



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on October 27, 2020, via **Zoom due to Covid 19**, with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1 (joined the meeting after item #7)
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2
Pat Perry	Commissioner, Precinct #3
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Sharon Luker	Assistant to the Commissioners
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Bonita Newman	911 Addressing
Janis Omelina	County Treasurer
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Ronnie Jordan	JP Precinct #2
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Will Johnson	The Messenger
Alton Porter	Houston County Courier

Visitors:

None

- (1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:  
Judge Lovell called the meeting to order. Judge Lovell led the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

- (2) Recognition and comments from guests: **NONE**

(3) **Commissioner Henderson moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from October 13, 2020. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 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 Kitchen 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 Perry. The motion carried 4 to 0.**

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

- a. County Treasurers Report
- b. Compensatory Report

**Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information the County Treasurers Report and the Compensatory Report. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

Other County Announcements:

**Judge Lovell shared with everyone that Melissa Jeter was recently installed as the President of the Texas Association of County Auditors. We are all so proud of you!**

(7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees: **NONE**

**\*\*Commissioner Lovell joined Commissioners Court at this time**

(8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve payment to Deputy Hutcherson at the HCSO in the amount of \$241.40. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(9) Discuss and consider action on granting discretionary exemptions for purchases of goods and services related to the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to Local Government Code §262.024 under the CARES Act/Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). **NONE**

(10) **A representative from The Houston County Appraisal District was not present but Judge Lovell recommended that the bids on five trust properties submitted by the Houston County Appraisal District be accepted. Commissioner Kitchen so moved and Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(11) **Commissioner Perry moved to accept a donation of \$1500 from Cardenas Ranch for improvements to CR 4110 in Precinct 3 and Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(12) **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to accept donation of \$600 from 2 P Logging for improvements to CR 1105 in Precinct 4. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

- (13) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve Houston County Premises Permit for Porter Springs Baptist Church to conduct prayer rally with music and brief message to be held on HC Courthouse lawn on November 12, 2020 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (14) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the commitment of local county funds and participation in a community development block grant mitigation project by the Deep East Council of Governments (DETCOG) for regionwide interoperable radio communications infrastructure and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Our portion to match is \$40,000 and this amount is based on population. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (15) Commissioner Kitchen moved to accept as information Jury Proceeding Addendum to COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Houston County Judiciary to reopen the courts. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (16) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to designate the Crockett Civic Center as an alternate Courthouse from now until 2021 to comply with COVID-19 Operating Plan. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (17) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve Interlocal Agreement with City of Crockett for use of Civic Center as alternate Courtroom until 2021 to comply with COVID-19 Operating Plan. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (18) Commissioner Kitchen moved to extend and upgrade the current contract with Northland Cable for fiber internet for the Courthouse and Annex. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (19) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the contract with Northland Communications from received quotes for a new phone system for the Courthouse and Annex and Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (20) Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve Interlocal Contract with Elkhart ISD and Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (21) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to receive as information that Elkhart ISD is holding a board member election. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (22) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to receive as information list of replacement of precinct judges for the November 3, 2020 election. Precinct 1 Election Judge Virginia Lewis. George Mike Taylor Precinct 5 Election Judge and Dorothy Cook Alternate Judge. Vernon Johnson as Alternate Judge for Precinct 18. Motion carried 5 to 0.

(23)Adjourn. **Judge Lovell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

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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