



**ANDREA CARDENAS**  
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**COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES**

**December 27, 2023** Austin County Commissioners Court met in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**INVOCATION**

**PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM**

**CONSIDERATION/ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

*Motion to Adopt: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #23-773**

- 1. Petitions or Requests from the Public.**
- 2. Holiday Enforcement Program presentation by Austin County Sheriff's Office.**

Sergeant Donald Darracq spoke in regards to TXDOT IBM Grant.

No action.

- 3. Discussion and action to approve payment of JPATS/USMS Invoice 12293 for transport services of a prisoner.**

Per Travis Koehn (District Attorney), decision to extradite a person is reviewed and determined on a case-by-case basis. Requests that County pay invoice for this extradition.

Per Sheriff Jack Brandes, once an order is received from the magistrate, required to retrieve fugitive. Most cases the U.S. Marshal is used.

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), refuse to pay invoice. The \$7,336 invoice is past due and it falls under the previous fiscal year. There is not a current budget line item or monies set

aside to make the payment. Billy requests District Attorney and Sheriff's Office split the bill and pay from their forfeiture funds.

Per Commissioner Reed, recommends creating a line item in the budget to use for extradition expenses only and Billy Doherty (County Auditor) agreed.

No action.

**4. Discussion regarding contract with US Marshall's Service to transport a subject to Austin County and action as appropriate.**

Sergeant Donald Darracq (Sheriff's Office) requests approval for payment of \$2,670.00 to U.S. Marshal to extradite a felon to Austin County. Billy Doherty (County Auditor) agreed to approve payment based on quote amount and prior notice given.

*Motion to Transport: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #23-774**

- 5. Consideration and action regarding body camera system upgrade for Sheriff's Office:**
- a. **Approve Payment of Motorola Invoice TN 8281763698**
  - b. **Approve request for county to absorb temporary offset of \$3,627.02 which will be rectified through grant adjustment.**
  - c. **Approve SO work directly with Auditor's Office as needed to enter information into the State's E-Grant System.**

Per Sergeant Donald Darracq (Sheriff's Office), new proposal has been quoted at \$1,400.00 and requests to work with the auditor's office to do a grant adjustment.

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), money will be returned through E-Grant. Will assist Sergeant Darracq with grant adjustment.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #23-775**

- 6. Discussion and action regarding an Administrative Assistant Position for**
- a. **County Engineer**
  - b. **Emergency Management**

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) requests a part time administrative assistant to help with organization and improve response time.

Per Commissioner Cerny, hire someone for three 8-hour days (24 hours per week) at \$18.00 per hour.

Per Judge Lapham, Emergency Management needs an administrative assistant to relieve some of the clerical duties from Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator).

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, No 2<sup>nd</sup>, (Motion Dies for Lack of 2<sup>nd</sup>).*

Approve hiring 2 part-time positions not to exceed \$18.00 per hour for 24 hours per week to the compensation order; one for County Engineer and one for Emergency Management Coordinator.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #23-776**

**7. Discussion and action regarding Hazard Communication Policy.**

Per Commissioner Reed, wording changed from Hazard Communication "Policy" to Hazard Communication "Manual".

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #23-777**

- 8. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding the purchase of two trucks for Pct. 3:**
- a. **2018 Freightliner CA 125 Cascadia**
  - b. **Ford F450 Crew Cab 6. 7L Diesel**

Per Commissioner Cerny, request payment of \$38,615.34 for 2018 Freightliner CA 125 Cascadia and payment of \$76,203.00 for Ford F450 Crew Cab 6.7L Diesel.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #23-778**

**9. Discussion regarding DroneScense Subscription and action as appropriate.**

Per Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator), request to subscribe to DroneScense for 5-years. Subscription covers license of drones. Total contract for the subscription is \$14,000.00.

Judge Lapham recommends going with one-year subscription for \$2,800.00 as a trial period for the program.

No action.

**10. Discussion and action to request bids for recycling and resizing concrete beams/slabs.**

Per Commissioner Reed, he and Commissioner Lamp would like to utilize the leftover concrete from Highway I-10. Project will need to be outsourced and recommends going out for bids on the job.

No Action.

11. **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 reappoint ESD Board Members to a two-year term:**
    - i. **ESD 1**
      - 1. **Ray Chislet**
      - 2. **Vivian Williams**
      - 3. **Kim Silver**
    - ii. **ESD 2**
      - 1. **Charles Verm**
      - 2. **James Toman**
      - 3. **Daniel Atwood**
    - iii. **ESD 3**
      - 1. **Chris Nanez**
      - 2. **John Alford**
  - b. **Consideration and action to approve Agreement for Temporary Access between Rhonda Hegemeyer-Spies and Austin County Pct. 2.**
  - c. **Consideration and action to renew contract for representation of indigents in Austin County for John Anderson.**

Per Judge Lapham, will pull off items 11a. i. ESD 1.

Approve 11a. ii. iii. b. – c.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #23-779**

11a i. continued

Per Ray Chislet (President of ESD 1 Board), ESD 1 operates at .03 cents per \$100.00 budget, all other ESD's operates at .10 cents. Members of ESD 1 agreed to assess their fire department equipment to a level that is affordable and sustainable into the future.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #23-780**

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

Total= \$654,605.15

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), he will add the payment (\$38,615.34) for the Lone Star Truck Group, which will be coded to the 200 funds of Road & Bridge.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #23-781**

**b. Fund Transfers**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).  
Order #23-782*

**c. Budget Amendments**

2023 #55 - #59. 2024 #3 - #10.

**d. County Auditor's review of finances**

**e. County Treasurer's**

**i. Payroll and Escrow Report – 12.15.2023**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).  
Order #23-783*

**ii. November 2023**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).  
Order #23-784*

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

**a. Statutory County Court – November 2023**

**b. AgriLife – September, October, November 2023**

**c. Constable, Pct. 2 – November 2023**

**d. EMS – November 2023**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).  
Order #23-785*

Court recessed at 10:45 a.m.

**14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Justice Center

Court reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

**15. Action as appropriate on Executive Session.**

No action.

**16. Commissioners Court inquiry.**

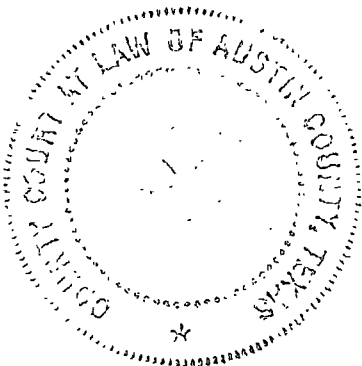
*Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #23-786**

Court adjourned at 11:27 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 December 27, 2023.**

Date: January 23, 2024  
Andrea Cardenas, Austin County Clerk  
Clerk of Commissioners Court  
Austin County, Texas  
By: Kimberly Benjamin  
Kimberly Benjamin, Deputy



FILED

2024 JAN 23 PM 4: 26

AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK  
COUNTY CLERK