



DIANE DAY
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

265 N. CHESLEY ST., STE. 7
BELLVILLE, TEXAS 77418

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COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

Order #25-173

August 11, 2025 Austin County Commissioners Court met in the 2nd floor Courtroom at the Austin County Courthouse with the following present:

Tim Lapham, County Judge
Greg Mikel, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Robert "Bobby" Rinn, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Leroy Cerny, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Chip Reed, Commissioner, Precinct 4
Diane Day, County Clerk
Allison Gerik, Deputy Clerk

9:00 A.M. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

Remove Consent Agenda item f. approval of Commissioner Court minutes from agenda.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

1. Budget Discussion

Updated copy of budget was presented to the court. Total budget of \$26,854,346.00 was presented.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) presented a correction to the tax rate making it .03723 and a correction to the general rate making it .312935.

2. Public Hearing on FY 2025-2026 Budget

Bryan McAuley, representing Friends of San Felipe and the Austin County Historical Commission, stated our world is changing and at a county level he knows the money provided by them is insignificant. Court thanked Bryan for all he does. Judge Lapham believes a specific line item has been placed in the budget for funds provided by them.

Judge Lapham stated this will be the proposed budget.

3. Petitions or Requests from the Public.

Commissioner Mikel announced Mill Creek Bridge is open to traffic. Bridge has no weight limit. The public is asked to be patient while the old bridge is taken down. The road will be addressed after old bridge is taken down.

4. Discussion regarding resolution supporting a TxDOT feasibility study for Highway 36, Sealy, truck route.

Resolution presented to the court. This will be the first step so TxDOT can start looking into it.

5. Consideration and action to approve Austin County Employee supplemental insurance proposals

Tara Wise (HR Administrative Assistant) presented NTC Insurance proposal to the court.

Commissioner Reed expressed concern for coverage with the price change.

Judge Lapham asked Tara Wise (HR Administrative Assistant) when a decision needs to be made.

Tara Wise (HR Administrative Assistant) advised we need to decide before open enrollment in November.

Commissioner Reed suggested presenting the proposal to county employees for their feedback.

Tara Wise (HR Administrative Assistant) will send information to employees.

Judge Lapham stated will bring back to court in September.

6. Discussion regarding clarification of Permitting and Engineering Fee Schedule and as appropriate.

Erica Resendez (Planning and Development) and Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) reexamined the fee schedule and corrected it. Penalty Fees were originally left out and have been added. Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) requests the Fee Schedule be looked over and determine if court is still in agreement. Website has been updated also.

Commissioner Rinn inquired on the cost for reinspection.

Per Judge Lapham, cost will be determined by the amount of re-inspections needed, multiplied by the fee for service.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).

7. Consideration and action to declare 2014 Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4x4, VIN 1FT7W2B6XEEA34824 as surplus.

Sheriff Brandes stated this is the old work truck. The truck still operates and would like to offer it to the precincts to use or declare it surplus.

Judge Lapham advised we will hold the vehicle for 30 days.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)

8. Discussion and action regarding S.O. transport vehicle approved 07.28.2025.

Lt. Donald Durracq (Sheriff's Office) expressed the approval at previous court not to exceed \$44,000. However, after approval and contacting Rockwall Ford the vehicles on the lot were no longer available.

Judge Lapham suggested Lt. Donald Darracq (Sheriff's Office) inquire with other vendors.

After working under Judge Lapham, Lt. Donald Darracq (Sheriff's Office) was able to locate a vehicle at Chastang Ford. The truck has been purchased for \$41,985.00 and is in the possession of the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Reed motions to approve purchase of transport vehicle from Chastang Ford instead of Rockdale Ford.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)

- 9. Consideration and action to approve specifications and plans for the Austin County GLO Mitigation Competition Program #22-085-007-D235 for the Sector 2 area and approval to begin bid process for construction services for this work.**

Per Commissioner Reed, after talk with the engineer he is ready to begin construction with GLO.

Commissioner Cerny motioned to approve for Austin County to let the bid process begin.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0)

- 10. Discussion and action regarding proposed new traffic signs in Pct. 3**
a. Stop sign- Meier Rd @ Old Columbus Rd
b. Stop sign- Meier Rd @ Kulow Rd
c. Yield sign- Jalowy Rd @ Kulow Rd

Commissioner Cerny stated a hearing occurred last court and motions to approve signs as followed.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

- 11. Discussion and action on update concerning audit.**

Billy Doherty spoke with outside auditor this morning whom stated there was a discrepancy with the numbers submitted by Justice of The Peace. Therefore, more paperwork has been sent, and a draft should be received this week

- 12. Consideration and action to modify current compensation order to add a position to R&B, Pct. 1 and Pct. 4**

Commissioner Mikel converted two Assistant Foreman positions to (1) foreman position and (1) operator position.

Commissioner Reed advised that Precinct 4 will have an increased volume of work in August and September. Therefore, he will consider adding an additional full-time operator.

Motion to approve: Commissioner Reed, Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

- 13. Consideration and action to adopt 2026 Holiday Calendar**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)

14. 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 accept the following special donations per Local Government Code 81.032:

i. To Austin County Sheriff's Office:

1. \$6,000.00

2. \$100.00

ii. To Austin County Emergency Management:

1. \$3,000.00

2. \$5,000.00

iii. To Austin County Emergency Medical Services:

1. \$200.00

iv. To Road & Bridge, Pct. 1:

1. \$145,848.80

b. Consideration and action to authorize a one-time variance from Subdivision Regulations to divide a 7.35-acre tract and a 7.55-acre tract from a 33.03-acre parent tract (leaving a residual 18.13-acre parent tract) on Wiese Road, Pct. 1.

c. Consideration and action to authorize a one-time variance from Subdivision Regulations to divide a 3.442 parent tract into two- 1.72-acre tracts near 10027 Hwy 36 N, Pct. 2.

d. Consideration and action to authorize a one-time variance from Subdivision Regulation to divide two – 2± acre tracts from a 5.6-acre parent tract (leaving a residual 1.5± acre parent tract) on South Tesch Street, Pct 1 or 2.

e. Consideration and action to reappoint Dr. Don Bosse as County Health Authority.

f. Consideration and action to approve Commissioners' Court Minutes:

i. 07.14.2025

ii. 07.16.2025

iii. 07.28.2025

g. Consideration and action to approve Election Judges, Alternate Judge, Clerks and Central Counting Station Personnel for November 4, 2025 Special Election

h. Consideration and action to approve Order of November 4, 2025 Special Election

i. Consideration and action to approve Notice of Special Election for November 4, 2025.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)

15. Budgetary and Financial Claims – action as appropriate
a. Payment of Claims

Total: \$971,757.18

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)

b. Fund Transfers

Total: \$432,000.74 (August 11,2025)

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

c. Budget Amendments

d. County Auditor's review of finances

e. County Treasurer's

i. Monthly Treasurer's Report- July 2025

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)

ii. Payroll and Escrow Report – 08.08.2025

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)

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

a. Justice of the Peace, Pct.2, Pct. 3, Pct. 4 – July 2025

b. Constable, Pct 1 – July 2025

c. Constable, Pct. 2 – June & July 2025

d. TxDMV – July 2025

e. EMS- May, June & July 2025

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0)

17. Discussion and action regarding personnel policy revisions

Will discuss after executive session.

18. Building Projects Update.

Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) presented current building project updates for new EMS buildings, Wendt Street building repairs, county generators, and new Command Building.

Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) presented generator proposals from Loftin and WPI. Industry standard is to charge individually which made Loftin the cheaper proposal at \$19,481.00. Benefit to county would be a one stop shop with Shellback Construction. Austin County would contact Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) who would then contact Loftin. Loftin is also contracted with City of Bellville so they are also familiar with the area. Loftin has been very responsive and came out 4 times to inspect generators to ensure they had the correct information on the generators. If there is an outage Loftin will be contacted and response time will be approximately 2 hours.

Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) advised contract states 3 years however, he does not want to agree to 3 years so he will talk with Loftin on signing for a year and see how things go. If Loftin does not agree to a 1-year contract, Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) will come back to the court.

Commissioner Reed asked if Loftin only does service or will they install also.

Per Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction), Loftin will handle install and servicing.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) inquired on the cost for after hour and weekend service.

Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) advised he is not sure on exact cost but believes it partially depends on what type of service is being performed. Plan is for maintenance check twice a year.

Judge Lapham inquired with Billy Doherty (County Auditor) for fund coverage. Billy Doherty (County Auditor) is okay with this amount.

Commissioner Reed motioned to go with Loftin through Shellback Construction for maintenance on the generators semi-annually.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

Judge Lapham stated he spoke with Lone Star Prestress who will donate the building to put communications in for Westcom.

Commissioner Reed thanked Judge Lapham for looking into it and inquired if the building is prebuilt. Judge Lapham advised it has not been built yet.

Commissioner Cerny feels it's worth going with that building right away.

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A closed meeting will be held concerning the following items:

- a. Economic Development Matter**
- b. Personnel Matter**

Recessed at 10:23am.

Reconvened at 12:22pm.

20. Action as appropriate on Executive Session.

No action.

21. Commissioners Court Inquiry.

Judge Lapham stated Texas Association of Counties (TAC) is supposed to be talking to the county and giving recommendations for new HB1522. HB1522 stating agenda must be posted 3 business days ahead of when court is convened. This means agenda will need to be posted by end of day Tuesday the prior week. Agenda items will need to be given Monday.

Court recessed at 12:24pm.

Court Reconvened at 1:30pm.

17. Discussion and action regarding personnel policy revisions

Personnel Policy revisions reviewed by Court.

Additional revisions will be made and presented at next court.

Court adjourned at 3:15pm.

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

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

I, Diane Day, Austin County Clerk, attest to the minutes of the Commissioners Court proceedings for August 11, 2025.

Date: September 9, 2025

Diane Day, Austin County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioners Court
Austin County, Texas

By: Allison Gerik
Allison Gerik, Deputy Clerk



FILED

2025 SEP -9 PM 3:43

Diane Day
COUNTY CLERK
AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS