

The Commissioner Court of Houston County met in a regular called meeting on August 26, 2014 with the following members present to wit:

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

Also present

Bridget Lamb	County Clerk
Melissa Mosley	County Auditor
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Danette Millican	County Tax Assessor-Collector
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Dina Herrera	County Treasurer
Darrel Bobbitt	Sherriff

Media:

Will Johnson	Grapeland Messenger
Robert Neel	Houston County Courier

Visitors: Tom Streetman, Paul Stringer, John Roberson, Zak Bengel, Oscar Henson II, Shawn Phillip, G. R. Shearer and Judge Byron Ryder (Leon County Judge)

County Judge Erin Ford called the meeting to order

Commissioner Willie Kitchen opened the meeting with a prayer

Pledge Allegiance

Recognition of guests

Judge Ford open the public hearing on proposed 2014 ad valorem tax rate to support the Fiscal Year 2015 budget.

Judge Ford closed the public hearing after hearing no comments from the public

Willie Kitchen made a motion seconded by Kennon Kellum that the hearing be adjourn.

The Court reconvened at 10:10 am

Judge Ford called the meeting to order

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the minutes of the special called meeting held on August 8, 2014 and the last called meeting held on August 12, 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve payment of bills and expenses. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to accept as information the County Treasurer's Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to accept as information the Compensatory time report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Melissa Mosley, County Auditor shared a five year overview of road and bridge funds prepared for the Texas Association of Counties.

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Pat Perry to approve the Consulting Agreement with Sturgis Web Services for tax office website. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the collection of \$60.00 fee from licensed beer and wine retailer located in Houston County pursuant to TABC section 11.38 and 61.36. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to accept the highest bid \$4,200.00 from Tonzaino Bailey, 12.454 acres William Cruz Survey, AB 26 (Houston County vs The Mangum Bowl, Inc., cause #12-0234.) Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to accept bid of \$601.00 from Alphonso Hall, dba Kingdom Hallway Dev., 2.00 acres J. J. Thomas Survey AB 84 (Houston County vs Clinton B. Bass Estate, Cause #06-0253.) Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to accept the bids of \$400.00 and \$200.00, respectively from Anthony Henry lots 15, 16 and ½ lot 18, 1.5 acres F Johnson Survey, AB 46, A. A. Arledge Addition and lot 17, .155 acre F. Johnson Survey, AB 46, A. A. Arledge Addition. (Houston County vs James White and Choyce White et al, Cause #08-0058.) Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Willie Kitchen to appoint Elizabeth McCoy and Vaden Caldwell as members to the Houston County Historical Commission. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Judge Ford presented Houston County Historical Commission with Distinguished Service Award for the 2013 year of service.

County Court at Law Judge Sarah Clark recognized Terri Meadow County Court Coordinator for her accomplishment by graduating from the Texas Court Management Class.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to table the item concerning the bullet proof Vest Grant for the Houston County Sheriff's Office until a later date. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to accept a grant for the Victim Assistance Coordinator position within the County Attorney's office for the period of September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015 for \$41,861.00 with the Office of the Attorney General. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to accept the SAVNS/VINE grant contract with the office of the Attorney General for \$5,273.28. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the application for the "Texas Feeding Texans" home delivered meal program grant with the Texas Department of Agriculture. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to receive as information the Municipal Advisory Council of Texas Fiscal year 2013 Houston County Analysis Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Game Warden Zak Bengé discussed the danger of the Lock and Dam Bridge and request that the court take action to restrict public access because of public safety concerns. Also present was Leon County Judge Byron Ryder, the Lock and Dam is between Leon and Houston Counties. Judge Ryder addressed the court and said his county did not want to see accessibility denied.

Motion made by Judge Ford seconded by Willie Kitchen to table this item pending further research into the ownership of the Lock and Dam Bridge. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Judge Ford seconded by Willie Kitchen to reinstitute and appoint members to the Human Resource review committee who will review and make recommendation to the court concerning job descriptions, pay scales, benefits provided by Houston County including Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Retiree benefits, Longevity, etc., Supplemental policies available to employees and update and review the personnel manual. The committee should meet no less than quarterly and the primary focus initially will be to review the pay scale and job descriptions. The members proposed will be: Elected Officials- County Attorney Daphne Session, District Clerk Carolyn Rains, County Treasurer Dina Herrera and County Tax Assessor-Collector Danette Millican; Employees- Road and Bridge employee Frank Womack, Law Enforcement employee Justin Killough and Emergency Management employee Bonita Newman; Department Heads-County Auditor Melissa Mosley and Human Resource Coordinator Jan Pigford. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey 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