



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on February 9, 2021, **in person and via zoom due to Covid**, with the following members present, to wit:

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

Also present:

Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Sharon Luker	Assistant to the Commissioners
Janis Omelina	Treasurer
Randy Hargrove	Sheriff
Roger Dickey	Chief Deputy
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Heath Murff	Emergency Management Coordinator
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator
Jennifer Kulms	911 Addressing Coordinator
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Nathan Turner	IT
Brittani Womack	First Assistant County Auditor
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	Messenger

Visitors:

Peggy Patrick (ESD #2), Mike Deckard, Denny Wheeler (Pineywoods Sanitation), James Gentry (Director of Economic Development), Liza Clark (Crockett Chamber Director), Darrell Burleson

- (1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:
Judge Lovell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Lovell led the opening prayer.
Following the prayer Judge Lovell led the Pledge to the American flag and to the Texas Flag.
- (2) Recognition and comments from guests: **NONE**
- (3) **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from January 26, 2021. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 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 Lovell made a motion to pay 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 (Not Available)**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information the Environmental Report. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
 - (a) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to approve the salary for Shirley McKenzie as Part-time driver-home delivered meal at an hourly rate of \$10.75 in pay grade 10. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
 - (b) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve salary for Dustin Lawson as full-time Jailer (Certified) at a bi-weekly salary of \$1069.75 in pay grade 16. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
 - (c) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve salary for Jennifer Kulms as full-time 911 Addressing Coordinator (replacing Bonita Newman who retired) at a bi-weekly salary of \$1366.07 in pay grade 17. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to pay the following employees for Vacation/Comp Time: Buck Carroll from the County Attorney's Office \$803.20, Cody English from the HCSO \$188.40, Bonita Newman from 911 Addressing \$620.93, and E. Standley from HCSO \$1360.77. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (9) **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the renewal of lease agreement between Brenda Stubblefield and Houston County Road and Bridge Precinct #4. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (10) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to accept donation of \$600.00 from 2P Logging LLC for improvements to County Road 1155 in Precinct 4. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (11) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund Application and Interlocal Agreement with Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce for the "Davy Crockett Festival" in the amount of \$1000.00 to be held on April 17, 2021. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (12) Commissioner Kitchen nominated Steve Hawkins to be appointed to replace G. Crowson, Jr. on the Board of Directors for ESD #2. Judge Lovell called for a vote and it was unanimous. Commissioner Kitchen nominated Chuck Cunningham to be appointed to replace Bobby Hutcherson on the Board of Directors for ESD #2. Judge Lovell called for a vote and it was unanimous. After some discussion about whether or not these two nominees lived in ESD #2 (according to their by-laws you must live in ESD #2) it was discovered that Chuck Cunningham does not. The nomination of Chuck Cunningham was rescinded. Commissioner Kitchen nominated Bobby Hutcherson to be re-appointed to the Board of Directors for ESD #2. Judge Lovell called for the vote and it was unanimous.
- (13) Commissioner Kitchen moved to appoint the following members to the Houston County Child Welfare Board: For a two-year term: Terri Meadows, Sharon Kenley, Bobbie Easterline, Diana Maxwell, Cliff Coldiron, and Hattie Hamilton. Current board members reappointed with a one-year term: Carole McQueen, Sally Brannen, Cathy Minchew, Willa Wooten, Tami Bruner, Tim Allen, Wanda Nicols, and Janet Wilmeth. Commissioner Henderson seconded this motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (14) Discuss and consider action on the specifications for road materials contracts for the upcoming request for bids. **After some discussion it was decided there need to be some wording changes and this item was PASSED.**
- (15) Discuss and consider action on the road materials contract with Conners Crushed Stone concerning delays in product availability and quality of product. **No action to be taken until product is requested and not received. PASSED**
- (16) Discuss and consider action on building renovation project at Precinct 2 Office building located at 601 Cedar Street and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Kitchen requested this item be tabled until the next meeting. PASSED**
- (17) Discuss and consider taking action to approve a new contract with Pineywoods Sanitation Services, Inc for solid waste collection service in unincorporated areas of Houston County. **It was decided the County Attorney needs to look into this contract further. PASSED**
- (18) Closed executive session as authorized by Texas Government Code §551.072 to discuss the county's potential purchase, lease, sale, or exchange of real estate and/or the value of the real estate and contemplated litigation per Local Government Code §551.071.

Executive Session began at 11:17 a.m. and ended at 11:53 a.m. with open court reconvening at that time.

(19) Judge Lovell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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