



CARRIE GREGOR
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

ONE EAST MAIN
BELLVILLE, TEXAS 77418

PH: 979-865-5911
FAX: 979-865-0336

COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

September 13, 2021 Austin County Commissioners Court met in the Basement Meeting Room 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
Rebecca Thomas, Deputy County Clerk

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

Remove #9

Motion to Adopt: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).
Order #21-294

1. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED TAX RATE

Per Linda Niehuus, tax rate should be lowered, not stay the same. Public meetings should be in the evening, not morning, so more people can attend.

Per Brad Crowder, Commissioner Rinn should reach out to Attorney General for an opinion on the way Austin County divides the Road and Bridge fund.

Per Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator), his team is setting up for the Tropical Storm. Working with Sealy Fire Chief.

Commissioner Lamp advised not to move or go around barricades.

2. Petitions or Requests from the Public.

Per Linda Niehuus, Road & Bridge funds are not fairly divided. Should be divided by road miles.

Per Mark Lamp, as a tax payer we don't want to pay taxes on money sitting in Contingency fund. Dividing funds evenly helps that not happen.

3. Budget Workshop

Per Judge Lapham, remove Engineer salary from Road and Bridge and place in line item 155 under development, changing the zero to \$100,000. This will add \$26,000 to each Precinct for Road and Bridge.

Motion to approve budget with this change.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-1).
Commissioner Rinn opposed.
Order #21-295*

4. Consideration and action to set F.Y. 2021 – 2022 Tax rate.

Proposed Tax Rate .36673 General, .06455 R&B Special, .07832 F/M Lateral, .05783 Debt Requirement, for a total Tax Rate .56743.

*Motion to Set: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (3-1).
Commissioner Rinn opposed.
Order #21-296*

5. Discussion regarding F.Y. 2021 – 2022 Compensation Order and action as appropriate.

No action.

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

Per Sheriff Brandes, male inmates are back in Austin County Jail. Still working on bringing women inmates back.

7. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding road construction projects

Precinct 3 & 4 working on roads.
Precinct 2 working on roads. Donation deeds for projects should be done.
Precinct 1 working on roads. Having a hard time getting some materials.

8. Consideration and action to appoint representative to HGAC General Assembly and Delegate for Board of Directors.

Judge Lapham to be representative, Commissioner Reed will be alternate.

Motion to Appoint: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-297

10. Discussion regarding the purchase for 4 - 2021 Tahoe Police Vehicles and action as appropriate.

Sheriff Brandes would like to buy vehicles out of unused Salary line item 127.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-298

11. Discussion and action to accept modification #2 increasing ONDCP Grant by \$10,000. (Sheriff)

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-299

12. Discussion and action to renew contract with Statewide Automated Victim Notification Services.

Motion to Renew: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-300

13. Consideration and action to approve certificate pay for 2 Jail employees. (Sheriff Brandes)

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #21-301

14. Discussion and action to ratify contract renewal between UBEO and S.O. This renewal lowers monthly contract rate from \$670 to \$629. (Sheriff Brandes)

Motion to Ratify: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #21-302

15. Consideration and action to approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Austin County S.O. and Fayette County S.O. (Sheriff Brandes)

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-303

16. **Consideration and action to authorize a one-time variance from Subdivision Regulations of a 2.685 acre tract from a 7.323 acre tract on Harrison Road, Precinct 4.**

Motion to Decline: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-304

17. **Discussion regarding Lease Agreement between Austin County and Austin County Fair Association and action as appropriate.**

No action.

18. **Discussion regarding Weigh Station Scale and action as appropriate. (Commissioner Reed)**

Bastrop Scale Co., Inc. for work on Truck Scale. \$17,647 concrete construction, \$3,700 installation, and \$1,250 crane option.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-305

19. **Discussion regarding Order of Special Election and action as appropriate. (Kim Rinn)**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0).
Order #21-306

20. **Discussion regarding awarding of bids for Road and Bridge materials and action as appropriate:**

All bids awarded.

Motion to Award: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #21-307

22. **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. **Approval of Minutes**
 - i. **August 23, 2021**
 - ii. **August 30, 2021**
 - b. **Consideration and action to approve Required Schooling request for Brandy Robinson, Assistant D.A., to be held September 21, 2021 – September 24, 2021 at Galveston.**

- c. **Consideration and action to approve Required Schooling request for Benjamin Nystrom, Assistant D.A., to be held August 23, 2021 – December 31, 2021.**
- d. **Consideration and action to approve Right-Of-Way installation by Industry Telephone.**
 - i. **Oak Road, Precinct 2.**
 - ii. **Wiecker Road, Precinct 2.**
 - iii. **Industry Road, Precinct 2.**
 - iv. **Blue Hole Road, Precinct 2.**
- e. **Consideration and action to accept special donation of \$100 to Austin County Sheriff's Office per Local Government Code 81.032**
- f. **Consideration and action to accept special donation of \$500 to Austin County Sheriff's Office per Local Government Code 81.032**

Remove dii Wiecker Road.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).
Order #21-308

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

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).
Order #21-309

Approve Transfers \$803,618.15 and \$44,123.13 for payment of claims.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-310

b. Budget Amendments

None.

c. County Auditor's Review of finances

Still have about 14% of the budget left.

d. County Treasurer

- i. **Payroll and Escrow Report Payroll & Escrow Report**
 - 1. **08.27.2021**
 - 2. **09.10.2021**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-311

ii. Treasurer's Report – August 2021

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-312*

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

- i. County Court – August 2021**
- ii. District Court – August 2021**
- iii. Justice of the Peace – August 2021**
 - 1. Pct 2**
 - 2. Pct 3**
 - 3. Pct 4**
- iv. Jail Population – August 2021**
- v. Justice of the Peace – August 2021**
 - 1. Pct 1**
 - 2. Pct 2**
- vi. Library System – August 2021**
- vii. Department of Motor Vehicles – August 2021**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-313*

Court Recessed at 11:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A closed meeting will be held concerning the following item(s):

- a. Personnel Matters**
- b. Real Estate Matters**

21. Action as appropriate on Executive Session.

Declare house (only) located at 856 West Main, Bellville as surplus. Advertise for bids.

*Motion to Declare: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-314*

Amend current Compensation Order to increase Emergency Management Coordinator to \$50,000 annual income and exempt position.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0).
Order #21-315*

25. Commissioners Court Inquiry.

None.

*Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #21-316*

Court adjourned at 11:27 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 September 13, 2021.**

Date: September 17, 2021

Carrie Gregor

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

By: Rebecca Thomas, Deputy



FILED

2021 SEP 17 PM 3: 59

Carrie Gregor
COUNTY CLERK
AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS