



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2019**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on September 24, 2019 with the following members present, to wit:

Jim Lovell	County Judge
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also present:

Tasha Brent	Extension Agent/4-H
Corey Hicks	Prairie View Extension
Brittani Womack	First Assistant County Auditor
Danette Millican	Tax Assessor Collector
Sharon Luker	Assistant to the County Commissioners
Jan Pigford	Administrative Assistant to the County Judge
Cynthia Lum	Election's Administrator
Justin Killough	Chief Deputy at S/O
Loyce Netardus	Chief Deputy Treasurer
Terri Meadows	Houston County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	The Grapeland Messenger

Visitors: Jed Morris (G-L-S), Mike Deckard, L. Wayne Stewart (Pastor, Porter Springs Baptist Church), Carrie Beaver, Jo Smith, Laney Smith, Coy Smith, Landry Beaver, Riley Beaver, Emily Henderson, Madeliene Mathis, Jilli Salmon, and Greg Beaver (4-H), Thomas Mardik (Kevin Brady's Office)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order, gave the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.

(2) Recognition and comments from guests:

Judge Lovell recognized the guests and asked if there were any comments. There were none.

(3) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the Commissioners Court minutes from August 27, 2019 and September 10, 2019. Commissioner Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(4) Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the Budget Amendments. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(5) Consider payment of bills and expenses:

a. Accounts payable

b. Fund transfers

c. Ratify Salary expenses

Commissioner Lovell made a motion to pay the all of the bills and expenses for a. (Accounts payable), b. (Fund transfers), and c. (Ratify Salary expenses). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kitchen. The motion carried 4 to 0.

(6) Receive information, announcements and reports from County Departments:

a. Houston County Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Kitchen moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

b. Compensatory Report – not available

(7) Consider approving salaries for new and/or transfer employees:

Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the promotion of Delman Orme from Jail Sgt. to full-time Patrol Deputy at Pay Grade #19, bi-weekly salary of \$1300.29, and phone stipend of \$18.46 bi-weekly effective as of October 1, 2019. Commissioner Kitchen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the promotion of Jacob Waller from Dispatcher to full-time Certified Jailer at Pay Grade 16 and bi-weekly salary of \$1,123.24 effective October 1, 2019. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Commissioner Kitchen moved to approve the hiring of Kasey Ballard as full-time Dispatcher at Pay Grade 15 and bi-weekly salary of \$1,018.81. Commissioner Lovell seconded. This is a new position for FY 2019-2020. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to approve the hiring of Debbie Williamson as part-time Deputy Clerk 1 at an hourly rate of \$12.74, and pay grade 15 from September 17, 2019 – October 15, 2019, and beginning October 16, 2019 she is approved for full-time employment as Deputy Clerk 1 in the County Clerk's Office at Pay Grade 15, and bi-weekly salary of \$1,018.81. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(8) Discuss and consider approving payment of compensatory, vacation and holiday time for County employees and necessary budget amendments. There were none.

(9) L. Wayne Stewart, Pastor of Porter Springs Baptist Church, presented information on the National Night Out to be held on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at the church. He asked the

Commissioners Court to support the event by adopting a Proclamation. Commissioner Kitchen made a motion to adopt the Proclamation in support of Porter Springs Baptist Church hosting National Night Out on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 including all emergency personnel, law enforcement and fire and rescue. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(10)The Commissioners Court was treated to a great presentation by the local 4-H concerning National 4-H Week. Jo Smith with 4-H introduced the group. Leader of Homestead 4-H, Carrie Beaver, told a little bit about 4-H and then said she was handing it over to the youth to tell us more. The youth did a great job each taking turns telling us something about 4-H and what each "H" stands for. At the conclusion of the presentation Commissioner Kitchen made a motion and Commissioner Lovell seconded to Adopt the Proclamation Declaring National 4-H Week October 6-12, 2019. Motion carried 4 to 0.

(11)Judge Lovell announced that he has been in conversations with our Emergency Management Coordinator, Roger Dickey, concerning the drought and fire danger situation and did not believe we need to initiate a burn ban for unincorporated areas of Houston County at the current time.

**At this time Commissioner Kitchen had to leave the Commissioners Court meeting.

(12)Half of the Commissioners Court will be attending the annual conference on October 8, 2019, and will not be available for the regularly scheduled Commissioners Court. Commissioner Lovell made a motion to move the regularly scheduled Commissioners Court up one day to October 7, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Henderson seconded the Motion. Motion carried 3 to 0.

(13)Commissioner Lovell moved to approve December 6, 2019 at Noon for awarding longevity for Fiscal Year 2020. This will be held in conjunction with a pot luck lunch at the Senior Center. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3 to 0.

(14)Commissioner Henderson moved to set the salaries for all officers and employees of Houston County for Fiscal Year 2020. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.

(15)Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve the salary reduction affidavits and make necessary budget amendments for

- a. County Judge to Administrative Assistant
- b. District Judges to District Court Coordinator.

Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3 to 0.

(16)Commissioner Henderson made a motion to receive as information the Order setting annual salary for Fiscal Year 2020 for:

- a. Official Court Reporter of the County Court at law
- b. Official Court Reporter of 3rd Judicial District Court
- c. Official Court Reporter of 349th Judicial District Court
- d. County Auditor & Assistants

Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.

- (17) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to approve Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund Application and Interlocal Agreement for the Grapeland Peanut Festival in the amount of \$3000. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.
- (18) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to dispose of the surplus and salvage property as authorized under LGC 263.152(a)(3) & LGC 263.152(a)(4). Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.
- (19) Consider adopting orders setting Sheriff and Constable fees effective October 1, 2019. Constable Morris Luker suggested adding a Civil Standby Fee to the current fees. Commissioner Lovell made a motion to add a \$30.00 fee per hour after the first hour that someone is on location for a Civil Standby. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. After some discussion among the commissioners, County Judge, Chief Deputy Justin Killough, and Constable Luker (by telephone) Commissioner Lovell moved to withdraw his motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion to withdraw the first motion carried 3 to 0.
- (20) Discuss and consider receiving resignations of three board members of Emergency Services District #2 and appointing three board members to the Emergency Services District #2. Judge Lovell recommended that this item should be passed at this time because we do not have the resignations in hand.
- (21) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to adopt the Resolution approving application for the 2020 Indigent Defense Formulary Grant Program. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.
- (22) Commissioner Lovell moved to approve renewal of Aviation Support and Maintenance Service Contract with DBT Transportation Services for support of the Houston County Airport AWOS (Automated Weather Observation System) for FY 2020. Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3 to 0.
- (23) Jed Morris addressed item 23 that covers approving plans and authorizing advertisement for bids for the 2018 TDA Road Improvements Project – TXCDBG #7218219, CR 1860 and CR 4050. This project with help with drainage problems in the area. Commissioner Lovell moved to advertise for bids and Commissioner Henderson seconded. Commissioner Lovell amended his motion to approve plans and authorize advertisement for bids. Commissioner Henderson seconded. The Motion as amended carried 3 to 0.
- (24) Commissioner Lovell made a motion to sign the Joint election agreement with Lovelady ISD for the November 5, 2019 Election. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.
- (25) Cynthia Lum, Elections Administrator, presented recommendations for Election Judge Appointments for the November 5, 2019 election. This will be a constitutional amendment election. Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the recommendations as presented. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.
- (26) Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve the appointment of Janice Turner as the Early Voting Ballot Board Judge. Commissioner Lovell seconded. Motion carried 3 to 0.

(27) Commissioner Henderson made a motion and Commissioner Lovell seconded to receive as information the list of deputy early voting clerks for the November 5, 2019 election. Motion carried 3 to 0.

(28) Commissioner Lovell made a motion and Commissioner Henderson seconded approving a maximum allowance of \$100 per election for food purchases for election workers on Sundays during early voting and/or election night at the Central Counting Station. Motion carried 3 to 0.

(29) Judge Lovell moved to adjourn the Meeting. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried with everyone standing. The meeting was adjourned.

Jim Lovell, County Judge

Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

Pat Perry, Commissioner, Precinct #3

Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

Attest:

Terri Meadows, County Clerk