



**DIANE DAY**  
**AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK**

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

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## COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

### Order #25-186

December 22, 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  
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 Cerny, passed (4-0)*

#### **1. Petitions or Request from the Public.**

Jacob Novicke stated he attended the pre-bid meeting for Precinct 4 Building. Changes were made Thursday, December 18, 2025 and expected to be turned in by 9 am this morning. Due to this last-minute change, the pricing presented may not be accurate so it is requested the deadline be extended.

Zach Andrews (GoodPeak Development) stated they are currently in the permit process for their battery storage site in Wallis. It is requested that GoodPeak be placed on the next agenda for a vote.

**2. Discussion regarding burn ban and action as appropriate.**

Drought Index provided to the court.

Commissioner Mikel recommends keeping the burn ban in effect since there is no visual change in the drought index map.

Per Judge Lapham, burn ban remains in effect and will be placed on the next agenda.

**3. Pct. 4 Building**

- a. Open Bids**
- b. Award Contract**

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) stated he understands the concerns from both bidders. Based on concerns from bidders, we have 2 options; the bids can be opened and rejected or do not open them and extend the deadline.

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) and 2 bidders stepped in hallway for discussion.

Per Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer), both bidders understand the others decision and dilemma. Shellback Construction request to move forward and not extend the date.

Judge Lapham advised to contact Commissioner Reed to hear his side and then will discuss after.

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) spoke with Commissioner Reed who stated he would like to extend deadline and reward on January 12, 2026.

Judge Lapham stated in fairness it is best that we do not open the bid and disclose it.

Commissioner Cerny motioned to extend the deadline and open at next court, January 12, 2026.

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

**4. Garlin Rd Bridge Project**

- a. Open Bids**

Bid opened is missing the base bid amount.

- b. Award Contract**

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) recommends rejecting bid. Bids will be open for a rebid to be due January 9, 2026 and opened at next court, January 12, 2026.

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

**5. Hickory Creek Rd. Culvert Project**

- a. Open Bids
- b. Award Contract

No bids received. No action.

**6. Discussion to accept updates to Development and Subdivision Regulations and action as appropriate.**

Jonathan Hopko stated corrections and modifications have been made and now it is requested the court approve as amended.

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

**7. Discussion to accept commercial development plan and drainage plan for The Vine Venue, and action as appropriate.**

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

**8. Discussion regarding Squire Glenn Estates Development and action as appropriate:**

- a. Accept Preliminary Plat

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

- b. Accept Final Plat

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

**9. Discussion and action as appropriate regarding Rexville Rd**

- a. Accept Easement
- b. Accept Bond

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

Court Recessed at 9:20 am.

Court Reconvened at 1:00 pm.

**10. Building project update and action as appropriate.**

Daniel Sanchez (Shellback Construction) gave an update on all current county building projects.

**11. Consideration and action as appropriate to solicit bids for depository.**

Bryan Haevischer (County Treasurer) provided the court with timeline and requested the approval to solicit for depository bids.

Bids due February 6, 2026 and will be opened at court on February 9, 2026 at 9am.

Commissioner Mikel motioned to advertise for depository bids.

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

**12. Austin County 2024-2025 Bi-Annual SART Report Update**

Brandy Robinson (Criminal District Attorney) provided and discussed the 2024-2025 Bi-Annual SART Report Update to the court. This report was submitted before the deadline.

No action.

**13. Discussion regarding TDA Grant CDV23-0303 and 2024 outside audit and action as appropriate.**

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) stated for some reason TDA is big on wanting our most recent audit. Due to issues with the outside auditor, it took a while to find one. GLO has been working with us but the dilemma is the Grubbs Road Project. A payment is needed to move forward. However, it is unknown if we should pay the amount upfront and await reimbursement after audit. It is also not guaranteed that the deadline will be met.

Addison Bruzenack (Grant Works) ensured the county should receive reimbursement if it is done.

Daniel Neufeld (Doucet) stated there is still additional clarification needed to move forward which has been communicated. The notice of delay for payment has also been sent. Only bonding and stabilization has been completed. Payment is requested today so crews can return to the field to continue work on the project. Would like to see the project go through but already have massively extended the completion date.

Judge Lapham inquired on the scope of work.

Daniel Neufeld (Doucet) explained it is 3 culverts along the roadway and a few other improvements making it a very simple in and out job. Doucet has been very adamant about communication throughout the project.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) stated the price is somewhere around half a million dollars with everything included.

Addison Bruzenak (Grant Works) stated the deadline shows to be end of January next year.

Judge Lapham inquired if were told to get it done today, when would completion be.

Daniel Neufeld (Doucet) stated roughly 2-week completion. All materials are ready to go.

Judge Lapham explained the work needs to be done anyways and all they are asking for is the front load cost and hope we receive reimbursement.

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), Road and Bridge has the money to do it but there is concern fudging majority of budget halfway into year which is not recommended.

Daniel Neufeld (Doucet) reminded the court that liquidated damages from contract need to be thought about also.

Addison Bruzenack (Grant Works) explained that she would submit a grant extension to TDA and contractors can update their contract and request approval in Commissioners Court.

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), it is doable but will need all Commissioners helping.

Commissioner Cerny confirmed with Addison Bruzenack (Grant Works) if reimbursement would be received.

Addison Bruzenack (Grant Works) confirmed that Austin County would receive reimbursement.

Commissioner Cerny motioned to cover TDA CDV23-0303 by Road and Bridge funds.

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

**14. Discussion regarding Fuel Log Policy and action as appropriate.**

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) request to move to next court agenda.

**15. Consideration and action to appoint members to the employee grievance committee.**

Will move to next court.

**16. Discussion regarding Straight Comp Time for 32-hour employees and action as appropriate.**

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) stated current 32-hour employees are requesting any hours worked over their scheduled 32 hours to be given as comp time. However, after further reflection with TAC it probably goes against federal labor act. It is not recommended action to follow.

Commissioner Cerny inquired how many employees are affected. Library and maintenance are the only current 32-hour employees affected.

Judge Lapham explained that as of right now it is not recommended so we will wait and bring back to court at later date.

**17. Discussion regarding vacation buyout and action as appropriate.**

Per Billy Doherty (County Auditor), it was passed way back during major shortages in EMS and Sheriff's Office to keep people on the rosters. However, now that numbers are back up this should not be needed anymore. It is recommended to get rid of policy.

Commissioner Rinn and Chief Walter Morrow (EMS) request additional time to look at numbers and see how this will affect overtime.

Judge Lapham stated will postpone till further notice.

**18. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Consideration and action to accept Commissioners Court Minutes:
  - i. November 10, 2025
  - ii. November 14, 2025
  - iii. November 24, 2025
- b. Consideration and action to approve Required Schooling Application for County Judge and Commissioners, to be held February 17-19, 2026, in Bryan, Texas
  - i. Tim Lapham- County Judge
  - ii. Greg Mikel – Commissioner, Pct. 1
  - iii. Bobby Rinn- Commissioner, Pct. 2
  - iv. Leroy Cerny- Commissioner, Pct. 3
  - v. Chip Reed- Commissioner, Pct. 4
- c. Consideration and action to approve Required Schooling Application for Diane Day, County Clerk, to be held February 10-13, 2026, in San Marcos, Texas
- d. Consideration and action to accept a special donation (s) to the Austin County Precinct 1 Road and Bridge, per Local Government Code 81.032, in the amount of:
  - i. \$70,000.00

- ii. \$60,000.00
- e. Consideration and action to accept a special donation to the Austin County EMS, per Local Government Code 81.032, in the amount of \$500.00
- f. Consideration and action to accept Austin County Jail Commissary Fund Audit of FY 2024-2025
- g. Consideration and action to reappoint ESD Board Members to a two-year term:
  - i. ESD 1
    - 1. Ray Chislett
    - 2. Vivian Williams
    - 3. Kim Silver
  - ii. ESD 2
    - 1. Charles Verm
    - 2. James Toman
    - 3. Daniel Atwood
  - iii. ESD 3
    - 1. Chris Nanez
    - 2. John Alford

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

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

**a. Payment of Claims**

Total: \$1,273,019.99

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

**b. Fund Transfers**

Total: \$806,497.55 (12.22.2025)

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

**c. Budget Amendments**

None.

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

**e. County Treasurer's**

**i. Payroll and Escrow Report(s)**

- 1. 12.12.2025 Payroll

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

ii. **Monthly report**  
1. **November 2025**

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

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

- a. **Constable Pct. 2 – November 2025**
- b. **Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4 – November 2025**
- c. **AgriLife – November 2025**

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

Court Recessed at 2:13 pm.

**21. EXECUTIVE SESSION – A closed meeting will be held concerning the following items:**

- a. **Law Enforcement**
- b. **Economic Development – The Grove**

Court Reconvened at 2:54 pm.

**22. Action as appropriate on executive session.**

No action on item #21 a.

Commissioner Mikel motioned to give judge authority to sign economic agreement with The Grove.

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

**23. Commissioners' Court Inquiry.**

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

Court Adjourned at 2:55 pm

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 22, 2025.

Date: January 6, 2026

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

By: Allison Gerik  
Allison Gerik, Deputy Clerk



FILED

2026 JAN -6 AM 9:44