

The Commissioner Court of Houston County met in a regular called meeting on July 22, 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
Danette Millican	County Tax Assessor-Collector
Ronnie Jordan	Justice of the Peace Precinct #2
Pam Foster Fletcher	District Judge
Mark Calhoun	District Judge

Media

Will Johnson	Grapeland Messenger
Sherry Driskell	Houston County Courier

Visitors: Donnita Patrick, Dorothy Harrison, Rosalinda Ditommaso (TAC), Charlotte Collins (TAC), Patricia Lucas, Jan Pigford, Mary Lucas, Bryan Lake, Amber Bewley, G. P. Shearer and Brenda Walker

County Judge Erin Ford called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Willie Kitchen opened the meeting with a prayer

Pledge Allegiance

Recognition of guests

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Pat Perry to approve the minutes of the last regular called meeting held on July 8, 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Willie Kitchen to approve budget amendment #14-04. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Pat Perry to accept as information County Treasurers Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Judge Ford reported the National Forest Service will be having a public hearing about an environmental assessment for hazardous tree removal.

Jan Pigford reminded county employees about the open enrollment date August 14, 2014 concerning Insurance and savings policies.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the salary for John Lowery as a full time jailer at a pay rate of \$900.02 bi-weekly, he will be replacing Otis Merritt. And approval of Annie Ethridge as a part time jailer at a pay rate of \$9.04 per hour. She will be replacing Ryan Martin, Jr. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the reappointment of election judges for the remaining term which expires August 2015. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Pat Perry to accept \$2,000.00 donation from City of Kennard for Road and Bridge Precinct #4. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve a maximum of \$6,500.00 to Bailey Architects for design and construction Administration services for the roof replacement scope of the Houston County Courthouse Restoration Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program under the Texas Historical Commission, Round VIII Emergency Grant. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to decline the application from Houston County Museum for funds from the Hotel and Motel Occupancy Tax (HOT). Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Judge Ford seconded by Roger Dickey to allocate \$5,000.00 from the Hotel and Motel Occupancy Tax (HOT) to Piney Woods Fine Arts. Motion carried 3 to 2, Commissioner Pat Perry opposed, Commissioner Kennon Kellum abstain.

Motion made by Judge Erin Ford seconded by Willie Kitchen to allocate \$5,000.00 from the Hotel and Motel Occupancy Tax (HOT) to The Michelle Lynn Holsey Foundation. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to appoint County Tax Assessor Collector Danette Millican to calculate Houston County's Fiscal Year 2015 effective and rollback tax rates. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Judge Erin Ford seconded by Willie Kitchen to decline the retainer agreement with Allison, Bass and Magee, LLP pertaining to the administration of the County Transportation Infrastructure Fund Grant Program. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to accept as information Houston County Emergency Services District No. 1 Annual Financial Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Charlotte Collins and Rosalinda Ditommaso with Texas Association of Counties presented a lengthy presentation on county employees health insurance plans, the Affordable Care Act, cost control and the County Choice Silver retiree program.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to renew the employee health insurance plan with the Texas Association of Counties Health and Employees Benefits Pool. 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