



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

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

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

Also present:

Sharon Luker	Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to County Judge
Terri Meadows	County Clerk
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Randy Hargrove	Sheriff
Andy Biscamp	Bailiff
Tom Streetman	Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Sarah Clark	County Court at Law Judge

Media:

Visitors:

Clayton Starr, Ruenette Starr

- (1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:
Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Commissioner Stokes 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 March 8, 2022 and March 15, 2022. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (4) **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments as presented. Commissioner Stokes 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 Stokes. The motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
- a. Environmental Service Report
 - b. County Treasurer's Report
 - c. Compensatory Report
- Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the Environmental Report, Community Service Report and Compensatory Report. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- Sheriff Randy Hargrove, made an announcement about the tornado that hit our county last night (3/22/22). He said they are still out assessing the damage and announced there were injuries in the McKnight Community and some badly hit areas off of 21 and Austonio. He said they have not had any fatalities reported at the present time.**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
- a & b) Commissioner Stokes made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to approve the hiring of Brenda Christian as Office Assistant/Driver-Home Delivered Meals and approve the pay being raised to \$11.18 an hour in pay grade 10 effective 3/22/22 AND Christy Atkins as Driver-Home Delivered Meals and approve the pay being raised to \$11.18 an hour in pay grade 10 effective 3/22/22. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve vacation payout to Debbie Williamson in the amount of \$618.00. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (9) **Judge Lovell announced that Clayton Starr was here to receive a proclamation but before it was presented Mr. Starr was asked to share a few words about San Jacinto Day. After his interesting and historical presentation Judge Lovell presented the Proclamation proclaiming April 21, 2022 as "San Jacinto Day" and gave special recognition to the Sons of the Republic of Texas. Pictures were taken.**

- (10) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to adopt a proclamation designating April as “Fair Housing Month.” Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (11) Commissioner Stokes made a motion to adopt a proclamation designating the month of April as “County Government Month” and set date for County Picnic on 4/29/22. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (12) Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve the recommendation from Human Resource Committee to approve the job description for the Sheriff’s Office Cadet position and place it the position in Pay Scale 15 pending the County Attorneys review. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (13) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to accept the following donations for Precinct 2:
- a. Raymond & Jacque Fleming \$100 for improvements to CR 2045
 - b. Jason Le Blanc \$100 for improvements to CR 2045
 - c. Tommy Johnson, C & C Logging \$600 for improvements to CR 2120/2065
 - d. Kurt Kwarcinski \$200 for improvements to CR 3070
- Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (14) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the Houston County Event and display permit for Houston County Child Welfare Board and Kalin’s Center, for Child Abuse Prevention Month Program in April. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (15) Commissioner Lovell moved to approve reappointment of Tami Bruner, Sally Brannen, Carole McQueen, Tim Allen, Wanda Nichols, Cathy Minchew, Willa Wooten, Diana Maxwell, Terri Meadows, Sharon Kenley, Cliff Coldiron, Bobbie Easterling, and Hattie Hamilton to the Houston County Child Welfare Board. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (16) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to a budget amendment request from Juvenile Probation in the amount of \$65,000 to continue services for budget year 2022. Chief Juvenile Officer Tom Street, CCL Judge Sarah Clark, and County Attorney Daphne Session all spoke on the reason they ran out of money. They had to detain a juvenile for an extraordinary number of days due to the nature of his crime and that used up a large amount of the detention money. They also had another juvenile they had to place in a boot camp and that came at a high price, but they had exhausted all of the free placements. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (17) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to add Forest Service Road 544 to the ArcGIS 9-1-1 Database Map in Precinct 1 and approve the addition of Forest Service Road 544 to the County Map. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Commissioner Lovell said this has been a Forest Service Road forever and was on other maps, but not on the county map. He also emphasized the Postal Service is wanting to quit running because this road doesn’t show up on GPS and that there are at least 10 mail receptacles on this road. He hopes that adding this to the map will be able to help change the GPS coordinates. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (18) Discuss and consider action on advertising to accept bids for:
- a. Road Materials
 - b. Delivery of Road Materials

- c. Gas and Diesel for County vehicles and equipment
- d. Airport fuel (AV Gas)

After some discussion Commissioner Henderson made a motion that we leave Road Materials as is and NOT go out for bids, and go out for bids for Delivery of Road Materials, Gas and Diesel for County vehicles and equipment, and Airport fuel (AV Gas). Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(19) Discuss and consider action on uses for ARPA funds for Road and Bridge. **PASS**

(20) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to allow himself to consult with Goodwin, Lasiter, Strong for architectural services for the Precinct 1 building and authorize negotiations for a contract as necessary under Gov't Code 2269.102. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(21) **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the county accepting the following as a gift:**

- a. **Roadway Easement Extension CR 4545 (Ferguson) to Houston County in connection with the construction and maintenance of a new bridge across Camp Creek.**
- b. **Roadway Easement Extension CR 4545 (Arnold Estate) to Houston County in connection with the construction and maintenance of a new bridge across Camp Creek.**

Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(26) **At 9:45 a.m. Judge Lovell made the motion for Commissioners Court to adjourn. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 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