

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on December 11, 2018 with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2
Pat Perry	Commissioner, Precinct #3
Kennon Kellum	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Morris Luker	Houston County Constable, Precinct 1
Daphne Session	Houston County Attorney
Melissa Jeter	Houston County Auditor
Michael Molnes	Houston County Sheriff's Office
Janice Turner	Chief Deputy County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	Grapeland Messenger

Visitors: Denny L. Wheeler, Sonny Hubbard, James Gentry, Carolyn McKnight, Jimmy Henderson, Lonnie Ellis, Joni Clonts, John Angerstein, Jan Pigford and Sharon Luker

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order and Willie Kitchen gave the opening prayer. Judge Lovell led the pledges of allegiance.

Judge Lovell recognized the guests and asked if there were any comments. There were no comments from the audience.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the prior Commissioners Court minutes. Gary Lovell seconded the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

There were no budget amendments.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to pay the bills and expenses. The motion was seconded by Gary Lovell. The motion carried 5 to 0. Melissa pointed out that on pages 13 and 14 are the Jury Funds. We have received the expenses for the two murder cases we had last year. The first one was \$2625 and \$11,906.25 for indigent defense. The second was 8,962.50, also for indigent defense. Ms. Jeter also pointed out the expenses on the bottom of page 14. These are civil-based CPS cases totaling over \$15,000.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Kennon Kellum to accept as information the Houston County Environmental and Community Service Reports. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Jan Pigford informed the Court that a Department Head meeting is planned for December 21st along with a reception to honor our outgoing County Officials. This meeting and reception will be held immediately following the Commissioners' Court meeting. We will also have people there to let us know what is going on with the heating, air conditioning and electrical work in the Courthouse and Annex.

According to Melissa Jeter an inventory will be done for the Courthouse and Annex in January.

Kennon Kellum made a motion, which was seconded by Pat Perry, to approve the salary of Dustin Lawson as a part-time jailer for December 7 to December 11, 2018 at a pay rate of \$12.74 per hour. He will go full time December 12, 2018 at a pay rate of \$1018.81 bi-weekly. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Kennon Kellum made a motion to approve payment of vacation, holiday and compensatory time for former employee Mark Sloan. It was brought to the Courts' attention that Mr. Sloan did not

finish his shift so he is not due vacation time. Deductions were made to correct this and Willie Kitchen made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to accept as information the Certificate of Compliance for the Houston County Jail from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to change the status of Fred Newtz, the Veterans Services Officer, from full-time status to part-time status effective January 1, 2019. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen to approve a contract for a cell phone for the Veterans Services Officer. Gary Lovell made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the Contract Extension between Deep East Texas Council of Governments and Houston County Aging Services for the time period October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. The motion was seconded by Kennon Kellum. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Melissa commented that the Adopt a Grandparent program received around \$500.00 in donations.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the purchase of a 1991 Dodge truck at a price of \$3,000 for Precinct 2. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

James Gentry presented the details on a proposal for tax abatement for Midland Estate, LLC, a manufacturer of recycled oil. The item failed for lack of a motion. Mr. Gentry then asked for an explanation and these items were brought up: The term of ten years for the abatement is unacceptable and we need to see a site plan and other documentation that the company will, in fact, start a plant in Crockett.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen to approve the official bonds for newly elected county officials for the term January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2022. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Denny Wheeler from Pineywoods Sanitation brought the Court up to date on the new county garbage pickup service. 1,100 people have called for service. Pick up will begin the week of Christmas and Pineywoods hopes to have everything moving smoothly quickly.

Gary Lovell made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Willie Kitchen.

The motion carried 5 to 0 and the meeting was adjourned.

Jim Lovell, County Judge

Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

Kennon Kellum, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

Bridget Lamb, County Clerk