



DIANE DAY
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

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Bellville, TX. 77418

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COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

December 9, 2024 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 Reed, Precinct 4
Kimberly Benjamin, Deputy Clerk

9:00 A.M. OPENING
CALL TO ORDER
INVOCATION
PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM
CONSIDERATION/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Per Judge Lapham, remove Item #11. Request to approve amended agenda.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn (4-0)
Order #24-358

1. Petitions or Requests from the Public.

No petitions or requests from public.

2. Open bids for Pct. 2 Truck.

Bids submitted from the following: Tegeler Chevrolet, Cavender Auto Country Chevrolet, Appel Ford Inc., and Legacy Brothers, Inc.

Per Judge Lapham, Commissioner Rinn will review and announce bid selection before end of court.

3. Discussion and action regarding Southfork Ranch Subdivision, Section 2:
a. Variance request

Per Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer), Southfork Ranch Subdivision, Section 2 is requesting to have same variances allowed that was granted to Section 1. They are requesting variance of 70 ft. for width of Road on Right-of-Way Easement. Variance to allow every other lot line to share utilities. Variance of 3-1 ratio on lots 7 & 8. Lots 7 & 8 are larger odd-shaped, larger lots and located in the cul-de-sac.

Transformer box is located on every other lot line.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)
Order #24-359

b. Accept Preliminary plat

Motion to Accept: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)
Order #24-360

4. Discussion and action to update signers on deposit box at Industry State Bank for JP2.

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), deposit box is not necessary. Therefore, no need to update signers. Will not be submitting annual renewal fee.

5. Discussion and action to appoint Sick Leave Committee Members.

Per Tara Wise (Human Resources), Policy requires Commissioner Court to approve Sick Leave Committee Members.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0)
Order #24-361

6. Discussion and action to approve private roadway name request off Shelby Rd., Pct. 2.

Per Commissioner Rinn, Court needs to decide on name for private Roadway. Requests to name road Bonnie Lane, to be added to 911 Road Map.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0)
Order #24-362

7. Discussion and action to approve use of Opioid Settlement Funds and 127 funds to replace cardiac monitors/defibrillators.

No action. Chief Morrow requests to address this topic at next Commissioners Court session.

8. Discussion and action to approve correction to 2024-2025 Compensation Order.

Judge Lapham issued a revised copy of the 2024-2025 Compensation Order for review.

Per Judge Lapham, two additional Control Deputy Positions were funded in Budget, but not added to Compensation Order. There is no amendment required, just a correction.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)
Order #24-363

9. Discussion and action to approve clinical contract agreement between Health Shield Educational Services and Austin County EMS.

Per Chief Morrow (Austin County EMS), agreement allows advanced EMT Students to do ride outs with County EMS.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)
Order #24-364

10. Discussion and action to approve contract between Harris-Fort Bend Emergency Services District #100 and Austin County EMS, and all Austin County Fire Departments.

Per Chief Morrow (Austin County EMS), due to growth within County EMS and Fire Departments, call volumes has increased with dispatch. Other options and opportunities have been sought to assist with dispatching for EMS and Fire Departments. WestCom Communication provides dispatch companies inter-local agreement to put equipment in facilities and use of dispatch services.

WestCom Communication overall fee is \$20 per dispatched call regardless of number of units responding. After first year of use, there will be a technology upgrade fee (manageable amount). Other services provided are Dispatcher Assisted Medical Assistance. Ability to send dispatcher to scene of service (Mobile Dispatch). Training opportunities for fire departments and EMS agencies within county.

Upgrades for using WestCom includes not having to transfer calls. Per Chief Morrow (Austin County EMS), EMS currently pays \$300.00 per month for dispatch call assistance for critical calls. WestCom system has the ability to provide critical assistance for every call. WestCom provides Mobile Dispatcher.

Commissioner Lamp inquired if any testing has been performed to check for glitches with WestCom system. Per Chief Morrow, WestCom uses same radios and frequency currently used by County EMS. One upgrade is needed to WestCom system to allow radios to reach section of Shelby, Texas.

Commissioner Reed inquired on changes discussed during Budget in regards to current dispatch position. Per Judge Lapham, two positions in dispatch are not being filled. This allows for extra funds if needed with this matter.

Per Chief Morrow (Austin County EMS), currently CPR calls are being transferred to Montgomery County then dispatched to Austin County. This would change with WestCom system. Dispatchers at WestCom are Fire and EMS dispatchers only. They do not provide law enforcement work. They have abilities to work together with EMS to gather information for Sheriff's Office.

Per Sheriff Jack Brandes, Volunteer Fire Department is crucial. Commends EMS and Fire Department for work provided to help citizens throughout County. Supports decision to use WestCom if EMS believes it will make dispatching better. If WestCom system does not perform to standards of County, Sheriff's Department will gladly resume dispatch duties.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0)
Order #24-365

Per Chief Morrow (Austin County EMS), bulk of dispatching calls are from EMS. If Fire Department decides not to use WestCom system, it should not affect costs. EMS will make sure all both EMS and Fire Departments are trained. There is no additional cost for training.

Per Brian Gazaway (WestCom Representative), every dispatcher is trained in Dispatcher-Lead CPR. Dispatchers are certified through International Academy of Emergency Dispatch, Emergency Medical Dispatch and Emergency Fire Dispatch.

Per Judge Lapham, County is currently working on providing visual for WestCom Dispatch.

~~11. Discussion regarding Industry EMS Station driveway and action as appropriate.~~

Item #11 removed from agenda.

Commissioner Rinn express appreciation to Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) and Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) on completion of Industry EMS Station driveway.

- 12. CONSENT AGENDA - Items listed are of routine nature and may be acted on in a single motion unless requested otherwise by members of Commissioners Court.**
- a. Consideration and action approve minutes:**
 - i. October 21, 2024**
 - ii. October 28, 2024**
 - iii. November 6, 2024**
 - iv. November 12, 2024**
 - b. Consideration and action to accept Check HIDTA Grant increase in the amount of \$12,000.**
 - c. Consideration and action to approve extension of maintenance contract with Precision Printing for Toshiba e-Studio 256 at Pct. 2 Barn.**

- ~~d. Consideration and action to accept contract(s) for representation of indigents in Austin County for the following attorney(s):~~
 - ~~i. John Anderson~~
 - ~~ii. Kevin S. Dunn~~
 - ~~iii. Calvin Garvie~~
 - ~~iv. Stephen Longoria~~

Per Judge Lapham, remove item #12d.

Approve Consent Agenda a. – c.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)
Order #24-366

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

Total = \$852,122.94

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Reed, passed (4-0)
Order #24-367

- b. Fund Transfers**

Total = \$621,096.21

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0)
Order #24-368

- c. Budget Amendments**

No Budget Amendments.

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

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) issued Budget Report for self-review.

- e. County Treasurer**
 - i. Payroll and Escrow Reports**
 - 1. 11.25.2024 Elections**
 - 2. 11.29.24 Regular Payroll**

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)
Order #24-369

14. **Written end-of-the month reports submitted by County Offices.**
 - a. **Statutory County Court**
 - b. **Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3 & 4 – November 2024**
 - c. **Constable, Pct. 1, 2, & 4 – November 2024**
 - d. **Jail Population – November 2023**
 - e. **TxDMV – November 2024**
 - f. **Annual Library Report – 2023-2024**
 - g. **OSSF – November 2024**

Motion to Accept: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)
Order #24-370

Court recessed at 9:46 a.m.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with Texas Local Government Code §551.071, §551.125 and §551.129, a closed meeting will be held concerning the following items:

- a. Economic Development Matter
- b. Economic Development Matter
- c. Economic Development Matter
- d. Legal Matter

Court Reconvened at 11:25 a.m.

16. Action as appropriate on Executive Session.

Item #15a. – No action. More information needed.

Item #15b. – Motion to approve right-of-way entrance for a survey at Precinct 1 yard.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Lamp, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)
Order #24-371

Item #15c. – Motion to enter into 381 Agreement with SIKA Corporation.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Reed, 2nd Commissioner Cerny, passed (4-0)
Order #24-372

Item #15d. – No action.

Continue Agenda Item #2 - Open Bids for Pct. 2 Truck.

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), Commissioner Rinn awards bid to Tegeler Chevrolet for \$49,267.10.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Lamp, passed (4-0)
Order #24-373

17. Commissioners Court Inquiry.

*Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0).
Order #24-374*

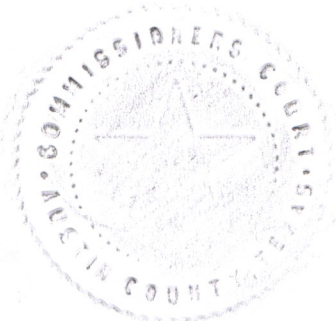
Court adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

**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 December 9, 2024.

Date: January 22, 2025
Diane Day, Austin County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioners Court
Austin County, Texas

By: Kimberly Benjamin
Kimberly Benjamin, Deputy



FILED

2025 JAN 22 PM 1:54

Diane Day
COUNTY CLERK
AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS