



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 22, 2019**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on October 22, 2019 with the following members present, to wit:

Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2
Pat Perry	Commissioner, Precinct #3
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Sharon Luker	Assistant to the County Commissioners
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Janis Omelina	Treasurer
Melissa Jeter	Auditor
Cynthia Lum	Election's Administrator
Justin Killough	Chief Deputy at S/O
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Terri Meadows	Houston County Clerk

Media:

Will Johnson	The Messenger
Alton Porter	Houston County Courier

Visitors: Cole Robison (Crockett Construction), Susan Meyers (Drewery & Wheaton), Barbara Jarrett (Crockett Elks 1729), Tom Jarrett (Crockett Elks 1729), Ray Vann (RKV & Associates), Ronnie Strong (Leland Bradlee Construction), Jacob Tiemann (GLS), Marilyn Greer (iDocket), Denny Wheeler (Pineywoods Sanitation)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Commissioner Kitchen called the meeting to order, Commissioner Lovell gave the opening prayer, and Commissioner Kitchen led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

(2) Recognition and comments from guests:

Commissioner Kitchen recognized the guests and asked if there were any comments.

Jacob Tiemann with Goodwin/Lasiter/Strong opened sealed bids received for the TxCDBG Road Improvement Project TDA No. 7218219 and read them aloud to the public. No action was taken. They will be presented for action at a later Commissioners Court meeting.

(3) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from October 7, 2019. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(4) Consider approving Budget Amendments. There were 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 of 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 4 to 0.**

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

- a. Treasurer's Report
- b. Compensatory Report

**Commissioner Lovell made a motion to receive as Information the Treasurer's and Compensatory Reports. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:

**Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the promotion of Dustin Lawson from full-time Jailer to full-time Sgt. Jailer at Pay Grade #17, bi-weekly salary of \$1179.40, effective October 22, 2019. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, vacation and holiday time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **There were none.**

(9) Review current drought and fire danger and consider initiating burn ban for unincorporated areas of Houston County. **Pass at this time because previous burn ban has been lifted.**

(10) Discuss and consider taking action to accept bids on trust properties submitted by Houston County Appraisal District. Commissioner Kitchen said that the bids are way below the minimum, but if this is what the Appraisal District wants to do to get these properties back on the tax roll then I will entertain a motion. **Commissioner Lovell moved to award the bids. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(11) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to reappoint Roger Dickey as the Houston County Fire Marshal for the period October 22, 2019 through October 21, 2021. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(12) Commissioner Lovell moved to accept a donation of \$2500 from Crockett Elks Lodge for meals for Senior Center and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

- (13) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to accept the donation of 2004 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 truck from Houston County Search and Rescue to Precinct 1. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (14) Discuss and consider taking action to approve the County Choice Silver Supplemental Retiree Medical policy from Texas Association of Counties, Health & Employee Benefits Pool. Jan Pigford, from the Human Resource Committee, stated that there is a minor increase, but the Committee was in full agreement with this renewal. **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the renewal of the policy. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (15) Discuss and Consider taking Action by (Marilyn Greer, Sales Representative from iDocket gave a short iDocket Presentation):
- (a) Approving contract with Integrated County-Wide Solution for case management software, support, installation and training program for use by the County Clerk, District Clerk, County, District and County Court at Law Judges, and County and District Attorneys. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
  - (b) Authorizing exemption to bidding requirements due to purchase being made under state contract through Buy Board. **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the purchase without other bids due to the purchase being made under state contract through the Buy Board. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
  - (c) Authorizing lease purchase agreement with Citizens National Bank for new case management software on an amount not to exceed \$200,000 and necessary budget amendments. County Auditor, Melissa Jeter, said that we know the exact amount will be \$157, 092.88 and we should finance this for 5 years. **Commissioners Lovell and Kitchen will be the signers on the note. Commissioner Perry moved to approve the lease purchase agreement with Citizens National Bank. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (16) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve Interlocal Agreement for use of voting machines with Houston County Hospital District, Grapeland Hospital District, City of Latexo, Lovelady and Kennard and Lovelady ISD, Latexo ISD, Kennard ISD, Crockett ISD and Grapeland. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (17) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the appointment of Vance Drum as Precinct 1 Election Judge replacing Joe Ainsworth and appointment of Florene Moore Precinct 20 Election Judge replacing Linda Houston for the November 5, 2019 Constitutional Election. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (18) Commissioner Henderson moved to approve Premises Use Permit for "Trick or Treat on the Square" October 21, 2019. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (19) Receive as information update from Pinewoods Sanitation. Denny Wheeler was here to provide an update. There are now 1805 residential customers and 90 dumpster customers. Overall the number being provided service is up 60 customers from last year.

(20) Closed executive session to discuss economic development per Government Code §551.087. Commissioner Kitchen announced that since no one was here to present this the item will be passed to the next Commissioners Court Agenda.

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

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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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Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

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Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

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Terri Meadows, County Clerk