



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2020**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on November 24, 2020, **via Zoom due to Covid 19**, with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge
Gary Lovell	ABSENT , Commissioner, Precinct #1
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
Jerry Kaelin	Chief Deputy
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Roger Dickey	Emergency Management Director
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Nathan Turner	Information Technology
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
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Visitors:

Janice Slaughter, Willa Wooten, Gwen Womack, Samsung – no name, Jackie Benton, A Britz

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order then he 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 November 10, 2020 and November 17, 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 Henderson. 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 Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Other County Announcements:

Judge Lovell shared with everyone that unfortunately because of the rise in Coronavirus Cases the Employee Appreciation Dinner scheduled for December 3, 2020 is cancelled.

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

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to approve the hiring of James Frazer as Custodian – Senior Center, replacing LaToya Jones, as a part-time employee at an hourly rate of \$10.75 in Pay Grade 10. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(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 Ryan Hutcherson \$416.96, D. Lawson \$2411.23, M. Jackson \$96.90, and D. Brown \$237.76. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

(9) Discuss and consider action on order the removal of a gate placed by landowner(s) across County Road 2106 and in the right of way of County Road 2106 located in Precinct 2. **Janice Pouncy Slaughter addressed the removal of the gate and asked the Commissioners Court to leave the gate as it remains and/or consider abandoning CR 2106 as a county road. Commissioner Kitchen said the proper procedures have not been initiated to consider abandoning/closing the road and that he finds the Order to Remove the Obstruction is proper and he moved that Commissioners approve the Order to Remove Obstructions in County Road 2106 Pursuant to Texas Transportation Code Section 251.003, 251.008, and 251.016 and that the owners remove the gate by December 8, 2020 and if it is not done by that date the county will remove the gate and put it on the Willis property. Commissioner Henderson seconded Commissioner Kitchens motion. Jackie Benton spoke up and supported Mrs. Slaughters reasons to leave the gate in place. Motion carried 4 to 0.**

- (10) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to accept donation of 22 grade level story books from Sally Brannen to Juvenile Probation Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (11) Commissioner Kitchen moved to accept donations collected by the Houston County Child Welfare Board for the Law Enforcement Back Pack Project and Angel Tree Project and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (12) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to accept a donation from JB & Kathryn Sallas Charitable Foundation for the Senior Citizens Center and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (13) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to renew liability insurance at Houston County Airport; the renewal premium is \$2127.00. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (14) Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded to award a contract from received bids (DBT Transportation Services) for the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) at the Houston County Airport for 2021 for the Base Bid and Additives 1 and 2 for a total amount of \$149,231.00. Melissa Jeter shared this is a 75/25 matching grant and the county portion will not come from ad valorem taxes they are coming from Community Development monies/CARES Grant. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (15) Adjourn. Judge Lovell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

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