



HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 28, 2022

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on June 28, 2022 in **person and via zoom due to Covid**, with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge	PRESENT
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1	PRESENT
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2	PRESENT (ZOOM)
Gene Stokes	Commissioner, Precinct #3	PRESENT
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4	PRESENT

County Officials/Employees in person:

Todd McConnell	Information Technology
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to County Judge
Terri Meadows	County Clerk
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator
Brittani Womack	First Assistant County Auditor
Donna Kaspar	District Attorney
Cindy Lum	Elections Administrator
Randy Hargrove	Sheriff
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Lawson Hamilton	Summer Intern for County Attorney

County Officials/Employees by Zoom:

Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Heath Murff	Emergency Management
Laura Goolsby	Office Manager/DA's Office
Jo Smith	Extension Agent

Media:

Will Johnson (Zoom)	Messenger
Jan White	Courier

Visitors:

Whitney Burran (Family Crisis Center), James Holian (Field Representative for Senator Kevin Brady)

- (1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:
Judge Lovell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Stokes led the opening prayer followed by Judge Lovell leading the Pledge to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.
- (2) Recognition and comments from guests. (For informational purposes only, with no deliberation and no action taken, except that the Court may discuss whether to include any matter on a future agenda for deliberation and/or action.) **NONE**
- (3) Consider approval of prior Commissioners Court minutes.
Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the Commissioners Court Minutes from June 14, 2022. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 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 5 to 0.**
- (6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:
 - a. County Report **(not available)**
 - b. Compensatory Report **(not available)**
- (7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:
 - a. **Commissioner Stokes made the motion to approve the hiring of Richard Epps as Part Time Equipment Operator in Precinct 2 in Pay Grade 14 and hourly wage of \$12.61/ Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
 - b. **Commissioner Lovell made the motion to approve the 6 month pay raise of Missy d'Angelo as Assistant County Auditor in Pay Grade 16 with a current bi-weekly salary of \$1,112.54 and raise to \$1,168.17. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, and vacation time for County employees and necessary budget amendments: **NONE**
- (9) Ratify Declaration of Disaster and Order prohibiting outdoor burning issued by County Judge on June 22, 2022 and extend until July 12, 2022. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion to ratify Declaration of Disaster and Order prohibiting outdoor burning issued by County Judge on June 22, 2022 and extend until July 12, 2022. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (10) Discuss and consider payment in the amount of \$5,890.99 to Houston County Electric Cooperative to move electrical line on CR 4555 as a part of new bridge construction. Commissioner Henderson said this is an ongoing project with TXDOT. **Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve payment of \$5,890.99 to Houston County Electric**

Cooperative to move electrical line on CR 4555 as a part of new bridge construction. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.

- (11) Discuss and consider request from District Attorney for the approval of a SART Team (Sexual Assault Response Team) for Houston County required under Texas Local Government Code §351. Donna Kaspar, District Attorney, spoke a little about this mandate and told the Court that even though it is a requirement it requires Commissioners Court approval. Mrs. Kaspar introduced, Whitney Burran, who will be administrator of the team. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve formation of a SART Team in Houston County per Texas Local Government Code §351. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (12) Discuss and consider approving UT Tyler addendum to Houston County Senior Citizens Center rental agreement and authorizing Jo Smith to sign for Houston County. **Judge Jim Lovell made a motion to approve Jo Smith signing the addendum subject to the Auditor reviewing insurance coverage and the County Attorney deciding whether to keep the language of "Smith County" in the addendum. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.** The Extension Agent, Jo Smith, joined the meeting late and the Court came back to this agenda item. **Commissioner Stokes rescinded his previous motion and said we should go with our usual agreement, and not add the addendum that UT Tyler has requested. They can take it or leave it. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (13) Discuss and consider approving Houston County Airport lease agreement, terms and amount of liability insurance coverage for construction of new hangar for John Hudson. **After some discussion it was agreed to pass this item to gather more information.**
- (14) Discuss and consider action on application request of the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal Agreement with Robin Ogg for the "Day-Trippin" Entertainment Event to be held on August 12-14, 2022 at the Crockett Family Resort including a treasure hunt all around Houston County. **Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the request for \$2,000 Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund and Interlocal Agreement with Robin Ogg for the "Day-Trippin" Entertainment Event to be held on August 12-14, 2022 at the Crockett Family Resort including a treasure hunt all around Houston County. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (15) Discuss and consider approving dates and locations for County Wide Trash Cleanup for July 2022. **Commissioner Lovell made a motion set the dates and locations for County Wide Trash Cleanup for July 2022 8:00 am to Noon: Precinct 1 July 9, 2022 at Pineywoods Sanitation Transfer Station; Precinct 2 July 16, 2022 at Pineywoods Sanitation Transfer Station; Precinct 3 July 23, 2022 at the Precinct 3 Barn; Precinct 4 July 30, 2022 at the Precinct 4 Barn, and to advertise these dates and advertise that all locations are available for all precinct residents to use. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (16) Discuss and consider appointing Commissioner to ESD No. 2. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to appoint Todd Stone to ESD No. 2. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
- (17) Discuss and consider action on determining eligible uses and authorizing budget amendments for the American Rescue Plan Act. **Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the American Rescue Plan Act with Budget Amendments as presented to the Court. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(18) Discuss and consider action on updating the County Travel policy with the new IRS mileage reimbursement rate effective July 1 of 62.5 cents per mile, previously 58.5 cents. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve to update IRS mileage reimbursement rate of 62.5 cents per mile to the County Travel Policy, effective July 1, 2022 . Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(19) Discuss and consider action on advertising to accept bids for the purchase of a used semi-truck for hauling for Precinct 3 with ARPA grant funds and necessary budget amendments. **Commissioner Stokes made a motion to approve advertising to accept bids for the purchase of a used semi tuck for hauling for Precinct 3 with ARPA grant funds and necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

(20) Adjourn
Judge Lovell made the motion for Commissioners Court to adjourn. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0. Court adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Jim Lovell, County Judge

Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

Gene Stokes, Commissioner, Precinct #3

Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

Terri Meadows, County Clerk