

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on October 23, 2018 with the following members present, to wit:

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

Also present:

Dina Herrera	Houston County Treasurer
Melissa Jeter	Houston County Auditor
Danette Millican	Houston County Tax Assessor/Collector
Daphne Session	Houston County Attorney
Cynthia Lum	Houston County Elections Administrator
Michael Molnes	Houston County Sheriff's Office
Janice Turner	Chief Deputy County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Sarah Naron	Grapeland Messenger

Visitors: Glenn Barnhart; Denny L. Wheeler, Piney Woods Sanitation; Buck Carroll; Jan Pigford; Sharon Luker; Dan Huggins and Reggie Berry

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

Willie Kitchen recognized the guests. Dina made a comment, explaining that we were underpaid on the road money of \$30,221.22 received October 1<sup>st</sup>. We should receive an additional amount of \$4,017.55 the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.

Gary Lovell made a motion to approve the prior Commissioners Court minutes. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion and the motion carried 4 to 0.

Kennon Kellum made a motion to pay the bills and expenses. The motion was seconded by Gary Lovell. The motion carried 4 to 0.

A motion was made by Pat Perry and seconded by Kennon Kellum to accept as information the Houston County Treasurer's Report. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to accept as information the Monthly Compensatory Report. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion and motion carried 4 to 0.

Melissa Jeter informed us that she has been elected Vice President of the Texas Auditors and will chair the law-study committee. She was congratulated by all the Commissioners.

Gary Lovell made a motion, which was seconded by Kennon Kellum, to approve the six-month raise for Terrell McKnight, the Courthouse Maintenance Supervisor, to be effective October 23, 2018. Motion carried 4 to 0.

A motion was made by Kennon Kellum, seconded by Pat Perry, to approve the six-month raise for Deputy Treasurer Loyce Netardus. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to approve the hiring of: Cameron Blake Dickey as a dispatcher at a pay rate of \$12.49 per hour for the period October 17-22, 2018 and full-time pay at a bi-weekly rate of \$998.83 beginning October 23, 2018; the hiring of Sandra Rodriguez as a dispatcher at a pay rate of \$12.49 per hour for the period October 17-22, 2018 and full-time pay at a bi-weekly rate of \$998.83 beginning October 23, 2018 and the hiring of Jacob Waller at a pay rate of \$12.49 per hour for the period October 17-22, 2018 and full-time pay at a bi-weekly rate of

\$998.83 beginning October 23, 2018. Kennon Kellum made a second to the motion. The motion carried 4 to 0.

A motion was made by Kennon Kellum to approve payment of compensatory time and vacation time in the amount of \$864.97 for Candi Reid. The motion was seconded by Gary Lovell. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Kennon Kellum made a motion, seconded by Pat Perry, to approve the payment of compensatory, vacation and holiday time and the necessary budget amendment for current elected officials due to status change in job positions as follows: \$1533.05 to Constable Precinct 1 as Environmental Officer and \$5186.64 to Constable Precinct 2 as Community Service Officer. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to accept the donation of labor from Craig Emmons to work on roads in Precinct 1. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion and the motion carried 4 to 0.

Daphne Session requested a review of the Hotel Occupancy Tax Use request that was approved for \$2,000 for *Christmas in Crockett* in a previous meeting. After a discussion among the Commissioners, it was decided to leave the amount as \$2,000 even though it is only a one-day event since it had already been approved.

Gary Lovell made a motion that was seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the requests for \$1,000 each for the Tony Orlando and the Texas Tenors events after Glenn Barnhart gave a presentation. Motion carried 4 to 0.

A motion was made by Gary Lovell and seconded by Kennon Kellum to accept bids on trust properties submitted by the Houston County Appraisal District. Motion carried 4 to 0.

It was decided to pass on Item 14 since that situation had already been resolved.

Gary Lovell made a motion to accept a donation from Cottonwood Stables in the amount of \$1,200.00 for road improvements to County Road 1620. A second to the motion was made by Kennon Kellum. Motion carried 4 to 0.

A motion was made by Kennon Kellum to accept the following equipment donation from the U.S. Deputy Sheriff's Association: 30 Emergency Belt Trauma Kits; 2 Model 500 PBT with replacement straws and 10 4-ft. by 12-ft. fold-out training mats. Pat Perry seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

A motion was made by Kennon Kellum and seconded by Pat Perry to table the discussion on approving the expenditure for roof repairs on the Tax Office portion of the Houston County Courthouse Annex until two bids are received.

Buck Carroll gave a presentation concerning domestic violence. Kennon Kellum made a motion to make an Official Proclamation designating October as *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*. The motion was seconded by Willie Kitchen. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Kennon Kellum made a motion to receive as information the Plan of Action from Piney Woods Sanitation regarding the transition to new service in the county. Gary Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to receive as information the petition for additional Saturday and Sunday early voting. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Pat Perry made a motion which was seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the request for Early Voting branch locations to be opened in Grapeland and Lovelady October 27 and 28, 2018. Motion carried 4 to 0.

A motion was made by Kennon Kellum and seconded by Gary Lovell to adjourn. Motion carried 4 to 0 and the meeting was adjourned.

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Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

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Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

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Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

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Kennon Kellum, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

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Bridget Lamb, County Clerk