



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on February 22, 2022 **in person and via zoom due to Covid**, with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge	<b>PRESENT</b>
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1	<b>PRESENT</b>
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2	<b>PRESENT</b>
Gene Stokes	Commissioner, Precinct #3	<b>PRESENT</b>
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4	<b>ABSENT</b>

Also present:

Sharon Luker	Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to County Judge
Todd McConnell	IT
Terri Meadows	County Clerk
Janis Omelina	County Treasurer
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Randy Hargrove	Sheriff
Brittani Womack (Zoom)	First Assistant County Auditor
Laronica Wooten-Smith (Zoom)	Tax Assessor Collector
Heath Murff (Zoom)	Emergency Management Director
Roger Dickey (Zoom)	Chief Deputy

Media:

Will Johnson (Zoom)	The Messenger
Jan White (Zoom)	Houston County Courier

Visitors:

Clayton Starr, Ruenette Starr, Jody Griffith (Attorney), Jack Walker (Attorney), Gerald Reichl (Spay & Neuter Clinic)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

**Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Commissioner Lovell voiced the opening prayer followed by Judge Lovell leading the Pledge to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.**

- (2) Recognition and comments from guests. (For informational purposes only, with no deliberation and no action taken, except that the Court may discuss whether to include any matter on a future agenda for deliberation and/or action.) **None**
- (3) **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from February 8, 2022. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (4) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments as presented. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (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 the bills and expenses for a. (Accounts payable), b. (Fund transfers), and c. (Ratify Salary expenses). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kitchen. The motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
  - a. Compensatory Report  
**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information the Compensatory Report. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
  - a) **Commissioner Stokes made a motion and Commissioner Lovell seconded to approve the hiring of Reanna Meadows as Full-Time Dispatcher (replacing Automn Canton) at a bi-weekly salary of \$1,059.56 in pay grade 15 effective 2/27/22. Motion carried 4 to 0.**  
**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the hiring of Brooke Steubing as Full Time Dispatcher (replacing Meagan Frizzell) at a bi-weekly salary of \$1,059.56 effective 2/28/22. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
  - b) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the hiring of Keytriana Ortiz-Cardenas as Deputy Clerk in the Tax-Assessor Office (replacing Dianna Jansky) and Ashley Stapp as Deputy Clerk in the Tax-Assessor Office (replacing Ana Wiley) at a bi-weekly salary of \$1,191.54 in pay grade 16 effective 2/22/22. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
  - c) **Judge Lovell moved to approve a 6 month raise for Todd McConnell, IT Coordinator. The salary increase is from \$1,287.89 to \$1,326.53 effective 2/22/22. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
  - d) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Lovell seconded to approve the transfer of Megan Frizzell from Dispatch Supervisor to 911 Addressing Coordinator (replacing Jennifer Kulms) at a bi-weekly salary of \$1,362.77 in pay grade 17 effective 2/22/22. Motion carried 4 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 approve payment to Donovan Mahan, Jailer, for vacation/comp time in the amount of \$834.71 and Jennifer Kulms, 911 EMGT, for vacation/comp time in the amount of \$221.08. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

- (9) Judge Lovell introduced Clayton Starr from the Sons of The Republic of Texas and told him, “that we have a Proclamation for Texas Independence Day, but asked him if he wanted to say anything before the presentation”. Mr. Starr told us that on March 2, 2022 we celebrate the 186<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Texas Independence Day. As always, he was able to regale the Court with some interesting Texas history. The Official Proclamation was presented to Clayton Starr and pictures were taken.
- (10) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept a donation of \$500.00 from Houston County Detachment 1433 Marine Corp League to Houston County Veteran’s Service to be used for Veteran’s Assistance. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (11) Discuss and consider approving TAC CIRA services agreement for Website Hosting and Website Content Management. Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve this item with Commissioner Kitchen seconding – it was then brought to attention of the Court that they needed to select the plan the county wants to use. After some discussion Judge Lovell made a motion to table and pass this until more information could be provided about the plans (Commissioner Lovell rescinded his previous motion and Commissioner Kitchen rescinded his second to the motion) Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion to table and pass this agenda item. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (12) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to ratify the transfer of deed between the City of Crockett and Houston County for 0.720 acre tract Henry Masters Survey, A-543, City of Crockett, Houston County, TX (property behind Old Armory building) noting this set the surrounding property at 7/10 acre more than previously voted on January 25, 2022. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (13) Discuss and consider approving bidding method for construction and rehab for Precinct 1 barns. Commissioner Lovell made the motion to go with a sealed bid. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (14) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Lovell seconded to receive as information the Racial Profiling reports from Houston County Law Enforcement Agencies. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (15) Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the purchase of used 2018 140K Grader and lease purchase with Citizens National Bank not to exceed \$300,000 for Precinct 2 and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. (\*note there are no documents provided with this agenda item) Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (16) Discuss and consider action on request to partner with Dehart Veterinary Mobile Services to provide low-cost spay/neuter clinics in Houston County with a max program support of \$5,000 for up to 100 dogs/cats to be held on March 14, 2022. **Died for lack of motion**
- (17) Closed executive session as authorized by Texas Government Code §551.071 for a consultation with the attorney for the county and legal representatives about pending litigation, a settlement offer, claims, legal issues, potential liabilities, or other matters for which the attorney’s duties to the client under the Texas State Bar Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct conflicts with the Open Meetings Act.

**\*\*The Court entered into executive session at 9:33 a.m.**

(18) *Discuss and consider County of Houston v. Purdue Pharma, Inc., et al.*, MDL PRETRIAL CAUSE NO. 2018-63587, in the 152<sup>nd</sup> District Court of Harris County, Texas.

(19) **Court reconvened at 10:00 a.m.**

(20) Commissioner Willie Kitchen, Precinct 2, moved to accept the settlement offers with (1) Endo Health Solutions, Inc., Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc., Endo International plc, Par Pharmaceutical Inc., or Par Pharmaceutical Companies, Inc. "Endo Defendants"; (2) Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd., Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc., Watson Laboratories, Inc., Actavis LLC, Actavis Pharma, and certain other defendants related to potentially released claims "Actavis Defendants"; (3) McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health, Inc., and AmerisourceBergen Corporation "Distributor Defendants" in the matter of Texas opioid multi-district litigation for the County in the matter of *County of Houston v. Purdue Pharma, Inc., et al.*, MDL PRETRIAL CAUSE NO. 2018-73587, in the 152<sup>nd</sup> District Court of Harris County. Commissioner Gary Lovell, Precinct 1, seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0

(21) **Judge Lovell made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried by everyone standing and leaving the meeting at 10:05 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