



CARRIE GREGOR
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

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COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

July 26, 2021, Austin County Commissioners Court met in the Basement Meeting Room at the Austin County Courthouse with the following present:

Tim Lapham, County Judge
Robert "Bobby" Rinn, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Leroy Cerny, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Chip Reed, Commissioner, Precinct 4
Rebecca Thomas, Deputy County Clerk

Commissioner Lamp absent.

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

Remove agenda items #10, 12 and 13.

Adopt amended agenda.

Motion to Adopt: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (3-0).
Order #21-229

1. Petitions or Requests from the Public.

Mimi Rettig spoke with regard to mask mandates.

2. Discussion regarding plat/drainage approval for Aguado Subdivision on Grubs Road, Pct.1

Per Judge Lapham, the owners have met all subdivision requirements.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Judge Lapham, passed (3-0).
Order #21-230

3. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding building projects and financing.

Per Commissioner Reed, Knox Library needs new bookcases. He has bids from Tesco and TCI.

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor) half of funds can come from 101 General and half from Library Special 115.

Court decided to go with Tesco bid for \$14,453.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0).
Order #21-231

Per Sheriff Brandes, jail is waiting for the ADA and Jail Commission to inspect. Once they get the ok, the prisoners will be brought back.

Per Judge Lapham, Justice Center is behind a few months because workers are at the jail. Next step is getting air conditioning up to cool and contain the environment.

Per Commissioner Rinn, library moved back in. Still waiting on bids for Wendt St. building.

4. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding road construction projects.

Per Commissioners, working on rain damaged roads. Still waiting for places to dry up to finish.

5. Discussion and action as appropriate to set 2021-2022 proposed salaries for elected officials

Per Commissioner Rinn, salaries should stay same due to budget needs.

Per Commissioner Reed, salaries need to go up due to this past year. Motion for 3% increase.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (2-1).
Commissioner Rinn opposed.
Order #21-232

6. Budget discussion and action as appropriate.

Per Judge Lapham, proposed budget is with a 3.43% increase.

101. County Judge removed line items 101-51106-101 and 101-51107-101 and moved them to 155, adding an Engineer position.

102. County Court at Law Judge requested Court Reporter and Court Administrator split in two positions. Judge Lapham moved money from Administrator's line item to Reporter's, keeping salary same for now. Added \$27,310 to fund new position to help answer phones.
104. District Clerk requested \$500 increase to stationery and office supplies.
105. Commissioners requested Travis Koehn (District Attorney) come talk about his budget.
107. Veterans Services increased salary to \$20,000 to fill position.
111. County Clerk requested to increase Deputy Clerk #6 from \$15.00 to \$17.00 per hour max.
112. Tax Collector requested two new positions, Elections and Title Registration, bringing office to 6 Deputies. Eliminate part-time positions.
113. Sheriff requested 4% raise for Chief Deputy. Also 4% increase for Sheriff to fix salary gap between Chief Deputy and Sheriff.
114. Jail requested 4 new jailers. Request 8% increase for Jail Captain salary.
115. Weigh station needs to go back in. Request funds for building, improvements and repairs. \$6,000 for now adding the building into Capital Line 101-54217-115.
116. Agrilife requested 4-H agents Travel expense increase from \$600 to \$900. Per Judge Lapham, looking for vehicle to lease for traveling.
117. Add \$10,000 to Court Appointed Attorneys.
119. Justice of The Peace Precinct 1 requested increase in Office Supplies.
128. Per Judge Lapham, moved longevity out of different line items and placed into one. Bond premiums done the same way.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) requested the county look in to meal reimbursement.
128. Appraisal District collections and appraisals went up.
130. EMS requested full time Assistant Chief position. Handle internally.
131. Harris County maintenance for radios increased. Bleiberville Tower needs painting and relamping.
133. Wendt street building utilities were higher than expected.
145. Jail Museum requested more money in their budget.

150. Emergency Management is currently 32 hr/wk position, will change to 40 hr/wk.

155. Add Engineer position in County Judge's Office \$100,000.

Budget changes \$971,051 over last year.

Projected General Fund about \$414,411.57 short.

Per Commissioner Reed, price for cleaning Justice Center at 43,000 sq.ft. is .11 cents per sq. ft. = \$4,700. No commitment till building finished.

Commissioner Reed and Commissioner Rinn talked to Jessie Skinner (Assistant DA) with regard to hiring an employee to spray roads and building. One precinct would employ them, then bill other precincts as used. For structures, invoice County Judge.

Per Billy Doherty, \$80,000 Court House Security salary comes from General fund. \$15,000 to \$20,000 comes from Court Cost. Now Justice Center and Court House will need it. Will there need to be more in line item to cover this?

200. Commissioner Rinn requested road fund divided by road miles. Commissioner Reed and Commissioner Cerny want it to stay as is.

7. Consideration and action to establish schedule of Commissioner's Court meetings for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (Judge Lapham)

*Motion to Establish: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0).
Order #21-233*

8. Consideration and action to establish schedule of Commissioner's Court meetings for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (Judge Lapham)

*Motion to Establish: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0).
Order #21-234*

9. Consideration and action to set 2022 Sheriff and Constable Fees effective January 1, 2022 (Sheriff Brandes)

*Motion to Set: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (3-0).
Order #21-235*

11. Consideration and action to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the Regional Public Defender Office Local Government Corporation to provide a Regional Public defender for Capital Cases

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (3-0).
Order #21-236*

14. Discussion regarding “Active 911” program and action as appropriate (Walter Morrow)

Total annual fee \$3,825.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0).
Order #21-237

15. Consideration and action to set 2022 EMS Special Events Fees effective January, 1, 2022 (Walter Morrow)

Raise Special Events fee to \$50. Rate of pay for special events \$40 effective January 1, 2022.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0).
Order #21-238

16. Consideration and action to approve Voting Locations: (Kim Rinn)
a. Early Voting
b. Election Day

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (3-0).
Order #21-239

17. Discussion regarding Contract(s) for Election Services and action as appropriate. (Kim Rinn)

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0).
Order #21-240

18. Discussion regarding Joint Election Agreement and action as appropriate. (Kim Rinn)

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0).
Order #21-241

19. Discussion regarding Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Imposition of Optional Fees for Calendar Year 2022 and action as appropriate. (Kim Rinn)

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0).
Order #21-242

20. Discussion regarding Personnel Action Form and action as appropriate. (Billy)

Add line for no change. Remove overtime rate line at the bottom.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0).
Order #21-243

21. Discussion regarding salary increase of County Clerk Deputy (position 6) and action as appropriate (Carrie Gregor)

Raise Deputy #6 from \$15.00 to \$17.00 hourly.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0).
Order #21-244

- 22. Discussion and action to accept executed document(s):**
- a. **Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the City of Sealy regarding Bullinger Creek Subdivision drainage.**
 - b. **Appointment of Local Health Authority**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (3-0).
Order #21-245

23. Consideration and action to accept special donation of \$3,500 to Austin County Sheriff's Office per Local Government Code 81.032

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (3-0).
Order #21-246

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

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0).
Order #21-247

- b. **Budget Amendments**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0).
Order #21-248

- c. **County Auditor's review of finances**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0).
Order #21-249

**d. County Treasurer's
i. Payroll and Escrow Report – 07.16.2021**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (3-0).
Order #21-250*

ii. Treasurer's Report – June 2021

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (3-0).
Order #21-251*

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

- a. District Court – June 2021
- b. County Court – June 2021
- c. Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 – June 2021
- d. Texas DMV – June 2021
- e. AgriLife Extension – June 2021

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0).
Order #21-252*

26. Commissioners Court Inquiry.

None.

*Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (3-0).
Order #21-253*

Court adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

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

**I, Carrie Gregor, Austin County Clerk, attest to the minutes of the Commissioners
Court proceedings for July 26, 2021.**

Date: August 6, 2021

Carrie Gregor

Carrie Gregor, Austin County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioners Court
Austin County, Texas

By: Rebecca Thomas, Deputy

FILED

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Carrie Gregor
COUNTY CLERK
AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS

