



DIANE DAY
AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK

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

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COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

Order #26-003

January 28, 2026 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
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, 2nd Commissioner Rinn, passed (4-0)

1. Petitions or Request from the Public.

Susana McDaniel spoke on the concern of her neighbor hauling in several loads of dirt to build a damn without permits.

2. Discussion to approve compensation rate above 2025-2026 Compensation Order Entry Level/ Introductory Level Rate for AgriLife new hire and action as appropriate.

Michelle Wright (AgriLife) stated this individual exceeds expectations and is highly qualified for the role and request the court approve back pay to her start date of January 12, 2026 not exceeding the 2025-2026 Compensation Rate.

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

3. Discussion regarding Property ID #'s: 14885 and 18783 in regard to GLO Grant 22-085-007-D235 Allen's Creek Project acquisitions and action as appropriate.

Judge Lapham stated Commissioner Reed has a conflict of interest due to him being property owner so he has been asked to step out.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) explained that this is part of the D235 Grant and it has been stated that there may be conflict of the project running through Commissioner Reed's property since he is a commissioner. As a precaution, Jesse Skinner (County Attorney) has recommended it be brought to court.

Judge Lapham stated there are appraisal issues.

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) explained that after speaking with GLO Representative the county felt that it was unfair to property owners.

Commissioner Cerny motioned to approve payment for property Id #14885 and Id #18783 within the parameters of the grant schedule.

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

4. Consideration and action to authorize hardship variance for County Auditor's Office Employee to carry over 32 hours of unused vacation.

County Auditor employee was supposed to be on vacation this week. However, she was called back into work so approval is requested for a 6-week extension of vacation to be used.

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

5. Discussion and action to ratify direct purchase of Pct. 1 constables' vehicle.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) stated this was first brought to court with decision between Cadance Bank and Welch State Bank. We have paid to make it whole and request a motion be made to ratify the full payment.

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

6. Consideration and action to approve purchase/financing of a ¾ truck for S.O.

Deputy Cano (Sheriff's Office) will be taking over fleet maintenance for the Austin County Sheriff's Office. Currently, Deputy Cano is using a 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe with roughly 180,000 miles on it. Tegler has given an offer of \$51,000 for a ¾ truck which meets all the requirements Deputy Cano has said he needs. It is requested the court approve this amount.

Judge Lapham inquired with Billy Doherty (County Auditor) what was decided for the financing.

Billy Doherty (County Auditor) stated we can send to Government Capital and Welch State Bank.

Judge Lapham stated the current budget amount in that line is \$25,000.00.

Commissioner Cerny inquired if that will cover one year.

Judge Lapham explained that it would cover one year and can make payments for additional 2 years a little higher.

Lt. Donald Darracq (Sheriff's Office) stated he spoke with Tegeler who explained that there could be a market shift causing that quote to increase. Therefore, we request the court approve not to exceed \$53,000.00. Once purchase order has been received the price is locked in.

Commissioner Cerny motioned to approve the purchase and financing of a ¾ ton truck not to exceed \$53,000.00.

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

7. Discussion regarding utility Right of Way permit process and action as appropriate.

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) stated Industry Communications has requested to enter into a reciprocal agreement. They have helped Brandon (IT) with multiple things

and put into the county more than they are asking. They were asked to write a letter for court.

Commissioner Rinn has had meetings with Industry Communications in regards to this agreement.

Judge Lapham inquired if it would be better to say the permit fee will be waived if documentation is presented.

Jonathan Hopko (County Engineer) stated that Industry Communications cannot lace their utilities in a way that will harm the roadway. If brought to us we will have a way to voice our concerns.

Judge Lapham stated the engineering department will waive fees for electric companies who bring documentation to us.

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

8. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Consideration and action to Approve Minutes:**
 - i. December 22, 2025**
- b. Consideration and action to accept executed 381 agreement between Austin County and One Windy Hill Development.**
- c. Consideration and action to accept 2025 Racial Profiling Report(s):**
 - i. Sheriff's Office**
 - ii. Constable, Pct. 2**
 - iii. Constable, Pct. 3**
- d. Consideration and action to accept executed contract renewal between Austin County and WestCom.**
- e. Consideration and action to accept special donation(s), per local government code 81.032:**
 - i. Knox Memorial Library - \$200**
 - ii. Sheriff's Office - \$200**
 - iii. Sheriff's Office - \$100**
- f. Consideration and action to accept Joint Primary Election Services Contract(s) between Austin County Elections Officer and:**
 - i. Democratic Party/ Hilda Gomez – Party Chair**
 - ii. Republican Party/ Charles Beers – Party Chair**
- g. Consideration and action to approve Right-of-Way Permit request for Installation of 12 fiber cable, 1/4" duct, and 3/4" duct by Industry Communications, on Pilcik Rd., Pct. 2**
- h. Consideration and action to approve Right-Of-Way Permit request for Installation of 72 fiber cable, and 3/4" duct by Industry Communications, on Track Rd., Pct. 2**

- i. **Consideration and action to approve Right-Of-Way Permit request for Installation of 12 fiber cable, 1 ¼” duct, and ¾” duct by Industry Communication, on Hofheinz Rd., Pct 2**
- j. **Consideration and action to ratify FY 2026-2027 Operation Lone Star Grant Resolution.**
- k. **Consideration and action to pay out balance of accrued vacation time for an S.O. employee.**

Commissioner Reed motions to approve all except k and b.

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

Commissioner Rinn inquired which employee 8 k was referencing.

Lt. Doanld Darracq (Sheriff's Office) stated they are asking for remaining 24.5 hours of vacation to be approved for pay out.

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

9. Budgetary and Financial Claims – action as appropriate.

a. Payment of Claims

Total: \$1,335,597.76

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

AMG Printing and Mailing Services payment for elections department for a total of \$2,197.87 out of general fund.

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

b. Fund Transfers

Total: \$1,803.88 (01.27.2026)

Total: \$813,065.92 (01.28.2026)

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

c. Budget Ammendments

Presented to court.

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

d. County Auditor's review of finances

Updated budget report provided to court.

- e. County Treasurer's**
 - i. Payroll and Escrow Report**
 - 1. 12.26.2025**
 - 2. 01.23.2026**

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

ii. Monthly report- December 2025

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

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

- a. Criminal Court- December 2025**
- b. Civil Court- December 2025**
- c. Family Court – December 2025**
- d. Statutory Court- December 2025**
- e. Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2 – December 2025**
- f. Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4 – December 2025**
- g. Constable, Pct. 2 – December 2025**
- h. Constable, Pct. 4 – December 2025**
- i. OSSF – December 2025**
- j. TxDMV – December 2025**

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

Court Recessed at 9:50 am

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

- a. Personnel Matter**

Court Reconvened at 11:14 am.

12. Action as appropriate on Executive Session.

Commissioner Reed Motioned to enter interlocal agreement between Austin County Emergency Communication District and Austin County for local addressing and GIS services.

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

13. Commissioners' Court Inquiry.

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

Court Adjourned at 11:15 am

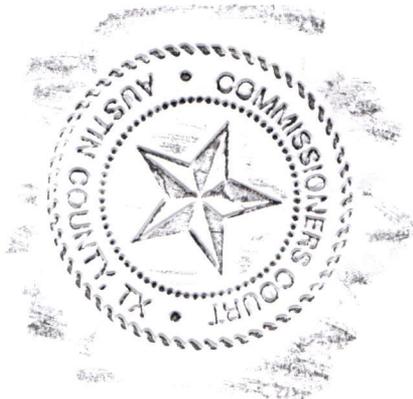
**ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ON FILE WITH COUNTY CLERK AS PROVIDED
BY
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

I, Diane Day, Austin County Clerk, attest to the minutes of the Commissioners Court proceedings for January 28, 2026.

Date: March 16, 2026

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

By: Allison Mican
Allison Mican, Deputy Clerk



FILED
2026 MAR 16 AM 9:54

Diane Day
COUNTY CLERK
AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS