



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2019**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a special, called meeting on August 20, 2019 with the following members present, to wit:

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
Sharon Luker	Assistant to the County Commissioners
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Danette Millican	County Tax Assessor/Collector
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator
Terri Meadows	County Clerk
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Justin Killough	Chief Deputy

Media:

Will Johnson	The Grapeland Messenger
Alton Porter	Houston County Courier

Visitors: None

- (1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:
Judge Lovell called the meeting to order and prayer was offered up and the pledge to the American Flag and Texas Flag were said.
- (2) Recognition and comments from guests:
Judge Lovell recognized the guests and asked if there were any comments. There were none.
- (3) Commissioner Kitchen moved to pay the bills and expenses (a) Accounts payable.
Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

- (4) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the raises for the following Jailers that have become Certified Jailers: Phelicia Mitchell, Tresa Masters, and Dustin Brown; and, Billy Allbright as part-time Heavy Equipment Operator for Precinct 2. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (5) Commissioner Kitchen moved to declare 2008 420E Caterpillar backhoe with front end loader for Precinct 2 as surplus and advertise for bids. Commissioner Lovell seconded the Motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (6) Melissa Jeter, County Auditor, presented the renewal spreadsheet of liability insurance coverage with Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool for Houston County Law Enforcement and Public Officials, general liability and auto physical/liability for FY 2020. Some things were able to be cleaned up and that caused a small cost reduction. Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the renewal. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (7) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to allow the IT Department to move their office to the 2nd floor of the Courthouse Annex and occupy the space previously occupied by the Veteran Service Officer and the Veteran Service Officer will move to the 1st floor into the IT Department. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (8) Discuss and consider action on a budget amendment to the IT Department for fuel and other expenses associated with the assignment of a county owned vehicle to be used for travel between offices during business hours only. Judge Lovell remarked that this is an old Impala that the Sheriff's Office is donating. Commissioner Lovell moved to approve this request. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (9) Cynthia Lum, Election Administrator for the County announced that the Governor has called an election for Constitutional Amendments and it requires that Commissioners Court vote to hold the special election in the county. Commissioner Kitchen asked if this election is at the county's expense to which Cynthia Lum replied, "Yes." Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the special election. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (10) Conduct Public Hearing on proposed Houston County Budget for Fiscal Year 2020. Melissa Jeter spoke about the large mandate that came down for an increase to the CCL Judge salary to be paid by the county. There was no other discussion.
- (11) Judge Lovell announced that the Public Hearing on proposed Houston County Budget for Fiscal year 2020 is closed at this time.
- (12) Conduct Public hearing on Proposed FY 2020 Ad Valorem Tax Rate of \$.5400 per \$100 of value. No discussion
- (13) Judge Lovell announced the Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2020 Ad Valorem Tax Rate is closed and asked for a motion to adjourn the Commissioners Court meeting. Commissioner Kitchen moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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