



DIANE DAY
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

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BELLVILLE, TEXAS 77418

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COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

Order #25-180

October 27, 2025 Austin County Commissioners Court met in the 2nd 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

Agenda item 3 will be removed until next court.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

1. Proclamation – Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Hilda Martinez (Focusing Families) spoke about their organization and the importance they have on domestic violence victims and offenders. Poems were read to the court.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation read to the court by Judge Lapham. Picture taken with the court.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

2. Petitions or Requests from the Public.

None.

- 3. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding renewal of:**
- a. UMR**
 - b. Stop Loss**
 - c. MetLife**
 - d. Smith Rx**

Removed.

- 4. Discussion regarding retirement match percentage with TCDRS and action as appropriate.**

Per Judge Lapham, the TCDRS employer retirement match percentage to be increased from 160% to 170%. This is included in the budget.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)

- 5. Discussion regarding the purchase of vehicles with SB-22 funds for Sheriff's Office and action as appropriate.**

Per Lt. Donald Darracq (Sheriff Office), the sheriff's office requests the acceptance of two bids issued by Keating Chevrolet, for two, 2024 Chevy 1500 trucks. The cost will be \$48,000.00 each for a total of \$96,000.00.

Commissioner Reed motions to approve purchase of two 2024 Chevy 1500 trucks from Keating Chevrolet for \$48,000.00 each making the total price \$96,000.00.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)

- 6. Discussion regarding county regulatory authority concerning specific businesses and gatherings.**

Per Brandy Robinson (District Attorney) expressed the concern about growth in Austin County causing the need for regulations against possible adult oriented businesses, boarding and group homes, and mass gatherings.

Commissioner Reed inquired on how the regulations work now.

Per Brandy Robinson (Criminal District Attorney), adult oriented businesses cannot be banned, however, their business hours and how they operate can be regulated. This would help prevent abuse and neglect. When boarding houses are contracted by the state, the county can't regulate them, but if they are not contracted by the state the county can regulate. Mass gatherings have had a lack of planning when it comes to emergencies

and a rise in fights and gun use is occurring because of it, creating issues for law enforcement and public safety.

Judge Lapham appreciates Brandy Robinson (Criminal District Attorney) for bringing this to the court and inquired if this is for unincorporated areas only.

Brandy Robinson (Criminal District Attorney) stated each city has their own regulations and rules. This will be to cover unincorporated areas in the county. The possibility of issues is a concern with the increase in developments coming to Austin County.

Judge inquired what is being asked of the court.

Brandy Robinson (Criminal District Attorney) stated she is looking for the courts opinion on supporting county regulations.

Judge Lapham expressed that the court is in support of the ideas.

7. Discussion regarding Road and Bridge, Pct. 4 Office Construction, and action as appropriate.

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) requested to advertise for bids for a structure roughly 30x40 located at the Sealy yard with deadline of bids due December 5, 2025 and bids opened December 8, 2025.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)

8. Discussion regarding Building Projects and actions as appropriate.

Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) presented building project update for Wallis, Industry, and Bellville EMS stations, county generators, and Command Building electrical pricing.

Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) presented electrical quote for the Command Building.

Judge Lapham inquired with Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) if he had spoken with Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator).

Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) stated he has spoken with Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator) and he is good with everything.

Commissioner Reed motions to accept electrical quote for Command Building.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)

9. Discussion regarding electronic document request fee schedule for County Clerk's Office and action as appropriate.

Stephanie Kovar (Deputy Clerk) expressed the current issue with bulk data request and misuse of county clerk resources and the public. For many years the Public Information Act has been taken advantage of in the Austin County Clerk's Office. Anyone who comes in from the public is required to pay \$1.00 per page. Companies are coming in requesting documents from us at little to no cost. A stance has been taken against a company and in return they filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office. After researching statutes, it was found that Commissioners Court can set a fee schedule. Therefore, the Austin County Clerk's Office is requesting the assistance from Commissioners Court to set a fee schedule and take control of this ongoing issue.

Judge Lapham inquired on what other counties are doing.

Stephanie Kovar (Deputy Clerk) stated a lot of counties are joining the fight against these companies and other counties are just giving their records away.

Commissioner Reed inquired if a fee schedule is created would it be the same as current fees.

Stephanie Kovar (Deputy Clerk) expressed that the County Clerk's Office would like to keep fees the same. The Austin County Clerk's Office will return in January with the fee schedule and bring the court up to speed on current happenings.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) expressed the County Clerk's Office needs to bring fee schedule and it be addressed and supported by the court.

10. Discussion regarding the lease of a UBEO copier for Knox Memorial Library and action as appropriate.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) stated the current Toshiba copier they have now is giving too many problems. Would like to replace it with a UBEO copier and take the funds out of the special donation fund. The copier will do black and white and color copies.

Judge Lapham inquired how the current UBEO copiers are holding up.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

11. Discussion regarding the purchase of a computer for the Treasurer's Office and action as appropriate.

Per Bryan Haevischer (County Treasurer) many computers throughout the county have had issues updating to the new Windows. The county treasurer's office is one with the issue. Therefore, it is requested that the purchase of a new laptop with docking station be approved.

Judge Lapham inquired on how the current laptops are holding up.

Per Bryan Haevischer (County Treasurer), they have had no issues.

Judge Lapham expressed he has a concern with the durability but is ok with it.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)

12. Discussion regarding Website and Permitting System/ Software and action as appropriate.

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) stated last meeting a committee was set up to look into questions court had. It was found that an uplift will apply at year 4.

Dianna Grobe (County Judge Chief of Staff) spoke to other counties who currently use the website platform. Majority stated they were satisfied with the platform. A quote was also requested from our current platform but have not received the quote back yet.

Judge inquired about the mass notification capabilities.

Dianna Grobe (County Judge Chief of Staff) explained that the system sends notifications to any phones located in the county when notice is issued. If your cell phone is inside the county line you will receive a notification.

Judge Lapham inquired how it will work for a longer-term notification.

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) stated Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator) would handle larger emergencies and the mass notification system would be used for the initial problem.

Judge Lapham inquired about what other systems the county can get away from as a convenience of having all together and not multiple software.

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) provided a packet with software details to the court.

Commissioner Rinn motion to approve quote from CivicPlus for the initial term cost of \$44,999.00 and an annual recurring services charge for \$42,787.00.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0)

13. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Consideration and action to reappoint Tim Lapham to the HGAC Board of Directors.

b. Consideration and action to accept special donation(s) to Austin County EMS, per Local Government Code 81.032, in the amount of:

i. \$200

ii. \$500

c. Consideration and action to approve Private Roadway Name Request for Prosperity Lane to be added to the Austin County 911 Road Map, Pct. 4

d. Consideration and action to approve minutes for:

i. September 8, 2025

ii. September 17, 2025

iii. September 22, 2025

e. Consideration and action to approve temporary access agreements on South Rocky Rd, Austin County, Pct. 2 and Florence Rinn

f. Consideration and action to solicit bids for Garlin Rd bridge project and set bid opening date for December 8, 2025

g. Consideration and action to set December 8, 2025 public hearing regarding West Hill Subdivision partial replat and authorize advertisement.

h. Consideration and action to set December 8, 2025 public hearing regarding proposed updates to the Subdivision and Development Regulations.

i. Consideration and action to approve Contract for Election Services between Austin County and Brenham ISD.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)

14. Budgetary and Financial Claims – action as appropriate.

a. Payment of Claims

Total: \$1,473,896.48

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0)

b. Fund Transfers

Total: -\$11,647.90 (10.27.2025)

Total: \$833,724.52 (10.27.2025)

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

c. Budget Amendments

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) provided budget amendments to the court.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

d. County Auditor's Review of finances

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) provided review of finances to the court.

e. County Treasurer

i. Payroll and Escrow Report – 10.17.2025

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0)

ii. September 2025

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0)

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

a. Criminal Court – September 2025

b. Civil Court – September 2025

c. Family Court – September 2025

d. Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2- September 2025

e. Constable, Pct. 2 – September 2025

f. Constable, Pct. 4 – September 2025

g. OSSF – September 2025

Motion to approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

16. Commissioners' Court Inquiry

Burn ban will take effect shortly once letter is signed by Judge Lapham.

Court Recessed at 10:44 am

Court Reconvened at 05:02 pm

17. Discussion and action to approve resolution authorizing submission of a contract amendment request for TxCDV23-0303.

Shannon Hannath (Road and Bridge Administrative Assistant) stated the contract needs to be reworded with what will be done for the project. Description was provided of the project.

Commissioner Mikel motioned to approve resolution of contract.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Mikel, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)

Court adjourned at 05:04 pm

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)

**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 October 27, 2025.

Date: November 10, 2025
Diane Day, Austin County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioners Court
Austin County, Texas
By: Allison Gerik
Allison Gerik, Deputy Clerk



FILED

2025 NOV 10 PM 4:42

Diane Day
COUNTY CLERK
AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS