

Results of the Commissioners Court Meeting of 8-11-20
All agenda items approved as presented with the following exceptions:
Harris County Commissioners Court
Exceptions to August 11, 2020 Agenda

| Page | Item | Department | Exception |
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| 2 | 1.g.1 | County Engineer | Hold |
| 4 | 1.i | County Engineer | Change to "CryoGene" |
| 6 | 3.a | Toll Road Authority | No Action |
| 7 | 3.b | Toll Road Authority | No Action |
| 7 | 3.c | Toll Road Authority | <p>The Harris County Commissioners Court hereby approves and authorizes the termination of the Engineering Services Agreements with Figg Bridge Engineers, Inc. to perform final design in support of improvements to the East Sam Houston Tollway between Interstate 10 (East) and SH 225, in connection with the Ship Channel Bridge Program, effective August 31, 2020.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>The Harris County Commissioners Court hereby accepts the COWI Report, dated February 2020 and entitled "Houston Ship Channel Bridge, Independent Check Final Report", as redacted by the Harris County Attorney's Office.</p> <p>The Clerk of Commissioners Court is requested to make the redacted COWI Report part of the official Court record.</p> |
| 7 | 4.c.1 | Budget Management | No Action |
| 10 | 12 | Institute of Forensic Sciences | No Action-Request for approval of five positions |
| 11 | 14.a | County Attorney | <p>Motion by Commissioner Cagle, seconded by Commissioner Ellis, Unanimous Vote 5/0.</p> <p>Order authorizing legal action and expenses of litigation with the exception of those incurred in connection with Cause No. 20-50407 styled the Texas Democratic Party et al v. Greg Abbott, Ruth Hughes and Ken Paxton in the amount of \$500.00 for copies and delivery of amicus brief.</p> |

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| | | | <p>*****</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner A. Garcia, Judge Hidalgo, Commissioner Ellis, and Commissioner A. Garcia voted Yes. Commissioner Radack and Commissioner Cagle voted No. 3/2 Vote.</p> <p>Order authorizing legal action and expenses of litigation incurred in connection with Cause No. 20-50407 styled the Texas Democratic Party et al v. Greg Abbott, Ruth Hughes and Ken Paxton in the amount of \$500.00 for copies and delivery of amicus brief.</p> |
| 12 | 17.b.27 | Travel & Training-In Texas | Expand to all precincts |
| 14 | 19.b.2 | Tax Assessor-Collector | The Tax Assessor-Collector's Office shall notify the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, by selecting OPTION A on the Imposition of Optional Fees Calendar Year 2021 form, that Harris County will keep the same local optional fees, as set forth in Chapter 502 of the Transportation Code, for calendar year 2021. |
| 17 | 19.c.7.a-b | Purchasing | No Action |
| 20 | 20.a.2 | County Judge | No Action |
| 20 | 20.b.1 | Commissioner, Precinct 1 | No Action |
| 20 | 20.b.2 | Commissioner, Precinct 1 | No Action |
| 22 | 21.e | COVID-19 | The Harris County Commissioners Court hereby authorizes an amendment to the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program managed by BakerRipley to clarify that the \$1,200 rental assistance program award to eligible households may cover more than one month of rental payments. |
| 22 | II.2 | Supplemental | The Harris County Commissioners Court hereby authorizes the Harris County Attorney's Office to challenge the US Census Bureau's revised plan to advance critical deadlines for conducting the 2020 Census, and to retain outside counsel at no cost to the County as necessary for this purpose. |

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| 22 | II.3 | Supplemental | <p>The report and plan transmitted to Commissioners Court from the County Attorney, County Auditor, and County Budget Department, pursuant to the order of the court entered on July 14, 2020, is hereby approved.</p> <p>All county departments are directed to take whatever steps are necessary to plan for the transfer of all the election functions to the Office of Elections Administrator as set out in the report and pursuant to Chapter 31 Texas Election Code.</p> <p>An ad hoc committee is created and made up of representatives of the County Budget Department, the County Auditor, the County Attorney, Universal Services Department, the County Clerk, and the County Tax-Assessor Collector to help plan and execute the transition of all election functions to the Office of the Elections Administrator, effective November 18, 2020.</p> <p>In coordination with the ad hoc committee, a citizens elections advisory committee is established to make recommendations to the Office of Elections Administrator, and support the office to improve elections processes and help ensure that the work of the Department of Elections is transparent and meaningful to county residents once the office becomes operational.</p> <p>A consultant shall be retained to work with the person designated by the Harris County Elections Commission to be the Elections Administrator to aid the organization, and provide advice regarding staffing of the Office of Elections Administrator.</p> <p>Once the Elections Administrator designee has made a determination as to the management structure, personnel equipment, and office space to be utilized by the Office of Elections Administrator, with the help of such consultant and the transition team, the plan shall be brought back to Commissioners Court for approval.</p> |
| 22 | II.8 | Supplemental | <p>The Harris County Community Flood Resilience Task Force Bylaws, revised as of August 11, 2020, are hereby approved along with the Harris County Flood Control</p> |

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| | | | Task Force being hereby reconstituted as the Harris County Community Flood Resilience Task Force. |
| 22 | II.11 | Supplemental | The Harris County Commissioners Court hereby removes the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program from the Harris County Community Services Department and assigns it to the Harris County Budget Management Department, and authorizes the Executive Director of the Department of Budget Management and County Budget Officer to appoint a new DBE Liaison to correct the deficiencies identified in the Harris County Auditor's Report, and implement any other improvements to expand the DBE Program to its full potential as described in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Department of Transportation, all subject to the Harris County Attorney's Office notifying relevant agencies of changes and preparing necessary amendments to existing agreements with those agencies. |
| 22 | II.12 | Supplemental | <p>Motion by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner A. Garcia, Unanimous Vote 5/0.</p> <p>The Harris County Commissioners Court hereby authorizes the establishment of a COVID-19 Emergency Direct Assistance Program in the amount of \$25 million dollars.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Motion by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner A. Garcia, Judge Hidalgo, Commissioner Ellis, and Commissioner A. Garcia voted Yes. Commissioner Radack and Commissioner Cagle voted No. 3/2 Vote.</p> <p>The Harris County Commissioners Court hereby orders that the COVID-19 Emergency Direct Assistance Program is amended to provide that no eligible resident of Harris County shall be excluded from the program based on residence in any city within Harris County, including the City of Houston.</p> |