



ANDREA CARDENAS
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

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COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

May 28, 2024 Austin County Commissioners Court met in the 2nd floor Courtroom at the Austin County Courthouse with the following present:

Tim Lapham, County Judge
Mark Lamp, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Robert "Bobby" Rinn, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Chip Reed, Commissioner Reed, Precinct 4
Kimberly Benjamin, Deputy Clerk

Commissioner Cerny absent.

9:00 A.M. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

Motion to Adopt: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)
Order #24-139

1. Administration of Oath - Todd Morris, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2

Judge Lapham administered oath.

2. Introduction of New Veteran's Officer.

Judge Lapham introduced Ernest Cox as the new Veteran's Officer.

3. Petitions or Requests from the Public.

Per Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator) appreciates Sheriff's Department, EMS and Commissioners for assistance during recent natural disaster and power outage.

Judge Lapham and Sheriff Brandes agree County and Sheriff Department came together with the sole purpose those affected by recent storm.

Per Commissioner Lamp, more damage was done to barricades on Mill Creek Road. Mill Creek Bridge has an overload condition and barricades are to caution drivers. Strongly encourage community to report anyone causing damage to signage.

4. Construction update on EMS buildings and other building projects.

Per Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction), Wallis EMS building met standard of completion and Letter of Completion has been sent for signature. Will follow up with General Contractor of CBG (Christensen Building Group) to ensure punch list items are met and address any warranty items for all projects. Received list of all drawing changes from Kenneth Burns (Burns Architecture). Per Project Manager and Superintendent, Industry EMS building is on schedule to be completed on June 26, 2024. Bellville EMS building on schedule for completion date December 11, 2024.

Commissioner's Court request for Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) to check on concrete flatwork to ensure sidewalk from front to back of building is paved; to check thickness of generator pad to confirm the information received for Bellville EMS is correct; and to follow up on repair of roof/ceiling.

Per Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction), installed all white boards at Wendt St. building. Will hold off on floor work until roofing bids are complete. Did paint touch ups and base rework.

5. Semiannual collection report presentation by Leslie Schkade – Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott.

Leslie Schkade (Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott) discussed semiannual Austin County Collection Report. Austin County Appraisal District will be having their next tax sale July 2024. Anyone interested can visit website www.pbfc.com.

6. Discussion regarding debris removal and action as appropriate.

Per Commissioner Lamp, has concern there is not a place to throw debris during clean-up. Would like to know if there will be a State reimbursement.

Per Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator), Debris Management Contract requires designated sites for debris. Judge Lapham filed a Disaster Declaration with State for assistance. Currently waiting on approval.

Per Roy Mercer, attended meeting at San Bernard Electric with Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) and believes County will qualify for requested threshold of \$137,000. Many home owners reported damages through VEOCI which help determine most affected areas. If Disaster Declaration is approved, home owners may receive assistance with payment of insurance deductibles. There are two links on County Emergency Management website (www.ac-oem.com) to report damage: TDEM iSTAT <https://damage.tdem.texas.gov/> and Austin County Damage Assessment Report (VEOCI) www.veoci.com.

Per Shawn Jackson (City Administrator-City of Bellville), it would be beneficial to receive assistance with clean-up process. City lacks manpower for massive amount of destruction throughout County.

Per Judge Lapham, the Disaster Declaration Program has several programs. The County is required to qualify for two of them. Individual Assistance (for the homes that were damaged) and Public Assistance (which covers the infrastructural damage).

Per Commissioner Lamp, strongly recommend hiring a debris management company. Suggest bringing in temporary workers until County gets funding to hire a removal company.

Per Commissioner Reed, can provide assistance to Commissioners Rinn and Lamp for clean-up in their areas.

Commissioner Lamp, Commissioner Rinn and Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator) will meet with Shawn Jackson (City Administrator-City of Bellville) to discuss both City and County needs to help each other with clean-up process.

Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator) requests to revisit this matter at next Commissioner's Court.

7. Discussion to award bid for Storm Water Mitigation, Phase One, Sector One CDBG-MIT Project #2: 22- 085-007-D235 and action as appropriate.

Judge Lapham read recommendation letter presented by Wilson Engineering Company. Wilson Engineering Company reviewed bid package submitted by Solid Bridge Construction, LLC. Bid amount is \$5,648,148.80. Recommends to move forward with approval on bid from Solid Bridge Construction, LLC.

Award CDBG-MIT Project #2: 22-085-007-D235 to Solid Bridge Construction, LLC for \$5,648,148.80.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)
Order #24-140

8. Discussion and action regarding metal building projects.

Judge Lapham, Commissioner Lamp, Sheriff Brandes and Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator) met to discuss ideas on metal buildings and usage.

Per Judge Lapham, buildings will be used to store Command Truck, Armor Truck (currently in manufacturing process) and two larger trucks from Commissioner Lamp's Precinct. Will construct one building to store Command Truck and two trucks from Commissioner Lamp's Precinct.

Once plans for other building is complete, Command Truck will be moved to new building and building will become the maintenance building for Precinct 1.

Per Commissioner Lamp, need a generator to support fuel pumps.

Per Judge Lapham, will meet with Commissioner Reed and Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) to prepare bid package. Will make a motion to go out for bids at next Commissioner's Court.

9. Consideration and action to approve engineering contract between Austin County and Doucet & Associates, Inc. for TxCDBG-Grubbs Rd.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (3-0)
Order #24-141

10. Discussion and action to accept Commercial Development Site Plans for Nefarious Kustoms, Pct. 4

Motion to Accept: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (3-0)
Order #24-142

11. Discussion and action to accept Commercial Development Site Plans for Sealy BESS, Pct. 1

Per Jonathan Hopko, meet minimum criteria.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)
Order #24-143

- 12. CONSENT AGENDA - Items listed are of routine nature and may be acted on in a single motion unless requested otherwise by member of Commissioners Court.**
- a. Consideration and action to authorize agreement between Synergy Inmate Phone Solutions, Inc. and Austin County.**
 - b. Consideration and action to approve minutes:**
 - i. 04.22.2024**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)
Order #24-144

- 13. Budgetary and Financial Claims – action as appropriate.**
- a. Payment of Claims**

Total = \$802,913.92

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)
Order #24-145

b. Fund Transfers

Total = \$487,559.71

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)

Order #24-146

c. Budget Amendments

d. County Auditor's Review of finances

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) presented a Project Budget Report produced by new program. Will use report for future projects and grant purposes. Report shows breakdown of project's expenses.

e. County Treasurer

14. Written end-of-the month reports submitted by County Offices.

- i. Criminal Court - April 2024**
- ii. Civil Court - April 2024**
- iii. Family Court - April 2024**
- iv. Statutory Court - April 2024**
- v. JP, Pct. 2 - February, March, April 2024**
- vi. OSSF - April 2024**
- vii. Agrilife -April 2024**

Motion to Accept: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (3-0)

Order #24-147

Court recessed at 10:10 a.m.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with Texas Local Government Code §551.071, §551.125 and §551.129, a closed meeting will be held concerning the following items:

- a. Real Estate Matter**
- b. Economic Development**

Court reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

16. Action as appropriate on Executive Session

15a. – Purchase the property in Bellville.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (3-0)

Order #24-148

15b. – No Action.

17. Commissioners Court Inquiry.

*Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0).
Order #24-149*

Court adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

**ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ON FILE WITH COUNTY CLERK AS PROVIDED BY
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

I, Andrea Cardenas, Austin County Clerk, attest to the minutes of the Commissioners Court proceedings for May 28, 2024.

Date: June 25, 2024
Andrea Cardenas, Austin County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioners Court
Austin County, Texas
By: Kimberly Benjamin
Kimberly Benjamin, Deputy Clerk



FILED

2024 JUN 25 PM 3: 58

Andrea Cardenas
COUNTY CLERK
AUSTIN COUNTY, CLERK