

**AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK  
265 N. CHESLEY ST., Ste. 7  
BELLVILLE, TEXAS 77418  
(979) 227-3144**

**COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES**

**November 12, 2024** 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  
Mark Lamp, Commissioner, Precinct 1  
Robert "Bobby" Rinn, Commissioner, Precinct 2  
Leroy Cerny, Commissioner, Precinct 3  
Adilene Juarez, Deputy Clerk

Commissioner Reed absent.

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

**INVOCATION**

**PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Lamp, passed (3-0)*

**1. Proclamations and Special Recognitions:**

**2. Presentation by AgriLife regarding the District 11 County Judges and Commissioners Conference.**

**3. Discussion regarding Burn Ban and action as appropriate.**

Burn Ban will remain in effect, and will be re-addressed in 2 weeks.

No action.

**4. Discussion and action to accept resignation of Todd Morris, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2.**

Judge Lapham presented Todd Morris (Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2) resignation letter from Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2 position and his transfer back to Austin County Sheriff's Department effective November 19, 2024.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-319**

**5. Presentation of Texas Commission on Jail Standards Comprehensive Inspection Report conducted October 23-24, 2024.**

Per Sheriff Jack Brandes, Austin County Jail was in compliance with Texas Minimum Jail Standards. Captain Valdo Paredes and Lieutenant Ervin Montgomery were commended for their excellent work in maintaining cleanliness and organization of jail.

Captain Valdo Paredes addressed that passing jail inspection helps future inspections by remaining at lower lever, and not having on-sight inspections until following year.

Per Judge Lapham speaking on behalf of Commissioner Court side, he appreciates all jail staff for always maintaining professionalism, speaks highly of leadership.

**6. Discussion regarding property division and action as appropriate.**

Per Judge Lapham, property division over 10acres, that have road frontage and no roads are constructed normally don't need court approval. Land that creates one lot or more less than 10acres will have to go to court for approval. Family partitions are also not brought for approval, as long as all guidelines are followed.

Per Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer), there are exemptions in state code that are granted to the county to allow land division without plating. An example, Waller County, has a letter of plat not required form with engineer signing off. He does not mind taking responsibility if court agrees to take over letter of plat not required, but he suggests that there be two signatures, Engineer signature of approval and Judges signature as a Representative of the Court.

Judge Lapham inquires that as long as guidelines are followed, and land is over 10 acres, should land owners come to court.

Per Judge Lapham, if letter of plat not required form is provided, they will have to add verbiage stating whether needs court approval, or if meets requirements does not need court approval.

No action.

**7. Consideration and action to replace 2019 Ford F-250 SO vehicle.**

- a. **Declare 2019 Ford F-250 S.O. vehicle (VIN: 1FT7W2B66KED14056) as surplus.**
- b. **Approve trade in of 2019 F-250 S.O. vehicle to off-set the purchase of a new vehicle.**
- c. **Approve purchase of 2024 Chevrolet Silverado. Balance to be paid for using S.O. discretionary funds.**

Per Sergeant Darracq, Chief Matt Walls is currently driving a 2019 Ford F-250 and request Commissioner Court to allow removal of truck from inventory, and use it as a trade in for new vehicle. Difference will be paid with Sheriff Discretionary fund. Vehicle being requested is a Chevy 1500 (Special Police Package Vehicle). Serves the needs of Chief Matt Walls that responds to certain calls.

Chief Matt Walls, addressed that before being promoted to chief he was already driving a Chevy, so all equipment was removed form vehicle and placed in storge. Which is why they deciding to proceed with new 2024 Chevrolet Silverado to add stored equipment from previous truck.

Per Commissioner Rinn, Pct. 2 is looking to purchase new vehicles, and asked if instead of 2019 Ford F-250 being traded in can vehicle be switched over to Road and Bridge Department.

Judge Lapham clarified Road and Bridge will pitch in the \$23,500.00 trade in value for the 2019 Ford F-250 to be transferred over to their department.

Per Sergeant Darracq, the deal should not be affected, pricing will just go back to original value.

Per Judge Lapham discussion 7a. 2019 Ford F-250 will not be declared as surplus, vehicle will just be switched to Road and Bridge Department.

Per Judge Lapham discussion 7b. approve trade in of 2019 Ford F-150 will not be approved.

Commissioner Cerny motion to approve discussion 7c. purchase of 2024 Chevrolet Silverado at \$30,335.00 for Sheriff's Department.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-320**

**8. Discussion regarding the purchase of (3) Ford F-150 Responder S.O. vehicles with SB22 funding and action as appropriate.**

Sergeant Darracq, requests the purchase of three Ford F-150 found available through same dealer as 2024 Chevy Silverado, and use SB22 Funding.



Per Sergeant Darracq, would like to add that they were able to the save Sheriff's Office \$140K-\$150K in upfit charges for these three (3) vehicles plus two (2) that were previously discussed. They have sufficient equipment to equip all trucks, and labor would be done by experienced Sherriff office personnel.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-321**

**9. Discussion regarding amending the FY 2024-2025 Compensation order and action as appropriate.**

Sheriff Jack Brandes & Chief Deputy Walls decided to move Sergeant Darracq from Patrol Sergeant to Lieutenant – Sheriff's Office Business Administrator.

Per Sheriff Jack Brandes, Sergeant Darracq has done an excellent job handling office fundings and budgets.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-322**

**10. Discussion to approve Site Plan for Romero Dog Kennels, Pct. 4 and action as appropriate.**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-323**

**11. Consideration and action to award contact for archeology survey services for the GLO-MIT Allen's Creek Drainage Project (22-085-007-D235) for Sectors 2 and 3**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-324**

**12. Consideration and action to set retirement match for calendar year 2024.**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-325**

**13. Discussion regarding the Industry EMS construction project and action as appropriate.**

Commissioner Rinn, (Pct. 2) spoke in regards to completing construction project at Industry EMS Station.

Per Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) total pricing from Shellback for concrete work at EMS is \$59,447.00, includes concrete, sidewalk, dirt work and some utility work.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-326**

**14. Consideration and action to approve replat of the replat for Saddleback Ranch Estates.**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-327**

**15. Discussion regarding the purchase of new Crew cab, ¾ ton, 4x4 truck(s) for Pct. 2 and action as appropriate.**

Per Commissioner Rinn (Pct. 2), only going out for bidding of one (1) truck.

Per Judge Lapham bids for new Crew cab, ¾ ton, 4x4 truck are due on December 6, 2024 at 4 p.m. and turned in at the County Judges office. Any questions, please contact Commissioner Rinn. Bids will be Open on December 9, 2024.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-328**

**16. 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 approve minutes
  - i. October 11, 2024
  - ii. October 14, 2024
- b. Discussion and action to renew agreement with Dr. Benjamin Oei to serve as medical director of Emergency Medical Services of Austin County
- c. Discussion to declare 1997 Ford F-350 VIN 1FDKF37F8VEC24769 from Pct. 1 R&B as surplus and action as appropriate.
- d. Discussion and action to declare the following EMS items as surplus:
  - i. 2009 Ford Expedition VIN 1FMFU1599EB27138
  - ii. 6 – Panasonic Tough book laptop CF-19
  - iii. 1 – Panasonic Tough book laptop CF-28
  - iv. 1 – HP Desktop all-in-one computer

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-329**

**17. Budgetary and Financial Claims - action as appropriate.**

**a. Payment of Claims**

Total = \$1,064,335.39

Approve Payment Claims.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-330**

**b. Fund Transfers**

Total = \$495,845.08

Approve Fund Transfers.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-**

**c. Budget Amendments**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-331**

**d. County Auditor's Review of finances**

**e. County Treasurer**

**i. Payroll and Escrow reports**

**1. 11.01.2024**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-332**

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

- a. Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3 & 4 – October 2024**
- b. Criminal Court – August, September, & October 2024**
- c. Civil Court – August, September, & October 2024**
- d. Family Court – August, September, & October 2024**
- e. Jail Population – October 2024**
- f. TxDMV – October 2024**
- g. Constable Pct. 1 & 2 – October 2024**
- h. Library – October 2024**
- i. OSSF – October 2024**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0)*  
**Order #24-333**

Court Recessed at 10:04 a.m.



### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A closed meeting will be held concerning the following items:

- 1 Personnel Matter
- 2 Economic Development Matter
- 3 Real Estate Matter
- 4 Real Estate Matter

Court Reconvened at 10:34 a.m.

### **19. Action as appropriate on Executive Session.**

No action on 1-3.

Commissioner Lamp motion to allow the County Judge to accept the land offer for Highway 36 North Property.

*Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Lamp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (3-0).*  
**Order #24-334**

### **20. Commissioners Court Inquiry.**

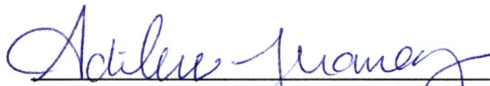
*Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Lamp, passed (3-0).*  
**Order #24-335**

Court Adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

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

**I, Austin County Clerk, attest to the minutes of the Commissioners Court proceedings for November 12, 2024.**

Date: November 27, 2024

  
Adilene Juarez, Deputy Clerk  
Of Commissioners Court  
Austin County, Texas



**FILED**

2024 NOV 27 PM 2:46