



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 9, 2019**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on July 9, 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
Janis Omelina	County Treasurer
Morris Luker	Constable Precinct 1
Terri Meadows	Houston County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	The Grapeland Messenger

Visitors: Gwendolyn Scott, Ron Forehand (Good Shepherd Fellowship)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order and 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.

*Chad Foreman from Good Shepherd Fellowship advised us of the Crockett Community Night of Worship to be held at the Civic Center on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. and invited everyone come and be a part of this gathering.

- (3) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court Minutes:
Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from June 25, 2019. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (4) Consider approving budget amendments:
Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (5) Consider payment of bills and expenses:
- a. Accounts payable
 - b. Fund transfers
 - c. Ratify Salary expenses
- 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 Henderson. The motion carried 5 to 0.
- (6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
- a. Environmental Report
 - b. Community Service Report
 - c. Judge Lovell mentioned that the big trash drop off was under way and Commissioner Lovell told us that the first week went great, but more carts are needed because they fill up quickly. He also mentioned the possibility of separating out iron/metal to recycle because it takes up a lot of room in the cart. Overall the efforts are a huge success. Commissioner Kitchen moved to receive as information the Environmental and Community Service Reports. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
- a. CCL Court Coordinator – Maria Lopez – 6 month salary increase from \$1300.29 to \$1365.30 bi-weekly.
 - b. Assistant Auditor/AP – Jennifer Kulms – 6 month salary increase from \$1179.20 to 1202.98 bi-weekly.
 - c. Patrol Deputy – Matthew VanEgmond – 6 month salary increase from \$1238.37 to \$1263.14 bi-weekly.
 - d. Full-Time Jailer – Perry P Shaw at pay grade 16 and bi-weekly salary of \$1069.75
 - e. Full-Time Dispatcher – Jacob Waller – transferring from the jail to dispatch at pay grade 15 and bi-weekly salary of \$1018.81.
- Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the salaries for a, b, c, d, and e. 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 action to renew contract with Lifeguard Ambulance Service. Judge Lovell stated that he does not believe there is a decision to be made. He spoke with Dina Pipes who serves on the Houston County Hospital District Board and she said the Hospital District Board is

going to take on the negotiations of the contract. Judge said, "County is out". Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to decline to renew the contract. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(10) Discuss and consider taking action by accepting a donation from Big Creek Operating Company, LLC for improvements to County Road 2260 in Precinct 2. Commissioner Lovell moved for the county accept the donation of \$2400.00 from Big Creek Operating Company, LLC for improvements to CR 2260. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(11) Discuss and consider declaring three used pickups as surplus and approve contracting with Auctioneer Express for dispersal. Commissioner Kitchen so moved and Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(12) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept as information the Houston County Appraisal District proposed budget for FY 2020.

(13) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the renewal of membership with State of Texas Cooperative Purchasing Program at the cost of \$100.00 per year. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(14) Discuss and consider action on an interlocal agreement with all local entities for the rental of equipment during elections. Elections Administrator, Cindy Lum, stated that she felt former minutes concerning this issue were unclear of the cost and wants to get clarification. At the current time the county is receiving \$50 per machine from other entities renting the equipment. Commissioner Lovell questioned the cost of maintenance on the machines. Mrs. Lum said that they come out once a year to perform maintenance and that we currently have 29 active machines. We spend \$1200 per year for hardware/software plus another \$3000. Commissioner Kitchen asked if we raised the rate to \$75 per machine would that cover our maintenance. The Auditor, Melissa Jeter said, "It never will". After the discussion Commissioner Kitchen made a motion that we increase the rental rate to \$75.00 per machine. 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

Jim Lovell, County Judge

Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

Terri Meadows, County Clerk