



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 22, 2021**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on June 22, 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	**ABSENT Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to County Judge
Sharon Luker	Assistant to the Commissioners
Janis Omelina	Treasurer
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Brittani Womack	First Assistant Auditor (Zoom)
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Randy Hargrove	Sheriff
Roger Dickey	Chief Deputy Sheriff (Zoom)
Heath Murff	Emergency Management (Zoom)
Sarah Clark	CCL Judge
Laronica Smith	Tax Assessor-Collector (Zoom)
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk (Zoom)
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	The Messenger (Zoom)

Visitors:

Lee Lunsford (Pct 4), Sue Bobbitt Bynum (Pct 4), Ruth Bobbitt (Pct 4), Amber Stelly (Consolidated Water/ESD #2), Rhonda Brown (HoCo Hospital District), Dina Pipes (HoCo Hospital District), Mike Deckard, Crystal Ware (Adult Protective Services)

- (1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:
Judge Lovell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Stokes 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 Kitchen moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from June 8, 2021. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (4) Consider approving budget amendments. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Lovell seconded to approve the Budget Amendments. 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. County Treasurers Report (not to be received at this time)
 - b. Compensatory Report**Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive the Compensatory Report as information. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Lovell seconded to approve the following new hires:
 - (a) **Part time dispatcher, Shannon Foster-North, at the HCSO , hourly pay \$13.38 in Pay Grade 15, effective 6/23/2021.**
 - (b) **Part time receptionist/file clerk, Ariana Gonzalez, in the District Clerks Office, hourly pay \$9.98 in Pay Grade 10 effective 6/11/2021.**
Commissioners Court approved a and b 4 to 0.
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **None**
- (9) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept as a donation the volunteer services of Lawson Hamilton as a Judicial Intern employee within the County Court at Law Office through August 2021. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (10)**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept \$2000.00 donation from James or Janet Whitmore for road materials for CR 2240 in Precinct 2 and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (11)**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept donation of \$2000.00 from anonymous donor for the Houston County Sheriff's Department to purchase law enforcement supplies**

and equipment and deposit it in the DARE liability account and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

- (12) Commissioner Lovell moved to accept a \$2000.00 donation from the J B & Kathryn Sallas Charitable Foundation for the benefit of the Houston County Senior Citizen's Center. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (13) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept a donation from Commissioner Lovell of 280 yards of clay for Precinct 1. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (14) Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve a contract from John Kyle Mays for an unspecified amount of clay fill dirt road material for \$2.00 per cubic yard and authorizing removal from owner's property for use by Precinct 2. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (15) Commissioner Kitchen moved to accept additional RAP allocation of 150 cubic yards from Texas Department of Highways and Transportation for Precinct 1 & 2. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (16) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to adopt a proclamation declaring June as Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Crystal Ware from Adult Protective Services was here to speak about Elder Abuse Prevention. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (17) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Stokes seconded to approve extending the Disaster Declaration for Houston County through August 2, 2021. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (18) Gene Stokes nominated Amber Stelly to be appointed to replace Roy Langford on ESD #2 as board member. Hearing no other nominations Commissioner Lovell moved for nominations to cease and Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0. Amber Stelly is the appointee to the ESD #2 Board.
- (19) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to appoint Judge Jim Lovell for the DETCOG Board of Directors for a one-year term to end on June 30, 2022. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (20) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal Agreement with Crockett Merchants Girls Softball Inc. for 8U and 15U Texas Teenage Association of Softball District Tournament to be held June 21-25, 2021 in the Davy Crockett Park for \$3000.00. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (21) Commissioner Kitchen moved to submit application to State Comptroller for refund of unclaimed capital credits received from electric cooperatives in accordance with §381.004 of the Texas Local Government Code. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

- (22) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to authorize funds from Healthy County Budget and necessary budget amendments for the Healthy County "Lunch and Learn" Program to be held each Friday of July. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (23) At the recommendation of the HR Committee Commissioner Stokes made a motion to renew employee health insurance renewal premiums and option for FY 2022 in the same plan we currently have. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (24) Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve contract for approved election equipment from ES&S and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (25) Discuss and consider action on County Inventory items:
- (a) Commissioner Kitchen made the motion and Commissioner Lovell seconded to declare surplus and salvage inventory items with Elections department (LGC 263.152 (a)(1). Motion carried 4 to 0.
 - (b) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to authorize Elections Administrator to sale surplus items to eligible political subdivisions and ask \$500.00 for Auto Max Machine and to set the scanners at \$100.00 and above. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
 - (c) Commissioner Kitchen moved to offer any excess surplus or salvage items to be traded in with ES&S for like equipment (LGC 263.152(a)(3)). Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (26) Commissioner Kitchen moved to receive as information 2021 report of Cybersecurity training as required under Texas Government Code 2054.5191 and HB 1118 to department of Information Resources. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (27) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Stokes seconded to approve Houston County Appraisal District proposed budget for FY 2022. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(28) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to set dates for large item county-wide garbage collection with published rules and that Precincts 1 and 2 will cooperate together to hold large trash collection on 7/10/2021, Precinct 3 on 7/24/2021, and Precinct 4 on 7/31/2021. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(29) Judge Lovell made the motion 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