



DIANE DAY
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

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

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COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

Order #25-169

June 23, 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

10:00 A.M. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

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

1. Petitions or requests from the public

Kim Rinn stated that effective July 1, 2025 paper tags will no longer be issued by dealerships or registration offices. Temporary License plates will be issued and will be color coordinated. Local Law Enforcement have been made aware. This will be a state wide change. Paper plates might be seen for a short time during this transition.

2. Consideration and action to approve tax sale offer on property ID R000000153.

Hayden Barkley, attorney with Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, LLP, stated they have received an offer for the above property located off highway 159 on the way to Hempstead. The bid offer is \$5,679.61 which is less than the listing amount. Property is currently owned by Austin County, Bellville Independent School District, and Bellville Hospital District. The property is currently not bringing any value to the county.

The bidder is not a contiguous property owner. The court believes this will cause future problems with the permit department due to the property not being big enough for building permits. There is also a structure partially on the piece of land.

Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, LLP has spoken to the bidder and advised him that a building permit would not be passed for the property.

The court agrees to turn down bid offer on property and request Hayden Barkley to send bid letters to adjoining property owners.

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

3. Consideration and action to award bid for the following Pct. 2 projects:
a. Construction of Bridge, Hurtig Road

Proposed Bid:
Wakefield Bridge \$586,850.00
Fuqua Construction \$623,374.40

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) requests the court to award bid to low bidder, Wakefield Bridge.

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

b. Construction of Bridge, Shupak Road

Proposed Bids:
Wakefield Bridge \$458,700.00
Fuqua Construction \$654,540.70

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) requests the court to award bid to low bidder, Wakefield Bridge.

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

4. Discussion and action to set public hearing date for proposed stop signs at the following Pct. 3 intersections:
a. Stop sign- Kulow Rd @ Meier Rd
b. Stop sign- Old Columbus Rd @ Meier Rd
c. Yield signs- Jalowy Rd @ Kulow Rd

Per Commissioner Cerny, this intersection has become very dangerous causing a safety concern. To help solve this Commissioner Cerny request to hold public hearing for stop and yield signs at the intersections. A traffic study would not have to be completed to make this change.

Bids will Open July 28 at 9am.

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

- 5. Consideration and action to increase Austin County Property Tax Exemptions for:**
- a. Homestead**
 - b. Persons 65 years of age and older**
 - c. Veterans**

Judge Tim Lapham presented 2024 tax values chart.

Commissioner Reed asked if we should expect a higher value than \$5,000,000.00.

Judge Tim Lapham stated this is a very safe value and the county should not expect it to hit in a negative way.

Commissioner Rinn motions to increase homestead to 3% and increase 65 years of age and over to \$50,000.00

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

- 6. Consideration and action to authorize advertisement for bid proposals:**
- a. Road Material/ Gravel**
 - b. Hauling**
 - c. Asphalts, Liquid Asphalt, Emulsion and Dust Control**
 - d. Corrugated Culverts**
 - e. HDPE Culvert Pipe**
 - f. Concrete/Cement**
 - g. Fuel (gasoline & Diesel)**
 - h. Surface Treatments, Asphalt Laydown & Asphalt Milling**

Bids due August 14, 2025.

Bids open August 25, 2025.

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

- 7. Consideration and action to approve purchase of 2018 Freightliner CA 125 Cascadia for Pct. 4.**

Commissioner Reed advised the old truck has a cracked frame so he has located a new truck to replace it.

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

8. Discussion and action to award construction contract for Grubb's Road Improvement Project, TXCDBG Contract #CDV23-0303, Austin County, Pct.

Commissioner Mikel motions to award Construction Contract for Austin County Grubbs Road Improvements Project #CDV23-0303 to S&D Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$709,309.02.

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

9. Discussion regarding employee supplemental insurance policies and action as appropriate.

Commissioner Rinn stated he has spoken with Austin County HR to discuss a 2nd employee supplemental insurance plan. Currently the only supplemental insurance plan offered is with Aflac.

NFC has offered to provide one big policy with a monthly cost of \$25.55 for individual and \$51.68 for Family.

Tara Wise (HR Administrative Assistant) stated if NFC offer is accepted Aflac would not be able to write new policies.

Commissioner Cerny motions the court to go out for Employee supplemental insurance bids.

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

10. Consideration and action to approve office space lease agreement with Texas Forest Service.

Per Judge Lapham, Texas Forest Service is needing office space to help provide a quicker response time in event of emergency. It was discussed whether they should be in the courthouse or the annex on Wendt Street. Judge Lapham request they be located at the courthouse downstairs.

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

11. Consideration and action to approve Resolution in Support of Application for Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant Funding.

Per Kim Rinn (Tax Assessor and Collector), the voting department has been given the opportunity for the HAVA Grant, which is based upon voter registration numbers. Kim Rinn will investigate matching at 20%.

This grant will be used towards voting security, equipment upgrades, secure delivery, and election door locks for equipment.

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

12. Discussion and action regarding Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant.

Commissioner Reed and several others attempted to obtain the Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant for Austin County for a new shooting range that was discussed. They were close to receiving the grant but have discussed it and believe it is best to not move forward with the grant due to the liability of public use, hour usage offset, and the 50-year involvement length Texas Parks and Wildlife would have with the shooting range.

Commissioner Reed advised they will not move forward.

This grant has not been awarded.

13. Discussion regarding update of outside audit and action as appropriate.

Billy Doherty (Auditor) has not been given a presentation date for 2022-2023 audit. Billy Doherty expects it to be in July. Outside audit is being completed by Pattillo Brown & Hill, LLP.

14. Consideration and action to approve Boring Permit Request from Verdun Oil Company on Cutoff Rd, Pct. 2 contingent on meeting depth requirements and fixing low water crossing at Wolf Rd.

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) requests the court to allow Verdun Oil Company to move forward with permit for pipeline and low water crossing due to continuous damage. To move forward with projects a signature will be needed by Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer), Judge Lapham, or Commissioners.

Commissioner Rinn abstains.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0-1)

15. **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. Approve Minutes:
 - i. April 21, 2025
 - ii. April 28, 2025
 - ii. April 28, 2025 Workshop
 - b. Consideration and action to renew/ amendment of the Clinical Agreement between Texas A&M Extension Service EMS Program and Austin County EMS.
 - c. Consideration and action to accept special donation of \$100 to the Austin County S.O. per Local Government Code 81.032

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

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

Total \$1,374,952.63

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

b. Fund Transfers

Total \$104,055.83 (June 6, 2025)

Total \$16,941.44 (June 13, 2025)

Total \$ 735,43.90 (June 23, 2025)

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

c. Budget Amendments

d. County Auditor's review of finances

e. County Treasurer's

i. Payroll and Escrow Report – 06.13.2025

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

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

- a. Criminal Court, Civil Court, Family Court – May 2025
- b. Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2 – May 2025
- c. Constable, Pct. 2 & Pct. 4 – May 2025
- d TxDMV – May 2025

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

Court Recessed at 11:19am.

Court Reconvened at 12:35pm.

18. Discussion and action regarding personnel policy revisions.

Tara Wise (HR Administrative Assistant) thanked the court for the workshop and putting this on the agenda.

A Policy workbook was presented to Judge Lapham and Commissioners.

Tara Wise (HR Administrative Assistant) is requesting the court to approve the changes made to the Employee Policy Handbook.

Court discussed including legal references to support. It was agreed to take all legal references out.

The remainder of the Employee Policy Handbook will be reviewed at the next court.

Court Recessed at 1:52

Court Reconvened at 2:19 at the Bellville EMS Station.

19. Building Projects Update.

Court attendees walked through and received current projects update from Shellback Construction.

Commissioners and Judge Lapham request changes be made to outdoor plans.

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

20. Commissioners Court Inquiry.

Court adjourned at 3:16pm

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

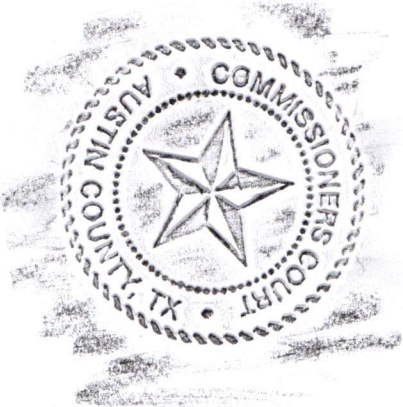
ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ON FILE WITH COUNTY CLERK AS PROVIDED
BY
COMMISSIONERS COURT

I, Diane Day, Austin County Clerk, attest to the minutes of the Commissioners Court proceedings for June 23, 2025.

Date: June 30, 2025

Diane Day, Austin County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioners Court
Austin County, Texas

By: Allison Gerik
Allison Gerik, Deputy Clerk



FILED

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