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COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

January 22, 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
Leroy Cerny, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Chip Reed, Commissioner, Precinct 4
Kimberly Benjamin, Deputy Clerk

9:00 A.M. OPENING
CALL TO ORDER
INVOCATION
PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM
CONSIDERATION/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adopt agenda.

Motion to Adopt: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0).
Order #24-025

1. Petitions or Requests from the Public.

None.

2. Discussion and action regarding proposed change/addition to the Austin County Subdivision Regulations.

Per Judge Lapham, Johnathan Hopko (County Engineer) will present additional changes at later date. Additions were made to Appendix A- 5.8 and 5.8.1.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #24-026

3. Discussion regarding construction/remodel of Wendt Street Building and action as appropriate.

Per Commissioner Rinn, change order was presented by Shellback Construction on the dehumidifier and electrical hook-up. Total credit = \$9,156.00. Change order covers 1 dehumidifier.

Per Commissioner Reed, will clarify with Shellback Construction quantity of dehumidifiers to be installed. Remodel/reconstruction should be completed by February 10, 2024, as predicted. Leave Roll-up door out of construction for now.

Per Judge Lapham, make frame for Roll-up door for future installation.

Per Kim Rinn (Tax Assessor-Collector), Michelle Wright and Stacey Villarreal (County Extension Agents-AgriLife), thermostats have been removed from hallways.

Per Commissioner Reed, Honeycutt Air Conditioning pulled thermostat until service was complete. Will re-install the thermostat. Will advise Honeycutt Air Conditioning to re-install all thermostats that were removed.

Per Commissioner Lamp, table this topic and revisit when installation job is complete, in the event of more changes.

No action.

4. Discussion regarding call-taker/administrative personnel at 8.0. and action as appropriate.

Per Sheriff Donald Darracq (Sheriff's Department), there is a shortage in dispatch for 911 calls. Other staff pitch in to assist Licensed Dispatchers. Requests that Administrative Personnel be classified as Essential, based on duties performed to allow for compensation/benefits of an essential worker. Benefit of title change will allow employees to be compensated regularly and not accrued. Blanca Alvarado (Receptionist-Sheriff's Department), works extra hours to assist with 911 calls. Requests to classify her as an Essential Worker for hours worked as 911 Call-Taker. Applicants are not meeting TCOLE Standards. Request that Blanca is compensated for working holidays instead of banked time.

Per Commissioner Lamp, suggests workers submit extra hours as holiday pay and bank time. Recommends to classify Blanca Alvarado (Receptionist-Sheriff's Department) an Essential worker. Utilize 311 call center to relieve dispatchers of non-emergency calls.

Per Lieutenant Scott Hicks (Sheriff's Department), Sheriff Department is hiring dispatchers and currently has pending applications on hand. Trainees must be paired with a licensed person, in which there is a shortage of staff. There is a 6-month process for trainees to become licensed. Blanca Alvarado (Receptionist-Sheriff's Department) does not want to change her title to Call-Taker. Deputies are working dispatch to cover shortage.

Per Judge Lapham, recommends changing Blanca Alvarado's (Receptionist-Sheriff's Department) position to Call-Taker and hire another receptionist.

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), classifying Blanca Alvarado (Receptionist-Sheriff's Department) as temporary Essential Worker would bring an issue with programming and actual policy. Will support a Receptionist/Administration position within dispatch. Recommends taking one of the dispatch positions and renaming it Call-Taker.

Per Commissioner Rinn, making the exception for one employee could cause a problem amongst other employees who performs essential duties beyond their normal hours.

Per Lieutenant Scott Hicks, suggests to table this topic since there's no solution.

No action.

- 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. Consideration and action to accept 2023 Racial Profiling Report from:
 - i. Constable Pct. 1**
 - ii. Constable Pct. 2****
 - b. Consideration and action to accept donation of \$80,000 to the Sheriffs Office Special Donation Fund per local government code 81.032.**
 - c. Consideration and action to accept executed TELOMACK Cabling Solutions Document.**
 - d. Consideration and action to accept executed Interlocal Agreement for Postmortem Examinations with Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.**
 - e. Consideration and action to declare Box from Pct. 1 Box Truck as surplus.**
 - f. Consideration and action to reappoint Leroy Cerny to Combined Community Action Board**
 - g. Consideration and action to approve required schooling application(s) for V.G. Young Institute of County Government, to be held February 20-22, 2024 in College Station, Texas for:
 - i. Tim Lapham - County Judge**
 - ii. Mark Lamp - Commissioner, Pct. 1**
 - iii. Bobby Rinn - Commissioner, Pct. 2**
 - iv. LeRoy Cerny - Commissioner, Pct. 3**
 - v. Chip Reed - Commissioner, Pct. 4****
 - h. Approval of Minutes:
 - i. December 18, 2023****

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).
Order #24-027*

6. Budgetary and Financial Claims - action as appropriate.
a. Payment of Claims

Per Judge Lapham, no payment of claims.

b. Fund Transfers

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), 2 transfers made. Total= \$385,636.27

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0).
Order #24-028

- c. Budget Amendments**
- d. County Auditor's review of finances**
- e. County Treasurer's**
 - i. Payroll and Escrow Report - 01.12.2024**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #24-029

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), need funds to pay invoices from DSS (Driving Safety Services). Will make adjustments on other line items to fix negative line.

Per Stacie Dewald (Human Resources), explanation regarding increase of DSS bills were provided to Judge Lapham. Invoices are higher due to an initial cross and system back up performed. There has been an increase in post-accidents and pre-employment. Recommend keeping DSS for post-accident testing. Eliminating alcohol testing from pre-employment will allow for use of one testing facility. DOT Rules requires drug testing on employees. Will check the Federal Laws Rules and Regulations for CDL random testing.

Per Commissioner Lamp, recommends removing employee names from testing pool if previously and frequently selected. Would like for Road and Bridge workers to have an annual physical.

ii. December 2023

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #24-030

- 7. Written end-of-the month reports submitted by County Offices.**
- a. Constable, Pct. 2 - December 2023**
 - b. TxDMV - December 2023**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #24-031

Per Judge Lapham, no action on item b. of executive session.

Court recessed at 9:55 a.m.

8. 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. Personnel Matter
- b. Section 551.071 of the Governme11 Code (V.C.T.A.): An executive/closed session will be held so that the Commissioners Court can seek and receive legal advice from its attorneys regarding pending or threatened litigation, settlement offers, claims, or other matters for which the attorneys' duties to their client under the Texas State Bar Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct Conflicts with the Open Meetings Act (Ch.551, Gov. Code). Discussion and possible action on settlement regarding the Justice Center.

Court reconvened 11:04 a.m.

9. Action as appropriate on Executive Session

No action.

10. Commissioners Court Inquiry.

Next construction meeting is February 2, 2024.

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).

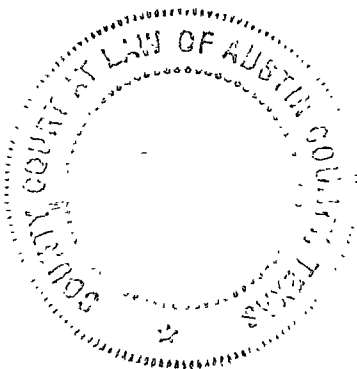
Court adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

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 January 22, 2024.

Date: FEBRUARY 6, 2024
Andrea Cardenas, Austin County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioners Court
Austin County, Texas

By: Kimberly Benjamin
Kimberly Benjamin, Deputy Clerk



2024 FEB -6 PM 3: 27

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COUNTY CLERK