

The Commissioner Court of Houston County met in a regular called meeting on September 24, 2013 with the following members present to wit:

Erin Ford	County Judge
Roger Dickey	Commissioner Precinct #1
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner Precinct #2
Pat Perry	Commissioner Precinct #3
Kennon Kellum	Commissioner Precinct #4

Also present:

Bridget Lamb	County Clerk
Melissa Mosley	County Auditor
Darrel Bobbitt	Sheriff
Judge Pam Fletcher	District Judge
Clyde Black	Justice of The Peace Precinct #1

Media:

Lynda Jones	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	Grapeland Messenger
Penny Webb	Houston County Web & Life

Visitors: David Lamb, Sr., Brenda Walker (Oncor), Chief G. P. Shearer, Elizabeth McCoy and Amber Bewley

County Judge Erin Ford called the minutes to order

Chief Deputy G. P. Shearer opened the meeting with a prayer

Pledge Allegiance

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Pat Perry to approve the minutes of the last regular called meeting held on September 10, 2013. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve budget #13-15 and any line item transfers. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the payment of bills and expenses and approval of related budget transfers. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Judge Ford lifted the burn ban

Judge Ford received information from AT&T in regards to the permitting and zoning requirements for a modification project in Lovelady. He also discussed the courthouse algae treatment.

Judge Ford recognized Brenda Walker and Judge Pam Foster Fletcher

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the salary of Norma Brewerton as part time in the County Treasurer's Office at a pay rate of \$9.00 per hour, she is replacing Leslie Hunt. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the modification on reimbursing project grant from USDA, Forest Service, Davy Crockett National Forest (Broadway Street in Kennard). Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to table the item concerning the grant from the Safe Community Grant Problem until they get clarity from Enbridge Pipeline. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the changes in juror pay to \$40.00 after the first day of service. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Judge Ford seconded by Willie Kitchen to make no changes to the Sheriffs' and Constables' Fees for 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Willie Kitchen to accept a Metorex 200 walk thru metal detector donated by the U. S. Marshals Service. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve a software contract for indigent video conferencing to enhance the efficiency of the court appointed attorney process with VIA3 Corporation. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the Longevity pay policy with changes to the maximum number of months for which an employee is eligible for longevity pay to 360 or 30 years of service and December 6, 2013 will be the issuance date. Motion carried 5 to 0.

No action taken on future plan for county owned building at 112 East Houston (old County Jail building)

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to adopt resolution approving application for the 2014 Indigent Defense Formulary Grant Program. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to set salaries for all officers and employees of Houston County for Fiscal year 2014 as required by Local Government Code 152.011. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Judge Ford seconded by Willie Kitchen to adopt a 1 ½ percent base pay scale for Fiscal Year 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Judge Ford seconded by Roger Dickey to accept the orders from the District Judges setting the annual salary for the Official Court Reporters for the 3rd and 349th Judicial Districts, County Auditor and the Assistant County Auditors. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to remove Esther Dorrell from the board of the Houston County Levee Improvement District #2 and replace her with Tim Sawyer. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to table the action on a contract to repair the upper and lower level entry on the west side of the Courthouse until the next meeting. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to update the Houston County Personnel Policy based on Affordable Health Care Act which redefines part-time status and medical insurance eligibility of County Employees. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to accept 2014 contribution rate to the Texas Association of Counties Unemployment Fund. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to advertise for bids for an elevator maintenance contract. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve letter of support for Crockett Independent School District to apply for The Brazos/Trinity Valley Consortium Race to the Top Grant. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Willie Kitchen to receive as information Fiscal Year 2013 Code of Criminal Chapter 59 forfeiture reports for the District Attorney, County Attorney, Sheriff's Office, Constable 1 and Constable 2. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Court went into closed executive session at 11:06 AM to discuss pending litigation as authorized by Texas Government Code Chapter 551.071

Court reconvened in open session at 11:10 AM

Motion made by Pat Perry seconded by Roger Dickey to appoint County Judge as liaison for pending litigation. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Judge Ford seconded by Kennon Kellum that this meeting be adjourn.

Erin Ford, County Judge

Roger Dickey, Comm. Pct #1

Willie Kitchen, Comm. Pct #2

Pat Perry, Comm. Pct #3

Kennon Kellum, Comm. Pct #4

Attest:

Bridget Lamb, County Clerk

