



DIANE DAY
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

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

PH: 979-227-3144
FAX: 979-865-0336

COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

Order #25-181

November 10, 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
M. Laura Hernandez Pena, Chief Deputy 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, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)

1. Petitions or Requests from the Public.

Mathew Johnson (TX Parks and Wildlife) introduced himself as the biologist for Austin and Fort Bend County and stated he is here for whatever the county may need wildlife related. Business cards were provided to those in attendance of court and media outlets in attendance.

Judge Lapham inquired about the increase in the number of deer hit along the roadway and who should be contacted in regards to reporting the hit or injured wildlife.

Mathew Johnson stated the public may contact the game warden or himself. Contact information can be located on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

2. Consideration and action to approve update to Sexual Assault Team Membership.

Per Brandy Robinson (Criminal District Attorney), the statutes require the response team to seek approval from the commissioners' court when there is a vacancy on the board. Due to multiple changes this has not been working. Therefore, the team is requesting blanket approval for membership to be approved by Board so it is not necessary to come to Commissioners Court.

Judge Lapham requested a simple page policy listing board members.

Brandy Robinson (Criminal District Attorney) did a bi-annual report and a new bi-annual report will be due in December which will include all leadership. This will be provided to Commissioners Court when available.

Judge Lapham requested that a list of upcoming plans be brought with the bi-annual report when available.

3. Discussion and action regarding fuel log policy implementation.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) has called around to different fuel log companies. There are different types of WEX cards. It was also noted that Harris County is currently facing issues of deputies using their cards for personal use. There are multiple cases for fraud in county governments.

Commissioner Rinn stated our constituents are all hard workers and its just accountability.

Judge Lapham explained they are trying to find something with more behind the scenes so not an extra part on employees.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) advised if a solution can not be found then scanning receipts will be the route the county takes.

Commissioner Rinn inquired if pictures of the pump would work.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) stated pictures of the pump would work but that is an extra step for the employee.

Sheriff Brandes expressed his appreciation to Billy Doherty (County Auditor) for looking out for employees and not getting something with extra steps. Often deputies are in a rush responding to calls and do not have time for extra steps.

4. Discussion regarding the purchase of Caterpillar 310-07 Excavator for Pct. 3 R&B, and action as appropriate.

Commissioner Cerny explained their current Gradeall is currently in and out of the shop causing them to look to purchase a new one. Currently have a demo that appears to work good for them.

Commissioner Cerny motion to approve purchase of a Caterpillar 310-07 Excavator not to exceed \$171,000.00.

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

**5. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding renewal of:
a. UMR**

Scott Wallace (County Insurance Representative) provided handouts to court for 2026-2027 fees.

Judge Lapham inquired on how often fees are paid by the county.

Scott Wallace (County Insurance Representative) stated payment is per claim. Every time a medical claim is submitted this is what they charge. UMR ensures we do not go above our 125%.

Judge Lapham expressed that the court should vote on this one.

Commissioner Reed motions to stay with UMR.

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

b. Stop Loss

Packet of claims presented to court and reviewed.

The court discussed staying with HCC or changing to Berkshire Hathaway.

Commissioner Reed inquired with Tara Wise (HR Administrative Assistant) on which route she recommends to go being she deals with the companies the most.

Tara Wise (HR Administrative Assistant) stated she is ok with changing to Berkshire Hathaway.

Judge Lapham inquired with Scott Wallace (County Insurance Representative) if he recommends changing to Berkshire Hathaway.

Scott Wallace (County Insurance Representative) does recommend to change to Berkshire Hathaway.

Commissioner Reed motioned to go with Berkshire Hathaway for Stop Loss.

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

c. MetLife

Handout provided to the court. Per Scott Wallace (County Insurance Representative), there is no increase.

Commissioner Reed motioned to stay with MetLife for supplemental policies.

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

d. Smith Rx

Per Scott Wallace (County Insurance Representative), Smith Rx is integrated with UMR and has no increases. This plan helps with pharmacy claims. Coupons instituted in September.

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

6. Consideration and action regarding new vehicle purchase for Constable, Pct. 1

Per Judge Lapham enough money was set aside to finance vehicles.

Constable Lance Johnson (Precinct 1) received three quotes. The first quote is from Cavender Auto Country for a new 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Trailboss for the price of \$56,673.11. The second quote is from Cavender Auto Country for a used 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Trailboss for a total price of \$52,768.73. The third quote is from Tegeler for a new 2026 Chevrolet Silverado LT for the price of \$54,452.05

Commissioner Cerny inquired on which vehicle was preferred.

Constable Lance Johnson (Precinct 1) stated he preferred one of the trailboss.

Commissioner Cerny inquired on how old his current vehicle is.

Constable Lance Johnson (Precinct 1) expressed that it was approximately 10 years old with 106,000 miles. Currently it does need new phasers.

Commissioner Cerny motioned to approve the purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Trailboss for the price of \$56,673.11

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

7. Consideration and action to approve compensation for Auditor's Office new hire/ rehire, above 2025-2026 Compensation Order Entry Level/ Introductory Level Rate

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), his rehire has taken a pay cut coming back and would like to start her at \$25.35.

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

8. Consideration and action to grant 3 sick days to Auditor's Office new / rehire.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) stated he has asked for this in the past and is now curious that if we are going to rehire and grant vacation that maybe a policy can be created.

Commissioner Rinn inquired how many rehires we usually have.

Per Tara Wise (HR Administrative Assistant), there are approximately 5 rehires a year.

Judge Lapham emphasized that majority of rehires are EMS or Law Enforcement. It has been done for the county judges office before so Judge Lapham is okay with it.

Commissioner Reed inquired if it is better to grant sick or vacation time.

Judge Lapham stated it is better to do vacation since that is what we have granted in past.

Commissioner Reed motions to give 1 week of vacation.

Per Judge Lapham, motion dies.

Commissioner Reed motion to grant 3 vacation days.

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

Commissioner Rinn inquired if the county will pay out if employee leaves.

Judge Lapham stated he thinks they should come back to court and ask.

Commissioner Cerny agrees to bring back to court before paying out.

9. Discussion regarding Building/ Construction Projects and action as appropriate.

Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) provided updates on Wallis, Industry, and Bellville EMS stations, Justice Center, Courthouse generator, Command Building, Wendt Street County Annex Building, and West End Library.

10. Consideration and action to solicit bids for depository.

Bryan Haevischer (County Treasurer) stated lately there have been many changes with the banking. With all the changes and issues that have come with the changes it is requested that approval be granted to solicit bids for depository to see what is available.

Judge Lapham stated the county had a contract with First National Bank of Bellville.

Per Bryan Haevischer (County Treasurer), Cadence Bank said they would acknowledge the contract. Issues keep occurring since the change so still wanting to go out and solicit for bids.

Commissioner Cerny motions to solicit for information on depository.

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

11. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Consideration and action to approve Minutes:

i. October 13, 2025

b. Consideration and action to approve a one-time variance request from Subdivision regulations to divide a 4.57-acre tract from a 62.272-acre parent tract on FM 1094, Pct. 1.

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

12. Budgetary and Financial Claims- action as appropriate.

a. Payment of Claim

Total: \$2,332,055.60

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

b. Fund Transfers

Total: \$2,054,855.70 (November 10, 2025)

Total: \$53,076.08 (November 10, 2025)

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

c. Budget Amendments

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor) will bring amendments at end of the month.

d. County Auditor's Review of Finances

e. County Treasurer

i. Payroll and Escrow Reports

1. 10.31.2025

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

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

a. Statutory Court- September 2025

b. Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3- October 2025

c. Jail Population – October 2025

d. AgriLife – October 2025

e. TxDMV – October 2025

f- OSSF- October 2025

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

Court Recessed at 10:16am.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A closed meeting will be held concerning the following items:

1. Personnel Matter- Library

2. Economic Development- EmberYork

3. Economic Development- The Grove

4. Economic Development- Brentwood

Court Reconvened at 11:59am.

14. Action as appropriate on Executive Session.

Commissioner Reed motions to appoint Marty Kellner as Director of the county libraries.

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

No action on Executive Session items #2-4.

15. Commissioners Court Inquiry.

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

Court Adjourned at 12:01pm.

**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 November 10, 2025.

Date: December 4, 2025
Diane Day, Austin County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioners Court
Austin County, Texas

By: Allison Gerik
Allison Gerik, Deputy Clerk



FILED

2025 DEC -4 PM 4: 39

Diane Day
COUNTY CLERK
AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS