

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular called meeting on September 26, 2017 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:

Melissa Mosley	County Auditor
Morris Luker	Constable, Precinct 1
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Donna Kasper	District Attorney
Laronica Smith	Chief Deputy Tax Assessor
Janice Turner	Chief Deputy County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	Grapeland Messenger
Edward Grisham	KIVY

Visitors: Jan Pigford, Mary Lucas, JoAnn Gibson; Corey Hicks; Jo Smith; Mandy Patrick; David Lawrenz; Jody Griffith; Jack Walker; Hunter Coker; Riley Beaver; Shelby Coker; Landry Beaver; Emma Gibson; Hannah Hickson; Luke Gibson and Carrie Beaver

The meeting was called to order by County Judge Jim Lovell.

Judge Lovell opened the meeting with a prayer.

Judge Lovell led the Pledges of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Kennon Kellum to approve the minutes of the prior Commissioners Court Meeting. Motion was seconded by Willie Kitchen. Motion carried 5 to 0.

There were no line-item budget amendments.

Motion was made by Willie Kitchen to approve the payment of bills and expenses. The motion was seconded by Gary Lovell. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to accept as information the County Treasurer's Report and the Compensatory Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Judge Lovell welcomed the 4-H Club members. He made a motion to proclaim October 1–7, 2017 National 4-H Week and Kennon Kellum seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A request to move Donovan Mahan from a part-time jailer to a full-time position at a pay rate of \$998.83 bi-weekly was discussed. He will be replacing Callie Kellum effective September 29, 2017. Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve this change and Gary Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the Affidavit for Pay Reduction of Elected Officials from Judge Lovell to his Administrative Assistant; Judge Clark to the County Court-at-Law Coordinator; Judge Calhoun and Judge Fletcher to the District Court Coordinator along with the necessary budget amendments. Kennon Kellum made the second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Melissa Mosley explained the Human Resource Committee's recommendation on new positions for Certified Jailer; Certified Jailer Sergeant and Certified Jailer Lieutenant and stated that the pay scale will move up one for each position. Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve these changes and the motion was seconded by Gary Lovell. Motion carried 5 to 0.

There was a discussion on necessary procedures and policies concerning payment of salaries and payables for County Employees. A suggestion was made for payroll checks to be distributed by the County Treasurer's office as biweekly on Friday at 3:00 pm. The policy of Direct Deposits of payroll checks being posted to employee accounts by 9:00 am Friday will remain the same. Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve this policy and Gary Lovell made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen to set the dates of regular Commissioners Court Meetings during the new fiscal year for the second and fourth Thursdays at 10:00 am. Gary Lovell seconded that motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to set the date for awarding longevity payment to December 8, 2017 and the second was made by Gary Lovell. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Melissa Mosley presented a *Resolution to Adopt County Investment Policy & Fund Strategies* for 2017. The suggestion was made to approve the appointment of the Houston County Investment Committee to include County Judge Jim Lovell as Committee Member and County Treasurer Dina Herrera and County Auditor Melissa Mosley as Certified Investment Officers. Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve adoptions of this policy and approve the appointment of the members of the investment committee. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell to approve payment of 28% of the travel reimbursement for out-of-state training requested by Misty McAdams, Court Reporter for the 349th Judicial District Court. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to deny approval of the revised and amended lease cancellation agreement with Texas Facilities Commission for the Health and Human Services Commission location on San Antonio Street. The motion was seconded by Gary Lovell. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion to accept a sealed bid for tax lien property of 8.5 acres, a part of the Juan Armendaris Survey, A-132, was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Gary Lovell. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to adopt an order setting the Houston County Sheriff and Constable Fees for the new fiscal year. The only change to the fee schedule was to increase the rate for service of writs over two hours to \$35.00 per hour, per deputy. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion, seconded by Gary Lovell, to approve the application for premises use by St. Francis of the Tejas for "Life Chain" event to be held on Sunday, October 1, 2017. Motion carried 5 to 0.

An application for premises use for a "Domestic Violence Awareness" event to be held on October 5, 2017 was approved by a motion from Willie Kitchen which was seconded by Kennon Kellum. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve a Proclamation designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Houston County. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to apply for a grant from the Indigent Defense Grant Program. Kennon Kellum seconded the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

Jack Walker of Martin Walker, Attorneys at Law made a presentation regarding opioid litigation.

The Agri-Life Extension Agents made a presentation on *Farm to Table* covering topics including world hunger and loss of farmland to urban sprawl.

Gary Lovell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Willie Kitchen, and the motion carried 5 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned.

Jim L. 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