



CARRIE GREGOR
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

On **May 12, 2014** Austin County Commissioners Court met in the Basement Meeting Room, at the Austin County Courthouse with the following present:

Carolyn Bilski, County Judge
Reese Turner, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Robert "Bobby" Rinn, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Randy Reichardt, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Douglas King, Commissioner, Precinct 4
Brenda Ethier, Deputy County Clerk

Opening – 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order
Invocation
Pledges of Allegiance
Roll Call and Certification of Quorum

Consideration/Adoption of Agenda

Motion to Adopt: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner King, passed (4-0).
Order #14-148

1. Proclamations and Special Recognitions.

- a. Older Americans Month

Judge Bilski presented Adult Protection Services with a proclamation declaring the month of May as Older Americans Month and thanked them for the services they provide to the elderly in Austin County.

- b. Building A Better Texas Award through Texas AgriLife Extension/Centennial Resolution.

Philip Shackelford explained the significance of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, which set aside money for research in all the counties of all the states through the land-grant system. He presented the Court with a plaque entitled "Building Better Texans Award", thanking them for helping extend the knowledge and providing knowledge to the citizens of Austin County.

2. Petitions or Requests from the Public.

Betty Jez, Austin County Auditor, discussed Order #14-130, item C from Consent Agent April 28, 2014, Commissioners Court meeting. She feels the County should not pay the required schooling request submitted by Laura Kaye, Austin County Treasurer on June 2-4, 2014 in Dallas.

Several citizens stated their feelings and expressed concerns about Austin County EMS being turned over to St. Joseph's Hospital.

3. Discussion regarding St. Joseph Hospital proposal to assume County Emergency Medical Services and action as appropriate.

Members of the Court felt any action for continuing discussion between Austin County EMS and St. Joseph Hospital should be tabled.

Motion to Table Discussion: Commissioner Turner, 2nd Commissioner King, passed (3-2). Commissioner Rinn and Commissioner Reichardt opposed. Judge Bilski voted to break the tie.

Order #14-149

Commissioner Reichardt suggested Judge Bilski send a letter to St. Joseph Hospital to terminate all discussion and correspondence about the St. Joseph takeover of Austin County EMS.

Motion to Terminate All Discussion: Commissioner Reichardt, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-1). Commissioner Turner opposed.

Order #14-150

Court adjourned at 10:15

Court reconvened at 10:23

4. Consideration and possible action to adopt Consent Agenda Format.

*Motion to Adopt: Commissioner Turner, 2nd Commissioner Reichardt, passed (4-0)
Order #14-151*

5. 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. Transmittal of Minutes from April 28, 2014.
- b. Consideration and possible action to accept donations for the summer reading program for Knox Library.
- c. Consideration and possible action to authorize interlocal agreement between Harris County and Austin County for services to be provided by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences for postmortem examinations through December 31, 2014.
- d. Consideration and possible action to authorize expenditure of capital credit funds line item 101-128-4888 for Economic Development and Heritage Tourism advertisement for Stephen F. Austin State Park and San Felipe de Austin Historic Site in conjunction with Sealy Chamber of Commerce promotion.
- e. Consideration and possible action to authorize purchase of a new chair for Justice of The Peace, Precinct 1 out of capital outlay 101-127-5757.
- f. Consideration and possible action to approve one computer with dual monitors, 1 E221 Monitor and 1 dual monitor card for cable at an amount not to exceed \$1,388.90 out of Records Management 137-010-0000 for County Clerk's Office.

6. Consideration and possible action to authorize exterior pressure washing of the Courthouse.

A bid of \$7,544.00 was received from Blast, Inc. for the high pressure cleaning of the Courthouse exterior.

*Motion to Accept: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reichardt, passed (4-0).
Order #14-152*

A bid of \$3,098.00 was received from Blast, Inc. for the after-treat to be done on the exterior building-white panels only.

Motion to Accept: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reichardt, passed (4-0).
Order #14-153

7. Discussion regarding long distance telephone service and action as appropriate.

Charles Long from Birch Communications gave a cost proposal for local and long distance service for the county. Tinson Rasbury expressed concerns about the billing process. Judge Bilski suggested going back five years to see what problems caused us change from Birch to AT&T.

Motion to Postpone: Commissioner Turner, 2nd Commissioner Reichardt, passed (4-0).
Order #14-154

8. April Activity Report by Sheriff Brandes.

Sheriff Jack Brandes reviewed his April Activity Report.

9. Consideration and possible action to approve updated forfeiture fund budget.

Sheriff Jack Brandes reviewed the 2014 Sheriff's Forfeiture Fund Budget.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Turner, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #14-155

10. Consideration and possible action to authorize purchase of a 1997 equipment haul trailer, unit #RB7025, serial number 112SD2524VL049200 from Fort Bend County Road and Bridge Department for Precinct 4.

An offer of \$10,000.00 was made by Austin County, Precinct 4, for a 1997 equipment haul trailer, unit #RB7025, serial number 112SD2524VL049200 from Fort Bend County Road and Bridge Department.

Motion to Authorize: Commissioner King, 2nd Commissioner Reichardt, passed (4-0).
Order #14-156

11. Open bid proposals for one (1) used wheel loader for Precinct 4 and action as Appropriate.

One bid of \$37,160.48 was received for one (1) Mustang Cat used wheel loader for Precinct 4.

Motion to Accept: Commissioner King, 2nd Commissioner Reichardt, passed (4-0).
Order #14-157

12. Consideration and possible action to approve partition of 8 acre tract on FM 1456 to add 2 acres (+-) to a 6.735 acre tract located at 9514 Centerhill Road in Precinct 1 as variance to Subdivision Regulations.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Turner, 2nd Commissioner Rinn (4-0).
Order #14-158

13. Hurricane season preparation information by Emergency Management.

Ray Chislett, Austin County Emergency Manager, spoke to the Court about preparing for the upcoming hurricane season.

14. Budgetary and Financial claims – action as appropriate

a. Payment of Claims

Motion to Authorize May 5, 2014: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reichardt, passed (4-0).
Order #14-159

Motion to Authorize May 12, 2014: Commissioner Reichardt, 2nd Commissioner King, passed (4-0).
Order #14-160

b. Budget Amendments

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reichardt, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)
Order #14-161

- c. County Auditor's review of finances**
- d. County Treasurer review of finances**
 - i. Payroll & Escrow Report**

ii. Payroll & Escrow Bank Statement

Motion to Accept: Commissioner Reichardt, 2nd Commissioner King, passed (4-0).
Order #14-162

iii. January and February 2014 Reconciled Report

Motion to Approve January: Commissioner Reichardt, 2nd Commissioner King, passed (4-0).
Order #14-163

Motion to Approve February: Commissioner Reichardt, 2nd Commissioner King, passed (4-0).
Order #14-164

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

- a. EMS Reports
- b. Tax Office-Vehicle Registration Trend from FY96 through FY13
- c. Austin County Library System – April 2014
- d. Constable Precinct 1 & 2 – April 2014
- e. Jail Population – April 2014
- f. Justice of the Peace, Precincts 1 & 3 – April 2014
- g. Proclamation – Fruhling Saengerfest

Court recessed at 11:43 a.m.

Court reconvened at 12:52 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A closed meeting will be held concerning the following items:

- 1. Personnel Matters. (This is in accordance with the Texas Government Code Section 551.074).**
 - a. Law Enforcement Staff
 - b. County Judge Staff
- 2. Update on pending and current litigation. (This is in accordance with the Texas Government Code Section 551.071).**
- 3. Deliberation regarding Real Property. (This is in accordance with the Texas Government Code Section 551.072).**

16. Action as appropriate from Executive Session.

No action.

17. Commissioners Court Inquiry.

None.

Court adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

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

**I, Carrie Gregor, Austin County Clerk, attest to the accuracy of the record of
The Commissioners Court proceedings for May 12, 2014.**

Date: June 4, 2014

Brenda Ethier

**Carrie Gregor, Austin County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioners Court
Austin County, Texas
By: Brenda Ethier, Deputy**