

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in a regular, called meeting on November 13, 2018 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:

Cynthia Lum	Houston County Elections Administrator
G. P. Shearer	Houston County Sheriff's Office
Janice Turner	Chief Deputy County Clerk

Media:

Alton Porter	Houston County Courier
Will Johnson	Grapeland Messenger

Visitors: Waymon Vest; Mark Whitfill; P.A. Carmicheal; Lonnie Ellis; Lesa Dykes; Dale Dykes; Jan Pigford and Sharon Luker

Judge Lovell called the meeting to order and Kennon Kellum gave the opening prayer. Judge Lovell led the pledges of allegiance.

Judge Lovell recognized the guests. Lonnie Ellis had a complaint concerning cows in an unfenced cemetery.

Gary Shearer informed the Court that the jail was recently inspected and passed the inspection.

Waymon Vest voiced a concern with County Road 2130 in Precinct 2. He and Willie Kitchen made an appointment to meet and discuss the problem.

Mark Whitfill made a report on 3 grants totaling 1.1 million dollars that will allow for improvements to the airport. Those include a new weather station, lighting system improvements and repair of cracked ceilings and markings.

Kennon Kellum made a motion to approve the prior Commissioners Court minutes. Willie Kitchen seconded the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0.

There were no budget amendments.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to pay the bills and expenses. The motion was seconded by Gary Lovell. The motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Kennon Kellum to accept as information the Houston County Environmental Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

There was no Community Service report.

Willie Kitchen made a motion, which was seconded by Gary Lovell, to approve the hiring of Trent Bridges as a part-time road hand for Precinct 3 at a bi-weekly salary of \$11.55 per hour. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Kennon Kellum, seconded by Gary Lovell, to approve the hiring of Jennifer Kulms as a full-time Second Assistant County Auditor at a bi-weekly salary of \$1,179.20 to replace Shelby Best. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to approve the hiring of Jacky Lewis, Jr. as a dispatcher at a pay rate of \$1018.81 bi-weekly to replace Tiffani English. Kennon Kellum made a second to the motion. The motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Kennon Kellum to approve the proposed 2019 Holiday Schedule as recommended by the Human Resources Committee. The motion was seconded by Pat Perry. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion, seconded by Gary Lovell, to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Employee Pay Scale for County positions and to approve salary updates for recent new hires. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve payment for vacation and holiday time for Paul Hill, former Assistant County Attorney, along with the necessary budget amendments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion which was seconded by Kennon Kellum to receive as information the Fiscal Year 2018 Chapter 59 Seizure and Forfeiture Reports for District and County Attorneys; Sheriff's Department and Constables for Precinct 1 and 2. These reports were audited by Melissa Jeter. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen with a second by Kennon Kellum to receive as information the 2019–2020 Reappraisal Plan from the Houston County Appraisal District. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion, seconded by Kennon Kellum, to receive as information the 2018 Indigent Defense Expense Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Kennon Kellum made a motion to declare as surplus a 2005 140H Motorgrader and authorize the trade in and purchase of a new 140K Caterpillar Motorgrader in the amount of \$252,069.40 less the trade-in allowance of \$78,000 for a net amount not to exceed \$175,000 through BuyBoard along with the necessary budget amendments. Pat Perry made a second to the motion. The motion was made and seconded contingent on receiving of additional paperwork. Motion carried 5 to 0.

After Melissa presented the bids received from Windstream, AT&T and Northland for the increased bandwidth for the County network, Willie Kitchen made a motion, seconded by Kennon Kellum, to award the contract to Northland Cable. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Willie Kitchen and seconded by Kennon Kellum to award a contract to Northland for internet service at the Precinct 2 County barn office. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Gary Lovell made a motion to approve the contract with Texas Department of Transportation to contribute right-of-way funds (fixed price) for improvements on Highway 227 at San Pedro Creek. Kennon Kellum made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Gary Lovell to transfer \$1000 from General Fund to Precinct 1 towards the cost of painting "In God We Trust" on the County Barn. Willie Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

The Commissioners canvassed the votes from the November 6<sup>th</sup> General Election. Kennon Kellum made a motion that the canvass be accepted and Pat Perry seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve contract with Lucas Roofing for roof repairs on the Tax Office portion of the Houston County Courthouse Annex contingent on the 5-year warranty including fixing leaks. Gary Lovell seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Pat Perry made a motion to approve a lease-purchase agreement through Citizens Bank for a John Deere tractor and boom mower for Precinct 3 in an amount not to exceed \$110,000.00. Willie Kitchen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Kennon Kellum made a motion to approve the contract for maintenance of the generators located at the Houston County Justice Center with the stipulation that they do quarterly inspections. Gary Lovell made a second to the motion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Willie Kitchen made a motion to approve the contract between MEALS FOR VET, a project of HONOR VETERANS NOW and Houston County to provide home-delivered meals to designated veterans as specified in the client's contract. A second to the motion was made by Gary Lovell. Motion carried 5 to 0.

William Dale Dykes made a presentation to the Court concerning the bridge located on County Road 1745 in Precinct 1 and the ongoing damage to the creek.

A motion to adjourn was made by Judge Lovell and seconded by Willie Kitchen. The motion carried 5 to 0 and the meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim 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