



DIANE DAY
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

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

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COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

Order #25-177

September 22, 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
Allison Gerik, Deputy Clerk

9:00 A.M. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

Agenda item 13 will be moved to October 1, 2025.

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

1. Presentation of award certificates to "I Voted" sticker contest winners.

Kim Rinn (Elections Official) presented plaques to contest winners. Picture taken with the court.

2. Petitions or Requests from the Public.

Bridget Bryan spoke to the court on behalf of citizens against BESS and future generations. Would like the court to look at creating a 391 which is to be used on HB150 to play a larger role on cyber protection. If the county already has a 391 in place, then it is possible that only an amendment would need to take place making an easy fix to it.

Judge Lapham explained that a 391 is basically an agreement between 2 governing bodies and can carry more weight when dealing with a state agency.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) presented draft audit and stated final audit should be presented at next court.

Donna Jacob thanked the court for their continued support standing up for the Austin County communities against BESS.

3. Consideration and action to adopt FY 2025-2026 General, FM & Lateral, Road & Bridge, and Debt Fund Tax Rates.

Commissioner Reed motions to set tax rate for General (M&O) at 0.31700, F/M & Lateral at 0.07379, R&B Special at 0.07575, Debt Requirement at 0.03723 creating a total of 0.50377.

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

4. Discussion and action to approve 2025-2026 Compensation Order.

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

5. Discussion and action to approve 2025-2026 Certificate Pay for the following departments:

- a. Sheriff's Office**
- b. Jail**
- c. Telecommunications/ Dispatch**

Sheriff Brandes explained that this is part of their incentive to keep them improving in their position and part of their pay package to keep them employed with us. This has been paid in prior years.

Judge Lapham advised rates are remaining same as previous year.

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

6. Consideration and action to approve FY 2025-2026 clothing allowance for S.O. plain clothed personnel.

Sheriff Brandes stated this is for narcotics officers and those not in uniform as part of their pay package.

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

7. Consideration and action to approve Amendment to Order of November 4, 2025 Special Election.

Kim Rinn (Elections Official) stated Wallis needs to be pulled off notice for early voting. A while back it was thought that City of Wallis would have a contested election and need early voting, however, early voting is no longer needed for City of Wallis due to the race not being contested anymore.

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

8. Consideration and action to approve Amendment to Notice of Special Election for November 4, 2025.

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

9. Discussion regarding the renewal of Election Systems & Software, LLC agreement, and action as appropriate.

Kim Rinn (Elections Official) stated current ES&S expires October 1, 2025 therefore a renewal is needed. The rate being charged will be the same rate we have had in the past. Renewal will be every 2 years. After 2 years an increase of 10% will occur.

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

10. Consideration and action to purchase ECM Elections Software Program for voter registration and elections records management.

Kim Rinn (Elections Official) stated currently we have a voter registration and election retention software through Vista and a new Secretary of State Software we are processing voter registration through. The two software are not communicating together well. The inhouse software is not allowing to give retention records. We currently have carbonite on the computer that in the event there is a failure we have a backup. The new ECM Elections Software Program would be cloud based and not require carbonite or a stand-alone computer. Multiple counties currently using the new software program.

Judge Lapham inquired if this new program is needed for the upcoming election in November.

Kim Rinn (Elections Official) advised it would be helpful if in place before upcoming November elections. Having this new program would also free up space in the server.

Commissioner Cerny inquired on the contract time frame.

Kim Rinn (Elections Official) this contract is quoted for 2 years.

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

11. Discussion regarding fuel log policy and action as appropriate.

Removed.

12. Discussion regarding Road & Bridge bids and action as appropriate

- a. Road Material/Gravel**
- b. Hauling**
- c. Asphalts, Liquid Asphalts, Emulsions & Dust Control**
- d. Corrugated Culverts**
- e. HDPE Culvert Pipe**
- f. Concrete/ Cement**
- g. Fuel (Gasoline and Diesel)**
- h. Surface Treatments, Asphalt Laydown & Asphalt Milling**

Shannon Hannath (Road and Bridge Administrative Assistant) presented copy of bids to the court.

Judge Lapham inquired on the bid amounts and how they have changed.

Commissioner Reed stated majority have stayed the same. However, Shannon Hannath (Road and Bridge Administrative Assistant) found an exception in Suncoast's Contract.

Judge Lapham inquired if we have seen exceptions like this in other contracts.

Commissioner Reed stated this is not something he has ever seen.

Judge Lapham read exception to the court.

Judge Lapham inquired on where their bid falls.

Commissioner Reed advised they are not the lowest bidder.

Judge Lapham inquired who supplies fuel now.

Shannon Hannath (Road and Bridge Administrative Assistant) stated usually we use the lowest bidder.

Judge Lapham asked who is the lowest bidder.

Commissioner Cerny stated low bidder is Key Performance.

Judge Lapham stated it is up to the commissioners if Suncoast bid should be pulled out.

Commissioner Reed motions to approve all bids except Suncoast because it is nonconforming bid with bid requirements.

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

13. Consideration and action to award bid for the Allen's Creek- Sector 2- Stormwater Mitigation Project- Grant #22-085-007-D235

Removed.

14. Consideration and action to authorize a temporary access agreement, for bridge project on Hurtig Rd, between Austin County and the following property owners:

a. Reese Hurtig & Rachel Hurtig

Per Commissioner Rinn, a detour will need to be created due to dead end road.

b. Terry Shupak & Laurie Shupak

Per Commissioner Rinn, a water gate will be placed.

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

15. Building projects update

Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) presented building project updates for the EMS Buildings, Jail, Command Building, and Wendt Street Annex Building.

16. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Consideration and action to authorize a one-time variance from Subdivision Regulations to divide a 2.88-acre tract from a 7.01-acre tract on Track Rd and Texas St, Pct. 2.

b. Consideration and action to authorize a one-time variance from Subdivision Regulations to divide a 7.6- acre tract from a 29.95- acre tract on Tranquil Ln, Pct. 2.

c. Approval of Minutes:

i. 08.11.2025

d. Consideration and action to approve Private Roadway Name Request for Joyce Lane to be added to the Austin County 911 Road Map, Pct. 1.

e. Consideration and action to reappoint Commissioner Walter Morrow to the 911 Communications District Board.

f. Consideration and action to approve and sign interlocal agreement for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, to serve Austin County Citizens:

i. Colorado Valley Transit, Inc.

ii. Colorado Valley Transit, Inc. (JARC)

- iii. Combined Community Action
- iv. Emergency Medical Services/ Industry
- v. Library Services/ Gordon Memorial Library
- vi. Fire Fighters Association
- vii. Focusing Families
- viii. USDA/ Soil and Water Conservation Services
- ix. Texana
- x. Youth and Family Services
- g. Consideration and action to approve and sign interlocal Law Enforcement Agreements for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
 - i. Bellville
 - ii. San Felipe
 - iii. Sealy
 - iv. Wallis
 - v. Sealy I.S.D

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

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

Total: \$2,470,746.92

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

b. Fund Transfers

Total: \$2,040.51 (September 22, 2025)

Total: \$ 1,834,227.10 (September 22,2025)

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

c. Budget Amendments

Payment was approved for ESNS in the amount of \$9,027.57

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

d. County Auditor's review of finances

Budget worksheet reviewed.

**e. County Treasurer's
i. Payroll and Escrow Report – 09.19.2025**

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

ii. Monthly Treasurer's Report- August 2025

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

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

- a. Criminal Court- August 2025
- b. Civil Court- August 2025
- c. Family Court- August 2025
- d. Statutory County Court- July 2025 & August 2025
- e. AgriLife – July 2025 & August 2025
- f. JP, Pct. 2 & Pct. 4 – August 2025
- g. Constable, Pct. 2 – August 2025
- h. TxDMV- August 2025
- i. TCEQ – August 2025

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

19. Commissioners Court Inquiry

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) made payment last week for Comdata and hopes to get processed Tuesday or Wednesday.

Court adjourned at 10:29am

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 September 22, 2025.

Date: October 16, 2025

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

By: Allison Gerik
Allison Gerik, Deputy Clerk

FILED

2025 OCT 16 AM 11:18



Diane Day
COUNTY CLERK
AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS