



**DIANE DAY**

AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

265 N. CHESLEY ST., STE. 7  
BELLVILLE, TEXAS 77418

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## **COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES**

**April 14, 2025** 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  
Greg Mikel, Commissioner, Precinct 1  
Robert "Bobby" Rinn, Commissioner, Precinct 2  
Leroy Cerny, Commissioner, Precinct 3  
Chip Reed, Commissioner, Precinct 4  
Diane Day, County Clerk  
Allison Gerik, Deputy Clerk

### **9:00 A.M. OPENING**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **INVOCATION**

#### **PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-109**

### **1. Proclamations and Special Recognitions:**

#### **a. Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month**

Judge Tim Lapham read proclamation to the court. Present to represent and take picture with the court were Mandy Write (CASA), Noelia Castaneda (CPS), Gladys Hovis (Youth and Family Services), and Janet Allpin (Austin County Welfare Board)

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioners Rinn, passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-110**

**b. Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month**

Hilda Martinez (Focusing Families) gave a presentation to educate the court on sexual assault statistics. Photo was taken with the court.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-111**

**c. Fair Housing Month**

Proclamation read by Judge Tim Lapham. Tiffany Johnston (South Central Board) advocated for all current and potential homeowners. Picture taken with the court.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reed, Passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-112**

**d. County Government Month**

Proclamation read by Judge Tim Lapham.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Mikel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reed, Passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-113**

**e. Austin County - Zero Lost Time for 2024 Recognition from TAC Risk Management Workers' Compensation Program**

Certificate presented to Austin County.

**2. Petitions or Requests from the Public.**

Don Bleyl spoke on the battery storage systems asking the county to take it one step further and look at the possibility of passing a county ordinance and what the procedure to do so would be. Don emphasized on the 40 battery fires happening in the past few years and it being a world problem. Don believes a lack of performance will remain a problem.

Judge Tim Lapham stated other citizens wished to be present to speak however they were currently at the State Legislature Addressing the concerns Austin County has on battery storage facilities.

On Energy emailed requesting a meeting. Meeting will be posted as a regular meeting open to the public on Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm.

**3. Consideration and action to accept resolution opposing battery storage systems in Austin County.**

Judge Tim Lapham read resolution to the court. This resolution will not stop battery storage systems from entering the county but will show that Austin County is not in favor.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-114**

**4. Consideration and action to accept resolution to participate in the Texas Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System Trust.**

Bryan Haevischer (County Treasurer) requested to add government pool Texas CLASS as option for investments. Bryan Haevischer is requesting the court approve the use of Texas CLASS so he can move forward with the process.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-115**

**5. Open Bids for three County EMS Building Projects**

Proposed Bids:

Premier Builders: \$370,000  
Shellback Construction: \$336,253

Discussion to take place during Executive Session.

**6. Open Bids for New Metal Structure for storage vehicles located at Pct 1 yard**

Proposed Bids:

Premier Builder's: \$288,920  
Shellback Construction: \$282,051

Per Judge Tim Lapham, will hold off on discussion.

**7. Open Bids for SUV vehicle for Constable Pct 3**



Proposed Bids:

Covert Chevrolet - 2024 Tahoe: \$53,985  
Enterprise Fleet Management - 2025 Expedition 4x4: \$52,896  
Enterprise Fleet Management - 2025 Ford Expedition 4x2: \$59,619  
Enterprise Fleet Management - 2025 Ford Police Interceptor AWD: \$52,060  
Ryan Ford - 2024 Expedition: \$60,911  
Enterprise Fleet Management - 2024 Ford Expedition 4x2: \$59,619

Total of six bids opened, with some vehicles being available on the lot and some priced to order. Sherriff Jack Brandes stated the Sheriff's Office will assist in outfitting the vehicle with equipment they have on hand already. Will discuss and award bids after executive session.

**8. Discussion regarding travel expense exceeding budget for JP4 and action as appropriate.**

Billy Doherty spoke on Judge Bernice's mandatory 20 hours schooling needing approval so Billy Doherty can align as appropriate.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-116**

**9. Presentation by AgriLife to Commissioners for attending the District 11 Judges and Commissioners Conference in Edna on December 12, 2024**

Michelle Wright and Kailyn Capps (AgriLife) presented certificates to Commissioner Reed and Commissioner Rinn for their attendance. Photo was taken.

**10. Consideration and action to authorize a one-time variance from Subdivision Regulations to divide 1.5-acre tract from a 130.99-acre parent tract on Grubbs Rd., Pct.1**

Per Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer), there is no objection to variance. Request approval from the court.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Mikel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-117**

**11. Consideration and action to authorize a one-time variance from Subdivision Regulations to divide a 1.5-acre tract from a 4.15-acre tract on Catbird Lane, Pct. 1**

Per Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer), there is no objection to variance. Request approval from the court.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Mikel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)*

**Order #25-118**

**12. Consideration and action to authorize a one-time variance from Subdivision Regulations to divide two (2) acre tracts out of 11.85-acre tract on Pless Rd., Pct. 3**

Per Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer), there is no objection to variance. Request approval from the court.

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

**Order #25-119**

**13. Discussion and action to approve request for advertisement for bid for Shupak Road Bridge, Pct. 2**

Advertisements begin: April 30, 2025

Bids Due: May 23, 2025

Bids Open: May 27, 2025

Per Commissioner Rinn, the bridge is currently a wood structure and needs to be replaced to include the state regulations.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)*

**Order #25-120**

**14. Discussion and action to approve request for advertisement for bid for Hurtig Road Bridge, Pct. 2**

Advertisements begin: April 30, 2025

Bids Due: May 23, 2025

Bids Open: May 27, 2025

Per Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer), concrete has to be poured due to one of the steel pipes being worn out. Structure was a bridge years ago. Requesting approval for a bridge approximately 49-50 ft.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)*

**Order #25-121**

**15. Discussion regarding proposed voting districts and action as appropriate.**

Per Kim Rinn (Tax Assessor Collector), Senate Bill 924 allows us to condense in special elections and primary run-off some areas we can bring that down to 4 but to being in compliance was the driving force behind this change. The goal is to stay county wide with 10 polling locations. Maps will be issued to the press for publishing.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-122**

**16. Consideration and action to advertise for bids for TDA CDBG Grant CDV23-0303-Culvert Crossing Improvements and Ditch Stabilization to improve drainage along Grubbs Rd., Pct. 1**

Bids due: May 9, 2025  
Bids open: May 12, 2025

Shannon Hannath (Road and Bridge) will send notice to newspaper, post on website, have county engineer post where needed.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Mikel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-123**

**17. Consideration and action to approve amendment to Operation Lone Star Agreement officially allowing ACSO to join operation.**

Per Sherriff Brandes this agreement will allow Austin County to combat the flow of drugs, keeping the county safe, and allow Austin County to participate in grants.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-124**

**18. Consideration and action to declare Pct.1 vehicle (2019 F-150 VIN 1FTF1CBXKKKF24201) as surplus.**

Per Commissioner Mikel, Pct 1 is looking at trading in old commissioner's truck. Tegeler gave an appraised value of \$18,000 and Kelly Blue Book gave an appraised offer of \$19,000. Commissioner Mikel is requesting \$18,000.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) requests the court to purchase for \$18,000 as county vehicle for staff use. The court is willing to consider.

Judge Lapham request to get further details and take no action.



**19. Discussion and action regarding drainage issues with D.R. Horton/ Westward Point Subdivision and the City of Sealy.**

Per Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer), the developer is letting water into the ditch, creating a drainage issue downstream. The county is willing to work with the City of Sealy to correct the issue. The court will have no action.

**20. Consideration and action regarding requests to the City of Bellville:**

- a. Annexation of entire building and grounds at 265 North Chesley.**
- b. Annexation of any and all parts of North Chesley.**
- c. Annexation of the following roadways:**
  - i. Schmidt rd.**
  - ii. Schumann Road from FM 2429 to South Tesch Rd**
  - iii. South Tesch Rd from FM 2429 to East Hacienda Street**
  - iv. Hacienda Street from Front Street to Graham Street**
  - v. Bader Rd from Hacienda Street to the end of Bader Rd**
  - vi. North Chesley street from Main Street to Fisher Rd**
  - vii. Fisher Street from North Chesley to the Property Line located between Parcel id 21376 and id 7849.**
- d. De-annexation of the remaining county property including Precinct 1 yard and EMS Stations including attached properties and entrances.**

City of Bellville is on board with the annexation and De-annexation but request approval from commissioners' court.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Mikel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #25-125**

**21. 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. March 10,2025**
  - ii. March 24, 2025**
- b. Consideration and action to accept Texas Department of agriculture Resolution Authorizing County Grant Program.**
- c. Consideration and action to approve Right of Way installation permit application by Industry Telephone Company at Tiemann Road.**
- d. Consideration and action to accept special donation pr LGC 81.032:**
  - i. Knox Memorial Library Summer Reading Program**
    - 1. \$100**
    - 2. \$100**
    - 3. \$100**
    - 4. \$300**
    - 5. \$500**

- ii. **West End Library Summer Reading Program**
    - 1. **\$100**
    - 2. **\$200**
    - 3. **\$ 50**
- e. **Consideration and action to approve Temporary Access Agreement between Lisa Krennek and Austin County, Pct. 2**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, Passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-126**

**22. Consideration and action to award bid for Pct.3 Constable SUV Vehicle.**

Discussion moved to after Executive Session.

**23. Consideration and action to award bid for New Metal Structure for vehicle storage at Pct. 1 yard.**

Discussion moved to after Executive Session.

**24. Consideration and action to award bid for completion of three County EMS Building Projects.**

Discussion moved to after Executive Session.

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

Total: \$1,448,870.31

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, Passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-127**

**b. Fund Transfers**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, Passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-128**

- c. **Budget Amendments**
- d. **County Auditor's Review of finances**
- e. **County Treasurer**
  - i. **Monthly Treasurers Report- March 2025**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, Passed (4-0)*



ii. **Payroll and Escrow Report**  
1. **04.04.2025**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, Passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-129**

26. **Written end-of-the-month reports submitted by County Offices.**
- a. **Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2 – March 2025**
  - b. **Constable Pct. 1 & Constable Pct. 2 – March 2025**
  - c. **EMS – March 2025**
  - d. **Jail Population – March 2025**
  - e. **TxDOT – March 2025**
  - f. **Library – March 2025**
  - g. **OSSF- March 2025**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, Commissioner Mikel, Passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-130**

Court Recessed at 10:43am

**27. 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. **Legal Matter**

Court Reconvened at 11:38am

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

Continue agenda item #22. Motion to award bid for Pct. 3 Vehicle to Covert Chevrolet for a 2024 Tahoe at \$53,985 due to availability with backup bid being Enterprise Fleet Management for a 2025 Expedition for \$52,896.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-131**

Continue agenda item #23. Will need more time to discuss.

Continue agenda item #24. Motion to award completion of three new County EMS Building Projects to low bidder, Shellback Construction for \$336,253.

*Motion to approve: Commissioner Reed, Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)*  
**Order #25-132**

**29. Commissioner Court Inquiry.**

Billy advised contract upgrades will take place June-July with Odyssey being one of the upgrades.

*Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, Passed (4-0)*

Court adjourned at 11:43am

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

I, Diane Day, Austin County Clerk, attest to the minutes of the Commissioners Court proceedings for April 14, 2025.

Date: May 15, 2025  
Diane Day, Austin County Clerk  
Clerk of Commissioners Court  
Austin County, Texas

By: Allison Gerik  
Allison Gerik, Deputy Clerk

FILED  
2025 MAY 15 AM 8:19  
Diane Day  
COUNTY CLERK  
AUSTIN COUNTY, TX

