen moved for the approval of the Order Authorizing Fourth of July Fireworks Sales (and it was jokingly noted that we are not under a burn ban). Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(12) Discuss and consider rental fees received from rented/leased election equipment as surplus money for deposit into the Elections Services Contract Fund account.

Cynthia Lum, Elections Administrator, noted that they charge \$50.00 per day per machine that are rented out for elections other than our county elections and that this money should go into Elections Services Contract Fund and not the General Fund. Melissa Jeter, County Auditor, spoke out and said that her and the Elections Administrator had not discussed this, and that if they had time it could be discussed and resolved.

Judge Lovell announced that this item would be passed so that more research can be done on the matter.

(13) Accept as information waste report from Pineywoods Sanitation.

Denny Wheeler advised that he now has 1841 residential customers and 107 dumpsters. He said there was one missed pickup due to inability to locate. Receptacle was located and picked up later. He also said he was changing the Houston County lake pick up to Monday from Friday because of the summer influx of weekend visitors.

(14) Discuss and consider planning a date for countywide trash pickup.

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion that we adopt July as Countywide Trash Pickup. Each of the four precincts will take a Saturday and accept trash from 8 am to 12 pm. Pineywoods Sanitation will provide 2 dumpsters per precinct and pick up the dumpsters at the end of the clean-up. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(15) Adjourn:

Judge Lovell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried with everyone standing.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Jim Lovell, County Judge

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Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

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Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

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Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

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Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

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Terri Meadows, County Clerk