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AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

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COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

November 14, 2022 Austin County Commissioners Court met in the 2nd 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
Chip Reed, Commissioner, Precinct 4
Andrea Cardenas, Deputy County Clerk

9:00 A.M. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

CONSIDERATION/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Remove item #12 and #16.

Approve amended agenda.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #22-444

1. Proclamations, Resolutions and Special Recognition: Grace Holtkamp

Presented Grace Holtkamp with award.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #22-445

2. Petitions or Requests from the Public.

3. Discussion regarding Burn Ban and action as appropriate.

Lift ban.

*Motion to Lift: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #22-446*

4. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding building projects and financing.

Per Judge Lapham, slowly moving forward with the EMS stations. Ran into septic line issue in Industry. Cost a little bit to get it moved.

Per Commissioner Reed, pad is built for Wallis EMS station. Waiting on dirt to be hauled out.

Per Commissioner Rinn, Industry EMS station still on hold. Unknown when pipe will be in.

Per Commissioner Lamp, would like to build a cover for equipment. Past estimate for a 50' x 75' was \$50,000.

Per Commissioner Reed, estimate was \$80,000 – \$83,000 for building.

Commissioner Cerny needs a building as well.

Judge Lapham asked Commissioners to get quotes not to exceed \$75,000.

Per Commissioner Rinn, tower and hand radios at Wendt Street building need to be addressed.

Per Roy Mercer (Emergency Management), tower is a backup for communications. County has some high frequency equipment which is used for long distance communications during emergencies. Recently equipment was replaced due to Courthouse being struck by lightning. Equipment will be housed at Wendt Street building, but needs an antenna to communicate with surrounding areas. Antenna is 39' x 6' and weighs about 50 lbs. It will need to be up in the air about 40' – 50'.

Judge Lapham suggested to get a proposal together then Court will review.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) asked Sheriff Brandes if his building was complete. Sheriff unsure, will find out.

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), there are two major issues with two air condition units at Justice Center. They have been working on it.

5. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding road construction projects.

Per Commissioner Lamp, Woodley, Nelius and Kiemstedt bridges contracted thru State to be replaced in Summer have been pushed back. State unable to get some building material here. Continuing with routine maintenance. Boggy Creek right-of-way is 100', but still not wide enough to manage equipment through there.

Per Commissioner Rinn, doing routine maintenance. Still waiting for contractors to begin work on four bridges.

Per Commissioner Cerny, continuing with routine maintenance.

Per Commissioner Reed, continuing with routine maintenance.

Item #4 continue.

Per Judge Lapham, County applied for Texas Historical grant when Courthouse had a leak on third floor. There is money to fix the Courthouse, but it has to be fixed the way they say to fix it. Also, County has to give them a preservation easement for 20 – 30 years. Maintenance Coordinator was able to fix leak issue. If grant funds are accepted, Texas Historical Commission decides what type of work can and can't be done at the Courthouse. Recommend not getting Texas Historical Commission involved.

Decline grant from Texas Historical Commission.

Motion to Decline: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).
Order #22-447

6. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding renewal of:

- a. **UMR**
- b. **Stop Loss**
- c. **MetLife**

Scott Wallace (Wallace & Associates) reviewed options he negotiated with the insurance companies.

Scott Wallace recommended renewal with UMR, Toyoko Marine Stop Loss option 1 and Met Life for supplementals.

Approve renewal with UMR as 3rd party Administrator, choose option 1 Toyoko Marine HCC for Stop Loss and Met Life for supplemental coverage.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #22-448

7. Discussion and action regarding a new chassis/complete ambulance to replace ambulance involved in fleet accident.

Per Walter Morrow (EMS Director), ambulance had a head on collision with an impaired driver. Cost for a new ambulance is \$237,000. Remounting the box is \$161,000 which is a difference of \$75,000. Box would be good for another 1 ½ years. Renting an ambulance for \$400 per day. Insurance did reimburse for half a week. Insurance claim has been exhausted and will not pay out anymore. At this time, vehicle will not go more than 55 mph safely.

Approve purchasing chassis from Frazier.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).
Order #22-449

8. Discussion and action regarding Senate Bill #8 in regards to state funded education for EMS Personnel.

Per Walter Morrow (EMS Director), due to EMS recruiting and retention issue, Senate Bill 8 was passed. This created funds to have EMS employees advance education or pay untrained people to go to EMS school.

Reimbursement is \$10,000 per employee and a way for advanced EMT's to become Paramedics. Must work 2 years for EMS after completion. Would give Billy Doherty (County Auditor) permission to set up password account to pay students.

Move forward with State funded education program.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #22-450

9. Discussion and action regarding adding the position of Field Training Officer (FTO) to the EMS Lieutenant line item pay rate.

Per Walter Morrow (EMS Director), add title of Field Training Officer to Lieutenant title.

Motion to Add: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #22-451

10. Discussion regarding partnership with Rapid Financial Solution to replace Jury Check creation.

Cost of .62 cents to give potential Juror a card to pay jury fee.

No action.

11. Discussion and action regarding RFQs for Engineering in regards to pipeline installation.

Accept RFQ's for engineering services by December 9, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at Road and Bridge Office. Will advertise online.

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

Order #22-452

13. Discussion and action regarding Interlocal Agreement between Austin County and Calhoun County for Inmate Housing.

Per Sheriff Brandes, just a backup for inmate housing. Cost shows \$55 per day per inmate.

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

Order #22-453

14. Discussion and action regarding Interlocal Agreement between Austin County and Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences for Postmortem Services.

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

Order #22-454

15. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding Request of budgeted funds for Austin County Crime Stoppers.

Per Commissioner Reed, there are a couple of years prior that Austin County Crime Stoppers didn't request budgeted funds. Would like to request those funds along with this year's budgeted funds.

Per Sheriff Brandes, Crime Stoppers is needed in the community. It provides tips to law enforcement from individuals who may not give tips otherwise. Individuals may have warrants or other issues.

Per Andrea Cardenas (Austin County Crime Stoppers Secretary), Austin County Crime Stoppers President, Melissa Seureau, submitted letter requesting funds from this year's budget and last two years. Austin County Crime Stoppers, Inc. has a new board and is starting at zero. Requesting funds for operational expenses to reestablish Crime Stoppers program.

Commissioner Lamp asked where people can send donations to support Crime Stoppers. Per Andrea Cardenas, to Justice Center 265 N Chesley Street, Bellville, TX 77418. As of right now, Crime Stoppers does not have a post office box.

Amend current year budget to give Austin County Crime Stoppers, Inc. funds for this year and two years prior.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #22-455

- 17. **Discussion and action to authorize one-time variance from Subdivision Regulations to subdivide a 2.449 acre tract, a 2.693 acre tract, a 5.545 acre tract, and a 5.321 acre tract from a 16 acre parent tract on Zaruba Road at Grotto Road, Pct. 4.**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #22-456

- 18. **Discussion and action to authorize one-time variance from Subdivision Regulations to subdivide a 5.375 acre tract and a 5.375 acre tract out of a 10.75 acre tract on Raccoon Bend Road, Pct. 1**

Motion to Authorize: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).
Order #22-457

- 19. **Discussion and action to advertise for additional Road and Bridge Materials:**
 - a. **Stabilized Sand.**
 - b. **Proprietary Polymers.**

Advertise for Stabilized Sand and Proprietary Polymers. Bids due December 9, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.to Road and Bridge office.

Motion to Advertise: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0).
Order #22-458

- 20. **Discussion and action as appropriate to accept Budget for Austin County ESD #1.**

Motion to Accept: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).
Order #22-459

Item #10 continued.

Heath Rosenstien (Rapid Financial Solution), explained how the Jury pay cards would work. Stated once he explained it to Sue Murphy (District Clerk) she was on board as well.

Move forward with Rapid Financial Solutions program to replace Jury checks.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).
Order #22-460

- 21. Discussion regarding Private Roadway Name Request Form and action as appropriate.**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).
Order #22-461

- 22. Discussion regarding proposed time sheet revision and action as appropriate.**

No action.

- 23. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding proposed change to section 8.08 of Employee Policy Manual, concerning Civil Leave.**

No action.

- 24. Discussion and action regarding Interlocal Agreement(s) for Jail Services between Austin County and:**
- a. City of Bellville**
 - b. Township of San Felipe**
 - c. City of Sealy**
 - d. City of Wallis**

Increase to \$75 per day.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #22-462

- 25. Discussion and action to move one dispatcher certificate pay from basic to intermediate.**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0).
Order #22-463

- 26. Discussion and action to accept Conflicts Disclosure Statement between Commissioner Rinn and Verdun Oil Exploration, LLC.**

Motion to Accept: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0).
Order #22-464

- 27. Consideration and action to accept Superheavy or Oversized Bond from Verdun Oil Company for Pct. 2 roads in the amount of \$555,000.00.**

Motion to Accept: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (3-0).
Commissioner Rinn abstained.
Order #22-465

- 28. Discussion regarding Austin County Historical Commission Appointments and action as appropriate.**

List of appointments was not submitted.

No action.

- 29. Discussion and action to allow District Attorney to assign state supplement to the other employees upon annual written request.**

Travis Koehn (District Attorney) wants to assign his State supplement of \$3,500 to his employees.

Motion to Allow: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0).
Order #22-466

- 30. 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. **Approval of Minutes**
 - i. **October 24, 2022**
- b. **Consideration and action to ratify right-of-way utility installation by Industry Telephone Company on Track Rd, Pct. 2**
- c. **Consideration and action to ratify right-of-way utility installation by Industry Telephone Company on Wilde Rd, Pct. 2**
- d. **Consideration and action to ratify right-of-way utility installation by Industry Telephone Company on Franke Rd and Brune Rd, Pct. 2**
- e. **Consideration and action to approve required schooling application for Travis J. Koehn, District Attorney, to be held November 30 - December 2, 2022 at TDCAA Elected Prosecutor Conference Horseshoe Bay Resort, Texas.**
- f. **Consideration and action to accept special donation of \$1,000 per Local Government Code 81.032 to Sheriff's Office.**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #22-467

Court recessed at 11:19 a.m.

Court reconvened at 11:26 a.m.

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

Total = \$672,083.63

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), add \$3,000 for Austin County Crime Stoppers, Inc. Total = \$675,083.63

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #22-468

b. Fund Transfers

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #22-469

- c. Budget Amendments**
- d. County Auditor's Review of Finances**

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), looks pretty good.

- e. County Treasurer**
 - i. Payroll and Escrow Reports**
 - 1. 11.04.22**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0).
Order #22-470

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

- a. District Court - October 2022**
- b. County Court - October 2022**
- c. On-Site Sewage Facility - October 2022**
- d. Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 - September 2022**
- e. Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 - October 2022**
- f. Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4 - October 2022**
- g. Constable, Precinct 1-September and October 2022**
- h. Constable Precinct 2 - October 2022**
- i. Texas Department of Motor Vehicles - October 2022**
- j. Library Annual Report - 2021 - 2022**

Motion to Accept: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0).
Order #22-471

33. Commissioners Court Inquiry.

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #22-472

Court adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

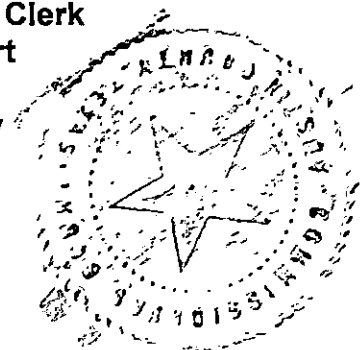
ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ON FILE WITH COUNTY CLERK AS PROVIDED BY
COMMISSIONERS COURT

I, Carrie Gregor, Austin County Clerk, attest to the minutes of the Commissioners
Court proceedings for November 14, 2022.

Date: December 5, 2022

Carrie Gregor

Carrie Gregor, Austin County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioners Court
Austin County, Texas
By: Rebecca Thomas, Deputy



FILED

2022 DEC -5 AM 9:05

Carrie Gregor
COUNTY CLERK
AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS