



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 11, 2023**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on April 11, 2023 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>PRESENT</b>

County Officials/Employees in person:

Terri Meadows	County Clerk
Todd McConnell	IT
Laura Goolsby	District Clerk
Sharon Luker	Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Kris Dyches	Insurance Coordinator
Joel Martin	Bailiff
Ronnie Jordan	JP Precinct 2

County Officials/Employees by Zoom:

Brittani Womack	1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Auditor
Laronica Wooten-Smith	Tax Assessor Collector
Heath Murff	Emergency Management

Media:

Greg Ritchie - Messenger  
Jan White – Courier (Zoom)

Visitors: Clayton Starr (Sons of Republic of Texas), Ruenette Starr

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

**Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., Commissioner Kitchen led 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.) **Greg Ritchie invited everyone to attend the Houston County Hospital Board Candidate Forum on April 25, 2023 at the Civic Center.**
- (3) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court minutes.  
**Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court Minutes from March 28, 2023 and April 4, 2023. Commissioner Stokes 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 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. County Treasurers Report (Not Available)
  - b. County Clerk Report
  - c. District Clerk Report
  - d. Tax Assessor Collector Report
  - e. Community Service/Environmental Report**Commissioner Henderson moved to receive the County Clerk Report, District Clerk Report, Tax Assessor Collector Report and Community Service/Environmental Report as information. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees: **NONE**
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **NONE**
- (9) Discuss and consider declaring received information as surplus inventory and approving transfers between departments. **NONE**
- (10) Discuss and consider proclaiming the week of April 30 to May 7, 2023 as "Soil & Water Stewardship Week". **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to proclaim the week of April 30 to May 7, 2023 as "Soil & Water Stewardship Week". Commissioner Stokes seconded motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (11) Discuss and consider approving orders allowing retail fireworks permit holders to sell fireworks to the public in celebration of the following:
  - a. San Jacinto Day
  - b. Memorial Day

**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve orders allowing retail fireworks permit holders to sell fireworks to the public in celebration of San Jacinto Day and Memorial Day. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (12) Discuss and consider action on an application request for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal agreement with Piney Woods Fine Arts Association for the Lightin' Hopkins Summer Series in the Park to be held on 06/02/23, 06/09/23, 06/16/23 & 06/23/23 in the Davy Crockett Park. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve \$3000 request for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal agreement with Piney Woods Fine Arts Association for the Lightin' Hopkins Summer Series in the Park to be held on 06/02/23, 06/09/23, 06/16/23 & 06/23/23 in the Davy Crockett Park. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (13) Discuss and consider accepting the donation from Michael Woolhouse in the amount of \$1,280.00 for improvements to CR 3555 in Precinct 3. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to accept a donation from Michael Woolhouse in the amount of \$1,280.00 for improvements to CR 3555 in Precinct 3. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (14) Discuss and consider moving the Commissioners Court meeting time from 10:00 am to 9:00 am. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to move the Commissioners Court meeting time from 10:00 am to 9:00 am beginning with the next Commissioners Court. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (15) Discuss and consider approving budget amendment to purchase/rent Country Pure Water machine with up to three bottles per month in the amount of \$39.97 monthly for the Adult Probation Department office. **PASS**
- (16) Discuss and consider approving the purchase of a cellular phone booster to be installed at the Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 office in the new Annex and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the purchase of a cellular phone booster from Southern Computer Warehouse to be installed at the Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 office in the new Annex and necessary budget amendments from computer/equipment and non-departmental. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (17) Discuss and consider approving the purchase/rent of Security Shredding for \$66.00 per quarter for Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 office in the new Annex and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve the purchase/rent of Security Shredding for \$66.00 per quarter for Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 office in the new Annex and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (18) Discuss and consider accepting the donation from Pennie Jackson the amount of \$1,250.00 for improvements to CR 3555 in Precinct 3. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to accept a donation from Pennie Jackson in the amount of \$1,250.00 for improvements to CR 3555 in Precinct 3. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (19) Discuss and consider proclaiming April 21, 2023 as "San Jacinto Day" and special recognition of the Sons of the Republic of Texas. **Clayton Starr read the proclamation and gave us an interesting Texas History lesson. Following his presentation the Court signed the proclamation and took a picture.**

(20)Adjourn. **Judge Lovell made a motion for the Commissioners Court Meeting to Adjourn. The motion carried by everyone rising and leaving the meeting at 10:26 a.m.**

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Jim Lovell, County Judge

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Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

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Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

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Gene Stokes, Commissioner, Precinct #3

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Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

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Terri Meadows, County Clerk