



DIANE DAY
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

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

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COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

Order #25-183

November 24, 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
M. Laura Hernandez Pena, Chief Deputy 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, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)

1. Petitions or Requests from the Public.

None.

2. Jail Museum update presentation.

Bruce Noviske (Jail Museum Director) presented a Jail Museum update along with yearly budget layout. Maintenance updates were also discussed. The Jail Museum Board appreciates support given by the court.

Judge Lapham thanked the Jail Museum Board for all they have done. It was inquired how the public can give back to the Jail Museum.

Bruce Noviske (Jail Museum Director) stated the Jail Museum has a Facebook page that is limited and the Jail Museum is a 501c.3. Contact information can be found on the county's website. The public is welcome to schedule tours also.

3. Discussion regarding the purchase of a Ford F-150 Responder (SB-22 funding) for the Sheriff's Office and action as appropriate.

Sheriff Brandes stated this will be purchased from SB-22 funds.

Lt. Donald Darracq (Sheriff's Office) request to use the remaining SB-22 funds to purchase a new Ford F-150 Responder vehicle.

Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford F-150 Police Responder for \$54,137.00 from Rockdale Ford DBA Rockdale Country.

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

4. Discussion regarding the purchase of 4- Haenni WL 101 Scales for the SO CVE officer and action as appropriate.

Deputy Danny Duron (Sheriff Office) stated the current scales are over 20 years old and not compatible with DPS.

Judge Lapham inquired if the current scales have any market value.

Per Deputy Danny Duron (Sheriff Office), the charging is going out in the current scales.

Commissioner Reed expressed it would be nice to have something compatible with DPS.

Deputy Danny Duron (Sheriff Office) reached out to other agencies but nobody is wanting to sell theirs. A quote was received from Loadometer for a total of \$26,380.00.

Judge Lapham inquired about the cost being split 5 ways.

Commissioner Reed motioned to split the total of \$26,380.00 5 ways between road and bridge and general fund at 20% each.

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

5. Discussion regarding the purchase of the following items for EMS, and action as appropriate.

a. 7 new stair chairs

Judge Lapham read a letter presented to the court. The total cost would be \$36,590.12 paid out of the Tobacco Funds.

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

b. 1 new Horton Ambulance

Judge Lapham stated the total cost is \$366,000.00 with shipping and the HB3000 should assist in covering the cost.

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

6. Discussion, clarification, and action as appropriate regarding the purchase of monitors for the DA's Office.

Brandy Robinson (Criminal District Attorney) confirmed with the court that it was okay to pay for the monitors out of District Attorney's Office supply budget line instead of the forfeiture budget line.

Judge Lapham expressed that they were good with that. Some 32" LG monitors were found on sale for Black Friday right now.

No action.

7. Consideration and action to approve compensation above 2025-2026 Compensation Order Entry Level/Introductory Level Rate for DA's Office new hire.

Brandy Robinson (Criminal District Attorney) is asking for clarification that the District Attorney's Office's new hire is getting paid appropriately. The reception legal budget is set at \$17.50 and that's what the position was advertised at. Before the new hire was approved it was approved that the pay would be \$18.38 which is what the new hire was hired at. The new hire is receiving checks with the wrong pay amount.

Judge Lapham stated all new county hires with experience are hired across the board at \$15.50 but the court is open to adjustment, it must be brought before the court to receive adjustment approval.

Commissioner Reed inquired if the employee's PAF says \$18.38.

Per Brandy Robinson (Criminal District Attorney) the PAF does say \$18.38.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) stated this week is payroll so the issue should be able to be fixed but it is up to court if back pay will be granted.

Brandy Robinson (Criminal District Attorney) explained that the new hire is far more qualified than they thought when hired.

Commissioner Rinn motions to approve back pay.

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

8. Consideration and action to grant carry over of benefit time/pay to employee making an interdepartmental transfer.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) stated the employee is requesting to carryover benefit time and pay.

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

9. Discussion and action to approve holiday pay for certain part-time employees for Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

Judge Lapham stated it is requested to give half of what the actual days' pay would be.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) advised we need to just ensure this is put in policy moving forward.

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

10. Discussion regarding library portion of Compensation Order and action as appropriate.

Each County Library will have a manager causing employee title changes.

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

11. Discussion regarding Building/ Construction Projects and action as appropriate.

No action.

12. Consideration and action to solicit bids for depository.

Bryan Haevischer (County Treasurer) stated he met with Cadance Bank on Friday and Cadance will be working to resolve issues the county is having. It is requested to put this item on the next court.

13. Discussion regarding financing Pct. 1 Constable Vehicle and action as appropriate.

Commissioner Reed inquired why a smaller bank cannot be used.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) explained that the county must use a lease bank and most smaller banks do not have them.

Quotes from Cadence and Welch State Bank were presented.

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), Cadance beat Welch State Bank but we do a lot of business with Welch State Bank.

Judge Lapham asked Billy Doherty (County Auditor) what he recommends.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) recommends Cadence Bank based off their numbers.

Commissioner Reed motioned to finance through Cadence for 2 annual payments at \$30,371.32.

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

14. Consideration and action to solicit bids for culvert head walls on Hickory Creek Rd, Pct. 1.

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) explained that Commissioner Mikel has pipe needing headwalls. It is requested that bids be opened to see what bids are received.

Bids will be due January 9, 2026 and opened on January 13, 2026.

Commissioner Mikel is aware that he can reject any bids if he feels the bid is too high.

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

15. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Consideration and action to approve Minutes:**
 - i. **October 27, 2025**
- b. **Consideration and action to ratify Flock Camera Project Resolution.**
- c. **Consideration and action to approve a one-time variance request from Subdivision regulations to divide a 2-acre tract from a 4.948-acre parent tract on Kenney Hill Rd, Pct. 2.**
- d. **Consideration and action to accept executed copy of the Interlocal Agreement between Regional Public Defender Office Local Government Corporation and Austin County.**

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

12. Budgetary and Financial Claims- action as appropriate.

- a. **Payment of Claim**

Total: \$1,014,373.09

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

- b. **Fund Transfers**

Total: \$380,558.23 (November 24, 2025)

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

- c. **Budget Amendments**

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

- d. **County Auditor's Review of Finances**

Provided to the court.

- e. **County Treasurer**
 - i. **October 2025**

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

- ii. **Payroll and Escrow Reports**
 - 1. **11.14.2025**

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

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

- a. Constable Pct. 2- October 2025
- b. Statutory Court- October 2025
- c. Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2- October 2025
- d. Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4- October 2025

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

18. Commissioner Court Inquiry.

Per Kim Rinn (Elections Official), new voter cards will be going out in December with new districts on them. Congressional Districts will remain the same unless Supreme Court overturns the maps. If state has litigation, primary could be delayed.

19. Employee Policy Workshop.

Corrections were reviewed by the court and it was decided that loose ends be looked at closer before approval of the policy.

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

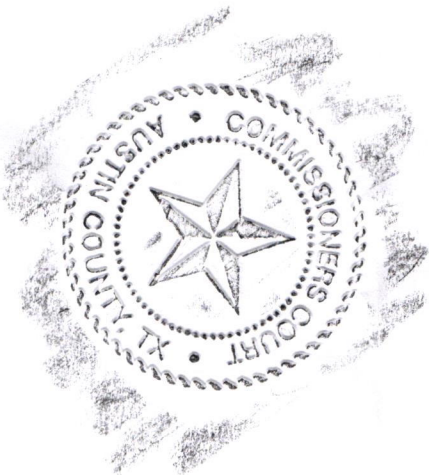
Court Adjourned at 10:36 am.

**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 November 24, 2025.

Date: December 10, 2025
Diane Day, Austin County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioners Court
Austin County, Texas

By: Allison Gerik
Allison Gerik, Deputy Clerk



FILED

2025 DEC 10 PM 12:51

Diane Day
COUNTY CLERK
AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS