



**HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
MINUTES  
EMERGENCY MEETING  
APRIL 2, 2026**

The Commissioners' Court of Houston County met in an emergency, called meeting on April 2, 2026 in **person and via zoom**, with the following members present, to wit:

The Court

Jim Lovell	County Judge	<b>PRESENT</b>
Gary Lovell	Commissioner, Precinct #1	<b>PRESENT</b>
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner, Precinct #2	<b>PRESENT</b>
Gene Stokes	Commissioner, Precinct #3	<b>PRESENT</b>
Jimmy Henderson	Commissioner, Precinct #4	<b>PRESENT</b>
Terri Meadows	County Clerk	<b>PRESENT</b>

County Officials/Employees in person:

Sarah Bergman	First Assistant Auditor	Zoom
Hugh Coleman	Assistant County Attorney	Zoom
Laura Goolsby	District Clerk	Zoom
Melissa Jeter	County Auditor	Present
Carl Johnson	Facilities Administrator	Present
Sheila Johnson	Grants Administrator	Present
Todd McConnell	IT	Present
Daphne Session	District Attorney	Zoom
Darrellyn Smith	Assistant to the County Commissioners	Present

Media: Greg Ritchie – Messenger (Zoom)

Visitors: Dallas Taylor (TK Elevator)

(1) Welcome, Invocation and Pledges:

**On Thursday, April 2, 2026, Judge Lovell called the emergency scheduled Houston County Commissioners Court meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., Commissioner Stokes voiced the opening prayer followed by Judge Lovell leading the Pledge to the American Flag and the Texas Flag.**

(2) Hear discussion of the failure of the elevator in the Houston County Courthouse which has created an urgent public necessity and emergency situation. ***Carl Johnson, Facilities Administrator, shared that the elevator technician had been out to repair the elevator earlier in the week, and the repairs failed. This elevator is very old. It was installed in the 1970s. Parts are hard to find, and sometimes take a while to come in. The elevator being down is a***

*serious issue for the public offices and the Courts in the Courthouse. He said that we need to look at a complete overhaul of the elevator.*

- (3) Discuss and consider action on an order to authorize an exemption to competitive bidding due to Local Government Code 271.056(3) a case of unforeseen damage to public machinery, equipment or other property. **Commissioner Stokes moved to adopt an Order to authorize an exemption to competitive bidding due to Local Government Code 271.056(3) a case of unforeseen damage to public machinery, equipment or other property. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Hugh Coleman, Assistant County Attorney, jumped in and asked that some additional language be added to the motion. Commissioner Stokes amended his motion to include the Court is acting in its discretion to declare this an emergency to preserve the protection, health, and safety of the public. Commissioner Henderson seconded the amended motion. Motion with amendment passed 5 to 0.**
- (4) Discuss and consider action on the capital plan proposal from TK Elevator, the current elevator maintenance contractor, to replace the elevator’s critical components including the controller, power unit, door operator, fixtures within the car and wiring, in an amount not to exceed \$175,000, and necessary budget amendments under the 2025 Construction Fund. ***Dallas Taylor from TK Elevator was on zoom to go over the issues with the elevator. He said that he will get a formal proposal to the court within 2 weeks. He named the equipment that needs to be changed (controller, power unit, door operator, fixtures within the car, and wiring). There was discussion about the 50% down payment required. Hugh Coleman, Assistant County Attorney, said he did not see any legal problem with this down payment. The Court also discussed the possibility of the elevator crew working more hours to get done quicker, to have less down time of the elevator. There was also discussion about the code compliance that may need to be addressed by either TK Elevator or a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. The Court agreed that TK Elevator could handle this and make this a turnkey project.*** Commissioner Stokes moved to approve capital plan proposal from TK Elevator, the current elevator maintenance contractor, to replace the elevator’s critical components including the controller, power unit, door operator, fixtures within the car and wiring, in an amount not to exceed \$175,000, and necessary budget amendments under the 2025 Construction Fund. Commissioner Henderson seconded. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- (5) Adjourn. **Judge Lovell made a motion for the Commissioners Court Meeting to Adjourn. The motion carried by everyone rising and leaving the meeting at 1:18 p.m.**

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Jim Lovell, County Judge

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Gary Lovell, Commissioner, Precinct #1

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Willie Kitchen, Commissioner, Precinct #2

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Gene Stokes, Commissioner, Precinct #3  
Attest:

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Jimmy Henderson, Commissioner, Precinct #4

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Terri Meadows, County Clerk

Date Approved: April 14, 2026