



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2020**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on December 8, 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 (joined at item 12)
Pat Perry	Commissioner, Precinct #3
Jimmy Henderson	*ABSENT* 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
Justin Killough	Sheriff
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Janis Omelina	Treasurer
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	The Messenger

Visitors:

Ann Walker (PWFAA Director)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order. Commissioner Lovell led the opening 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 Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from November 24, 2020. Judge Lovell seconded. Motion carried 3 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 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 Perry. The motion carried 3 to 0.

(6) 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 Perry seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.

Other County Announcements:

Sheriff Killough asked that we remember a couple of his employees that are sick with Covid.

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

Commissioner Perry made a motion and Commissioner Lovell seconded to approve the hiring of Tamesha Duncan at bi-weekly salary of \$1018.81 in pay grade 15 replacing Jailer Dustin Lawson, and the hiring of Schellie Burnett at bi-weekly salary of \$1018.81 in pay grade 15 in a new jailer position. Motion carried 3 to 0.

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

(9) **Commissioner Perry made a motion to accept the anonymous donation of Christmas Tree for Courthouse. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.**

(10) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to accept the anonymous donation of Hamilton Beach Microwave oven, Galanz small refrigerator, 27" Dell Computer Monitor, Logitech Wireless Keyboard and a Logitech Wireless Mouse for the benefit of the County Clerks Office. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.**

(11) **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve Hotel Occupancy Tax Application and Interlocal Agreement for Piney Woods Fine Arts Association for the Texas Tenors Concert to be held on Saturday, December 19, 2020 in the amount of \$1000. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.**

COMMISSIONER KITCHEN JOINED COURT IN SESSION

(12) Discuss and consider approving updated DETCOG Regional Mutual Aid Agreement. **PASSED**

- (13) **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to renew the fuel storage tank pollution liability insurance policy for the Houston County Airport at a cost of \$1611.65. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (14) **Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve and set the bonds for the newly elected and re-elected County and District Officials effective January 1, 2021. Commissioner Perry seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0. Judge Lovell reminded everyone that the Swearing-In Ceremony will be held January 1, 2021 beginning at 10 am at the Crockett Civic Center (to allow for social distancing and health and safety during the pandemic).**

Laronica Wooten Smith – Tax Assessor Collector – January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024 (Two Bonds: \$100,000 Bond (motor vehicle collections) – payable to Governor and \$100,000 Bond (property tax collections) – payable to Houston County Commissioners Court).

Morris E. Luker – Constable, Precinct 1 – January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024 (\$1500 Bond – payable to the Governor).

Kenneth “Red” Smith – Constable, Precinct 2 – January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024 (\$1500 Bond – payable to the Governor).

Gary Lovell – Commissioner Precinct 1 – January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024 (\$3000 Bond – payable to the County Treasurer).

Gene Stokes – Commissioner Precinct 3 – January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024 (\$3000 Bond – payable to the County Treasurer).

Daphne Lynette Session – County Attorney – January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024 (\$2500 Bond – payable to the Governor).

Donna Kaspar – District Attorney – January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024 (\$5000 Bond – payable to the Governor).

Randy Hargrove, Sr. – Sheriff – January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024 (\$30,000 Bond – payable to the Governor).

Employee’s Blanket Bond for Sheriff’s Deputies - \$10,000 – 4 years beginning January 1, 2021 – 24 Deputies under Sheriff Randy Hargrove.

- (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