



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**AUGUST 24, 2021**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on August 24, 2021, **in person and via zoom due to Covid**, with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge (via Zoom)
Gary Lovell	<b>**ABSENT</b> Commissioner, Precinct #1
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2
Gene Stokes	Commissioner, Precinct #3
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to County Judge
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor
Brittani Womack	First Assistant Auditor (Zoom)
Laronica Smith	Tax Assessor-Collector
Cynthia Lum	Elections Administrator
Sharon Luker	Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners
Sgt. Mike Molnes	HCSO
Lt. Michael Molnes	HCSO
Sgt. Mike Combest	HCSO
Heath Murff	Emergency Management Coordinator (Zoom)
Roger Dickey	Chief Deputy at the HCSO (Zoom)
Terri Meadows	County Clerk

Media:

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

Visitors:

Tab Beall (Perdue Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott LLP), Meme Thomas (Perdue Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott LLP), Waymon Vest, K. DeWayne High (Zoom), Gerald Reichl

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Commissioner Kitchen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.. Commissioner Kitchen then led the opening prayer and the Pledge to the American flag and to the Texas Flag.

- (2) Recognition and comments from guests: Gerald Reichl spoke briefly about the need for animal spay and neuter needed in Houston County. He talked about the cost and the possibility of the county helping out with some funds. Commissioner Kitchen thanked him for speaking and said that because this is not an Action Item on the Agenda no action can be taken.
- (3) **Commissioner Henderson moved to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from August 10, 2021. Commissioner Stokes 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 Henderson 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 3 to 0.**
- (6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
  - a. County Treasurers Report
  - b. Compensatory Report**Commissioner Stokes made a motion to receive the County Treasurers Report and the Compensatory Report as information. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.**

**\*\*Judge Lovell joined the meeting already in progress**

- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
  - a. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the hiring of Todd McConnell as Information Technology Coordinator at a bi-weekly salary of \$1238.36 in pay grade 17 replacing Nathan Turner. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to pay out Nathan Turner with IT \$763.21 and Sarah Shafer with DPS \$60.98 with necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- (9) Discuss and consider accepting donation of 1850 United States Map from Waymon Vest. Mr. Vest shared that he would like to donate this map with conditions. After hearing from him about the conditions Commissioner Kitchen said that no action could be taken at this time.
- (10) Receive as information status report from Tab Beall and Meme Thomas from Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott LLP. Tab Beall gave a report on tax collection for Houston County. His information was very encouraging.

- (11) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to adopt the Election Judges and Alternate Judges as provided from party chairs list, for a 2-year appointment starting September 1, 2021. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (12) Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve Shady Grove Baptist Church, located at 8261 FM 232, Crockett, Texas 75835 as the official polling location for precinct 11. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (13) Commissioner Henderson moved to issue an Order of Election for the November 2, 2021 Constitutional Amendment Election. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (14) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the purchase of software license from Life Check Systems in the amount of \$2,250 plus \$400 monthly for maintenance, upgrade and support for the software to be used in the jail for inmate cell checks and to include Lt. Michael Molnes and Sgt. Marth Jackson as the Point-of-contact. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

**\*\*At this time Zoom went down and Judge Lovell was off line for the next 2 items (Items 15 and 16).**

- (15) Commissioner Stokes moved to approve the upgrade to unlimited Jail User Licenses for the EForce Jail software in the amount of \$10,250 for maintenance and support. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.
- (16) Discuss and consider action on awarding contracts from received bids for Road Materials. Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to Table. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.
- (17) Commissioner Henderson moved to authorize the trade in of 2004 Mack Dump truck on purchase of 2022 Mack Dump Truck from Volvo & Mack Trucks of Waco, LGC 263.152(2) for Precinct 1. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.
- (18) Budget Workshop – FY 2022 Budget. Melissa Jeter, County Auditor, gave the presentation of the Budget for FY 2022 highlighting the changes. Judge Lovell commended Melissa Jeter for all the hard work she put into getting this budget ready in time.

(19) Commissioner Stokes moved to set proposed tax rate at 0.530000 and set the hearing date for September 14, 2021. Judge Lovell seconded the motion. Judge Lovell, Commissioner Kitchen, Commissioner Stokes, and Commissioner Henderson all voted in favor of this motion. Commissioner Lovell was absent from court due to illness.

(20) Adjourn. **Judge Lovell moved to adjourn and the motion was seconded and approved by everyone standing.**

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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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Gene Stokes, Commissioner, Precinct #3

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Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

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Terri Meadows, County Clerk