



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
June 9, 2020**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on June 9, 2020, via **Zoom due to Covid 19**, with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge	
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1	
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2	
Pat Perry	Commissioner, Precinct #3	
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4	*ABSENT

Also present:

Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Sharon Luker	Assistant to the Commissioners
Melissa Jeter	Auditor
Justin Killough	Sheriff
Roger Dickey	Emergency Management Coordinator
Bonita Newman	9-1-1 Addressing
Buck Carroll	County Attorneys Investigator
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Will Johnson	The Messenger
Alton Porter	Houston County Courier

Visitors:

Brandon Bridges (Grapeland Economic Development), Ann Walker (Pineywoods Fine Arts Association)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order and Commissioner Lovell led the opening prayer. Following the Prayer Judge Lovell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

(2) Recognition and comments from guests:

None

(3) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to discuss and consider action to execute an order adopting the Houston County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria adopted at the meeting of the Commissioners Court on April 28, 2020. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(4) Public Hearing: **Hearing opened at 10:13 a.m.**

Hearing on creating and designating Reinvestment Zone at 175 CR 2345, Grapeland, Texas and on a Proposed Tax Abatement Agreement with Vulcraft located at 175 CR 2345, Grapeland, Texas pursuant to the Houston County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria authorized under Chapter 312, Tax Code. The reinvestment zone will be known as Vulcraft Reinvestment Zone #1 and is purposed to provide construction, improvements, and economic development within Houston County.

(5) Close Public Hearing: **Hearing closed at 10:13 a.m.**

(6) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to enter a Tax Abatement Agreement with Vulcraft and to create and designate a Reinvestment Zone at 175 CR 2345, Grapeland, Texas, to be known as Vulcraft Reinvestment Zone #1 pursuant to the Houston County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria authorized under Chapter 312, Tax Code for the economic development of Houston County. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(7) **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from May 23, 2020. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(8) Consider approving budget amendments. **None**

(9) 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 Kitchen. The motion carried 4 to 0.

(10) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:

- a. Environmental Report
- b. Community Service Report (not available)

Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as information the Environmental Report. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(11) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees: **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve Gene Osborne for a Full Time Deputy Position with the Sheriff's Office, Pay Grade 19 and Bi-Weekly Salary of \$1300.29 plus \$18.46 phone stipend. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

- (12) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, vacation and holiday time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to pay Gwen Womack \$138.49. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (13) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to accept a donation of \$2500.00 from the Elks Lodge for the Office of Emergency Management for equipment upgrade and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Roger Dickey, Director for Office of Emergency Management said this money will be used for night vision equipment. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- Roger Dickey requested the old equipment be donated to the Houston County Search & Rescue at a later date. No action taken.*
- (14) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept a donation of \$2000.00 from The Elks National Foundation through Crockett Elks Lodge #1729 for the Home Delivered Meals program to be used as needed, and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Kitchen added the use of these funds will be at the discretion of the Director for Home Delivered Meals program and be used as she sees fit. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (15) Discuss and consider action on renewing the 2020/2021 contract plan with BlueCross/BlueShield for employee health insurance through Texas Association of Counties. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve Option 1. Following some discussion about the different options Commissioner Lovell withdrew his motion and this will be taken up at the next Commissioners Court Meeting.**
- (16) Discuss and consider action to accept and award a contract from sealed bids on trust property suite #06-253 and #16-0226 received through tax sale where no bids were received from the general public. **Commissioner Kitchen moved to accept the bids and Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (17) Discuss and consider action on awarding a contract from received bids for the purchase of 2 Patrol Trucks for the Sheriff's Department. **Commissioner Lovell moved to award the contract to Cutshaw Chevrolet for the purchase of two patrol trucks for a total price of \$71,000.00 and Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (18) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve Hotel Occupancy Tax Application and Interlocal Agreement with Pineywoods Fine Arts Association for Summer Series Drive In "Concerts in the Park" to be held on June 12, 2020 and June 26, 2020 in the amount of \$2000.00. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (19) Discuss and action on the approval, acceptance, affirmation, and ratification of the Application submitted by the County for the purpose of securing grant funding under the County Transportation Infrastructure Fund program, including acceptance and approval of the following, included therein:
- a. The acts of the designated TxDOT County contacts for the purpose of preparing and submitting Application.
 - b. The Road Reports, as the 2019 road condition reports required by Texas Transportation Code §215.005 and §215.018.

- c. The County Transportation Infrastructure Fund Project List (Prioritized List)
- d. Designation of a County Contact person and authorize the County Contact person to prepare and/or execute documents on behalf of the County in matters relating to and regarding the TxDOT CTIF Grant and Grant Program.

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve a, b, c, and d and appoint Judge Lovell as the County Contact person with the authority to sign everything. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(20) Commissioner Kitchen moved to authorize the County Judge and the County Sheriff to negotiate and sign a contract from the received proposal with D & F Med LLC dba Groveton Family Medical Clinic for Inmate Health Services at the Houston County Jail. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(21) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to award a contract from received bids for Disaster Recovery Consulting Services to H2O Partners (#2 on the Bid #2020-11 Sheet). Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(22) Commissioner Kitchen moved to appoint Jim Lovell to the DETCOG Board of Directors for a one-year term to end on June 30, 2021. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(23) Judge Lovell moved to adjourn the Meeting. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0. The meeting was adjourned.

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