



**CARRIE GREGOR**  
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**COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES**

**August 19, 2019**, Austin County Commissioners Court met in the Commissioners Court 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  
Randy Reichardt, Commissioner, Precinct 3  
Chip Reed, Commissioner, Precinct 4  
Andrea Cardenas, Deputy County Clerk

**9:01 A.M. OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**INVOCATION**

**PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM**

**CONSIDERATION/ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

*Motion to Adopt: Commissioner Lamp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).  
Order #19-284*

**1. PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET**

Convened at 9:03 am

Per Judge Lapham, adjustments made to the proposed budget are decrease in line item 101-53300-101 Fuel/Vehinle Maintenance Environment Officer, decrease in line item 101-54525-113 Repairs & Replacements/Autos, increase in line item 101-54011-117 Court Appointed Attorneys, created line item 101-54895-128 Invasive Wildlife Management, increase in line item 101-47842-000 Scrap Revenue (vehicle sales), and increase in line item 101-55703-127 EMS Vehicle Lease (SO, EMS, CJ).

Commissioner Reed spoke with regard to 101-54895-128 Invasive Wildlife Management. County has a huge hog problem. Other Counties have a hog bounty to help control the issue. Hogs destroy farmers' and ranchers' crops/property.

Commissioner Rinn spoke with regard to Road and Bridge funds divided 25% to each Commissioner. Commissioner Rinn not in favor of proposed budget.

Bernice Burger (Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4) requested to move two part-time positions to one full-time position.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reichardt, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #19-285**

Clyde Drake (Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3), budget is good. Concerned with Constable, Precinct 3, position. Needs a full-time Constable for Court. Judge Lapham requested from Judge Drake to show hours worked by Constable to show a full-time Constable is needed.

Milton Zander spoke with regard to County roads. Would like to see facts and figures.

Linda Niehuus (Precinct 2) spoke with regard to public not being notified with ample time of Public Hearing and salary increase.

Sharon McCowin introduced new HR Assistant, Stacie Dewald.

Move HR Assistant position from part-time to full-time (40 hours a week). Increase of \$13,385.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #19-286**

Rob Abbott spoke with regard to County Roads.

John Harle spoke with regard of a rooftop count. Suggested unify Road and Bridge and create Unit Road System. Asked the Court why developers aren't paying for roads.

Commissioner Rinn spoke with regard to a Unit Road System.

Larry McReynolds suggested Court think of County as a whole not each precinct.

John Harle spoke with regard to Court-Appointed Attorneys salary.

Public Hearing closed at 10:30 a.m.

## **2. Consideration and action to set salaries and allowances for county officials.**

Commissioner Lamp requested to forgo his travel allowance to pay for a truck lease and raise Commissioner pay to \$55,120 to be in line with other County Elected Officials.

Truck lease for Commissioner Lamp would be \$7,054.44.

Create a new line item (Commissioner truck lease) in 200 fund then do a budget amendment to move travel allowance to Commissioner truck lease.

Commissioner Reichardt wants Commissioner salary to remain the same. Commissioner Rinn not in favor of increasing Commissioner salary.

Judge Lapham addressed the issue of salary increase for County employees. Per Judge Lapham, there is a new company in the County, and a few more companies to come, that will increase the average salary in the County. Proposed the 4% salary increase for employees in hopes to keep County's good employees.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reichardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reed, passed (3-1).  
Commissioner Rinn opposed.  
Order #19-287*

**3. Consideration and action to adopt FY 2019-2020 Budget.**

Approve with addendums.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reichardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Lamp, passed (3-1).  
Commissioner Rinn opposed.  
Order #19-288*

**4. Consideration and action on proposed tax rate and schedule public hearings as necessary.**

Currently budget is \$44,000 short. Will need to use \$44,000 in reserves to cover budget and not raise taxes.

General - .3856, F/M - .08110, Road and Bridge - .0672, Debt Requirement - .03033, and proposed tax rate - .56423.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reichardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reed, passed (3-1).  
Commissioner Rinn opposed.  
Order #19-289*

**5. Consideration and action to approve Contract for Election Services with the City of Gloster.**

Approve City of Gloster to lease election equipment from Austin County.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reichardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).  
Order #19-290*

6. **Consideration and action to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the State of Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and Austin County for provision of equipment and consumables.**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reichardt, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #19-291**

7. **Consideration and action to approve Right-Of-Way to Diversified Land Management for installation of Seismic Receiver Sensors along county roads in Precinct 2.**

Put sensors in right-of-way with map included.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Lamp, passed (2-1).*  
*Commissioner Rinn abstained. Commissioner Reichardt opposed.*  
**Order #19-292**

8. **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 accept a special donation of 10) level IIIA Ballistic Helmets and 10) “Go Bags” to the Austin County Sheriff’s Office per Local Government Code 81.032.**
  - b. **Consideration and action to authorize hardship variance for DA Employee to carry over 48 unused vacation hours.**

Commissioner Reichardt requested to pull b.

Approve a.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reichardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #19-293**

Commissioner Reichardt requested an explanation for unused vacation hours.

No one from District Attorney’s office in Courtroom.

Agenda item #4 continued.

Set Public Hearing for September 3, 2019 at 5 p.m. September 9, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. regular meeting.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).*  
**Order #19-294**

9. **Budgetary and Financial Claims – action as appropriate.**
  - a. **County Treasurer**

**i. Payroll & Escrow Report – 08.16.2019**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reichardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).  
Order #19-295*

- 10. Written end-of-the month reports submitted by County Offices.**  
a. Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3 – July 2019  
b. Library System - July 2019

*Motion to Accept: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).  
Order #19-296*

**11. Commissioners Court Inquiry.**

Burn Ban is on.

Agenda item #8b continued.

Extend vacation hours until September 30, 2019.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reichardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).  
Order #19-297*

*Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Reichardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).  
Order #19-298*

Court adjourned at 11:42 p.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 August 19, 2019.**

Date: September 9, 2019

Carrie Gregor

**Carrie Gregor, Austin County Clerk  
Clerk of Commissioners Court  
Austin County, Texas  
By: Andrea Cardenas, Deputy**



**FILED**

2019 SEP -9 AM 8:49

*Carrie Gregor*  
COUNTY CLERK  
AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS