



**DIANE DAY**  
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

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

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## **COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES**

### **Order #25-171**

July 28, 2025 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  
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

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

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **INVOCATION**

#### **PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)*

- 1. Public hearing on proposed new traffic signs in Pct. 3.**
  - a. Stop sign- Meier Rd @ Old Columbus Rd**
  - b. Stop sign – Meier Rd @ Kulow Rd**
  - c. Yield signs – Jalowy Rd @ Kulow Rd**

Commissioner Cerny stated the signs would be much needed to improve the roads and intersections.

Judge Lapham advised a court date will be set to approve placement of signs.

- 2. Proclamations and Special Recognitions.**
  - a. Austin County Historical Commission**

Distinguished Service Award was presented. Picture taken with court.

### **3. Petitions or Requests from the Public.**

Walter Morrow (EMS Chief) presented a hill country deployment update. Austin County EMS has been assisting the hill country with disaster relief for 3 weeks. Currently they have been placed on a day-by-day status.

Judge Lapham inquired if crews will switch out again this week.

Per Walter Morrow (EMS Chief), the current crew has been asked to stay on a day-by-day notice.

Justin Ward (Austin County EMS) was one of two medics deployed the first time. He spoke on his experience and the devastation witnessed while on deployment. While deployed they spent time in Hunt assisting communities with emotional and medical assistance. They were joined by multiple Texas task force along with task force from out of state.

### **4. Open Bids for employee supplemental insurance policies.**

Bids were opened by the court. Judge Lapham stated bids will be reviewed and brought back to next court.

### **5. Discussion and action regarding salaried EMS employee compensation during disaster assignments.**

Bryan Haevischer (County Treasurer) stated when deployed they are exceeding normal hourly-rate. However, due to not having a policy in place the county will not be reimbursed by FEMA.

Commissioner Reed inquired if paperwork is submitted, can a reimbursement be obtained.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) requests the court to call a special meeting to discuss the next steps to resolving this. If not resolved, Billy stated he will not approve the next payroll.

Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator) provided court with FEMA Policy handout.

Commissioner Reed asked if things changed since Harvey. Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator) denied any changes.

Commissioner Reed and Roy Mercer (Emergency Management Coordinator) emphasized that other counties do have a policy in place.

Commissioner Cerny asked if this has been discussed in prior years.  
Court Recessed at 9:28am

Court Reconvened at 9:51am

Judge Lapham stated information will be gathered and a special court will be called Friday August 1, 2025 at 9 am for further discussion.

**6. Budget discussion and action as appropriate.**

Budget handouts, Comptroller Tax Worksheet, and budget request handout were reviewed.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) emphasized that court will need to discuss supplement increase of \$7,500 for our District Judge. Billy Doherty will bring supporting documents to review at next court.

Court discussed splitting cost for engineer between precincts.

Billy presented the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate handout to court.

Judge Lapham stated budget discussion will take place during court August 1, 2025 at 9 am.

**7. Discussion to set 2025-2026 proposed salaries for elected officials and action as appropriate.**

Salary and expense handout reviewed.

Judge Lapham request approval.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)*

**8. Consideration and action to adopt Holiday Calendar for 2026.**

Holiday calendar reviewed.

**9. Discussion and action to purchase new jail transport vehicle.**

Quotes were presented to the court from Rockdale Country Ford and Enterprise.

Commissioner Reed asked where equipment will be purchased from.

Lt. Donald Darracq (Sheriff Office) stated no equipment will need to be purchased.

Commissioner Rinn inquired on how soon the county would need to purchase the transport vehicle.



Per Donald Darracq (Sheriff Office) the current transport vehicle is out of service.

Commissioner Reed request to purchase vehicle from enterprise.

Rockdale Country Ford stated they have an Eco Boost on the lot available.

Commissioner Reed motioned to approve purchase of new jail transport vehicle from Rockdale Country Ford.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)*

**10. Consideration and action to approve change order for right of way mapping and easement survey for additional areas for Grant 22-085-007-D235.**

Shannon Hanath (Road and Bridge) stated this is mapping for additional areas in sector 2 and 3.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)*

**11. Discussion and action to change Development fee schedule.**

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) requests residential and small business stay the same. Variances will increase for large developments. On-site sewage must remain the same.

Development Fee handout reviewed.

Commissioners request to add pipeline fees.

Commissioner Cerny motioned to approve changes to engineering and developmental fee schedule as presented.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)*

**12. Discussion and action regarding exempt employees tracking benefit time.**

Per Brian Haevischer (County Treasurer), currently only some exempt employees are tracking benefit time. If tracked at time of termination it must be paid out. Brian Haevischer inquired if court thinks benefit time should be tracked.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) expressed his thoughts and believes benefit time should not be tracked.

Commissioner Reed motioned to discontinue tracking of benefit time in exempt employees.

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Mikel, Passed (4-0)*

**13. 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 Mitel SWA Renewal for county phone system.
- b. Consideration and action to approve FY 2025-2026 Texas Department of Agriculture, Texans Feeding Texans: Home- Delivered Meal Grant Program Resolution.
- c. Consideration and action to approve Private Roadway Name Request for Honey Creek Lane to be added to Austin County 911 Road Map, Pct. 2.
- d. Consideration and action to accept a special donation of \$10,000.00 to Austin County Road and Bridge Precinct 2 per Local Government Code 81.032
- e. Consideration and action to amend land lease agreement for Bleiblerville Radio Communications tower.
- f. Consideration and action to declare the following vehicles as surplus:
  - i. 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe VIN #1GNMCAE06AR138380
  - ii. 2017 Ford F-150 VIN #1FTEW1CFXHKD20453

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, Passed (4-0)*

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

**a. Payment of Claims**

Total: \$2,026,647.58

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)*

**b. Fund Transfers**

Total: \$1,505,379.10 (July 28, 2025)

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)*

- c. Budget Amendments
- d. County Auditor review of finances
- e. County Treasurer
  - i. Monthly Treasurer's Report- June 2025

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Cerny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0)*

- ii. Payroll and Escrow Reports
  - 1. 07.25.2025

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)*

- 15. Written end-of-the month reports submitted by County Offices.**  
**a. Statutory County Court- June 2025**  
**b. Constable, Pct. 2- June 2025**

*Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Mikel, passed (4-0)*

- 16. Discussion and action regarding personnel policy revisions.**

On hold until Tara Wise (HR Administrative Assistant) can be present.

- 17. Building projects update.**

Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) gave a current project update on the Bellville EMS Station and completing the final touches. Walter Morrow (EMS Chief) stated they have moved in about 90% of everything.

Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) gave a current project update on the building for the new Command Vehicle. They have begun demo on the fence for better access.

- 18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**A closed meeting will be held concerning the following items:**  
**a. Economic Development Matter**

- 19. Action as appropriate on Executive Session**

Executive Session not held.

- 20. Commissioners Court Inquiry.**

Court adjourned at 11:50 am.

*Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Cerny, 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 July 28, 2025.

Date: July 31, 2025

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

By: Allison Gerik  
Allison Gerik, Deputy Clerk



FILED

2025 JUL 31 AM 9:12