

COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

Order #26-013

June 22, 2026 Austin County Commissioners Court met in the 2nd floor Courtroom at the Austin County Courthouse with the following present:

County Judge Tim Lapham
Commissioner, Precinct 1 Greg Mikel
Commissioner, Precinct 2 Bobby Rinn
Commissioner, Precinct 3 Leroy Cerny
Commissioner, Precinct 4 Chip Reed
Deputy Clerk Kayla Whitley

OPENING

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

CONSIDERATION/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Chip Reed, 2nd Commissioner Leroy Cerny, Passed, (4-0).

OPEN AGENDA ITEMS

1. Petitions or Requests from the Public
(In accordance with the Texas Attorney General's opinion, any public comment that is made on an item that is not on the posted final agenda will only be heard by the Commissioners Court. No formal action, discussion, deliberation, nor comment will be made by the Commissioners Court.)

None.

2. Consideration and action to set Public Hearing for placement of a Stop Sign on Ripple Ln as it approaches Shunka Rd

Commissioner Rinn stated that he and Jonathan Hopko (Austin County Engineer) had discussed this, and decided it would be best to move forward with a public hearing for placement of a stop sign on Ripple Lane as it approaches Shunka Road.

Judge Lapham inquired if the public hearing could be set for August 24th at 9:00AM.

Commissioner Rinn agreed that would be a good date.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Bobby Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Greg Mikel, Passed, (4-0).

3. Consideration and action to award bid for the Allen's Creek - Sector 3 - Stormwater Mitigation Project - Grant #22-085-007-D235.

Steve Wilson (Wilson Engineering) spoke about the bids put in for Allen's Creek Sector 3 Storm Water Mitigation Project. He also stated that the quote from Brazos Valley L4 LLC is not eligible due to lacking some of the requirements needed. Therefore, he recommends the court go with Environmental Allies.

Commissioner Reed motions to award the bid to Environmental Allies for the amount of \$4,199,843.60.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Chip Reed, 2nd Commissioner Leroy Cerny, Passed, (4-0).

4. Discussion and action to approve Odyssey Engineering Group to provide services for Major Thoroughfare Planning and Regional Watershed Planning.

Jonathan Hopko (Austin County Engineer) explained to the court that this was something they had allowed for in the budget, and they have now found someone to come in and do the work needed. Therefore, he is requesting approval from the court.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Chip Reed, 2nd Commissioner Bobby Rinn, Passed, (4-0).

5. Discussion and action to authorize Sheriffs Office to submit all future invoices payments of the Victims Notification System.

Sheriff Jack Brandes (Austin County Sheriff) expressed that this is something to help speed up the time in which it takes to get this specific bill paid.

Lieutenant Donald Duraq (Austin County Sheriff's Office) explained further that this will give the auditors office immediate authority to pay this bill as soon as it's received.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Bobby Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Greg Mikel, Passed, (4-0).

6. Consideration and action to increase the over 65 property tax exemption.

Judge Lapham explained to the court that this has been something the county has been working on for a few years. Therefore, it has been brought back to court again for discussion. He hopes by making these incremental changes it will help to keep seniors in their homes.

Commissioner Rinn inquired as to what amount it would increase by.

Judge Lapham clarified it would be moved from \$50,000 per year to \$75,000 per year.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Bobby Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Greg Mikel, Passed, (4-0).

7. Consideration and action to approve master agreement between Austin County/Austin County EMS and the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center.

Walter Morrow (EMS Director) explained that entering into this contract with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center would allow the county to purchase blood directly from the blood center.

Commissioner Rinn inquired if storing the blood requires any special equipment.

Walter Morrow (EMS Director) stated that the grant would cover all the necessary equipment to store the

blood.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Chip Reed, 2nd Commissioner Leroy Cerny, Passed, (4-0).

8. Consideration and action to approve purchase of a Horton F550 ambulance through HGAC Buy funded mostly by HB3000 funds.

Walter Morrow (EMS Director) stated that EMS currently has three units with over two hundred thousand miles on them, and even though they are expecting new units, a miscommunication has delayed them being delivered by the time they expected. He explained the vehicle he is seeking approval to purchase is a unit that another county has backed out of and getting this unit will ensure that EMS has a reliable unit until the newer ones can be delivered.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Chip Reed, 2nd Commissioner Leroy Cerny, Passed, (4-0).

9. Consideration and action to approve annual ambulance placeholder order with Horton for future vehicles.

Walter Morrow (EMS Director) stated that he was informed that orders for future fleet vehicles can be placed ahead of time with no risk to the county, just as long as if we don't need the vehicle, the order is canceled within six months of delivery. He explained how this could benefit the county with the current turnaround rate on a unit being around two years.

Commissioner Rinn inquired if there would always be a two-year turnaround for a unit.

Walter Morrow (EMS Director) stated that as high as the demand is for these units all over the state, it would probably be a while before it was less time than that.

Commissioner Cerny inquired if the unit would hold whatever cost is quoted at the time of the order.

Walter Morrow (EMS Director) stated it would be closer to whatever the market value at that time was.

Commissioner Cerny inquired if there would be any down payment to have this placeholder.

Walter Morrow (EMS Director) clarified that there would be no down payment.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Leroy Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Greg Mikel, Passed, (4-0).

10. Discussion and action to approve Austin County Deployment Policy

Judge Lapham explained that though there are no changes to how the policy operates, they did have to add a definition of what is considered to be deployment per this policy.

Walter Morrow (EMS Director) clarified that it is only changing the verbiage of the policy.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Bobby Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Chip Reed, Passed, (4-0).

11. Consideration and action to approve a resolution by Southeast Texas Housing Authority assigning private activity bond authority to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Judge Lapham spoke about how this program allows certain individuals to receive help for down payments and extra things needed to get them into homes through the Southeast Texas Housing Finance Corp. He explained to the court that as a county, and being part of the housing authority, approval from the county for the state to oversee this would be needed.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Chip Reed, 2nd Commissioner Leroy Cerny, Passed, (4-0).

12. **CONSENT AGENDA** - Items listed are of routine nature and may be acted on in a single motion unless requested otherwise by member of Commissioners Court.
 - a. Consideration and action to Approve Minutes:
 - i. May 26, 2026
 - ii. June 8, 2026
 - b. Consideration and action to accept special donation(s), per local government code 81.032
 - i. \$100 - Knox Memorial Library
 - ii. \$100 - Knox Memorial Library
 - c. Consideration and action to accept drainage impact analysis report for The Grove Development, Pct. 1.
 - d. Consideration and action to accept Drainage Report for Fisher Creek Estates at Maler Rd, Sealy, Texas.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Leroy Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Greg Mikel, Passed, (4-0).

13. **BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL CLAIMS** - action as appropriate
 - a. Payment of Claims

Total: \$1,766,263.23.

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Bobby Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Chip Reed, Passed, (4-0).

- b. Fund Transfers

Total: \$872,566.62 (6/19/2026)

Total: \$327,059.63 (6/22/2026)

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Chip Reed, 2nd Commissioner Greg Mikel, Passed, (4-0).

- c. Budget Amendments

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Greg Mikel, 2nd Commissioner Bobby Rinn, Passed, (4-0).

- d. County Auditor's review of finances
 - e. County Treasurer's
 - i. Payroll and Escrow Reports

1.06.08.2026

2.06.12.2026

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Leroy Cerny, 2nd Commissioner Chip Reed, Passed, (4-0).

14. Written end-of-the-month reports submitted by County Offices
 - a. AgriLife Extension - 4-H & Youth Development - May 2026
 - b. AgriLife Extension - ANR - May 2026
 - c. Constable Pct. 2 - May 2026
 - d. Constable Pct. 4 - May 2026
 - e. Criminal Court- April 2026
 - f. Criminal Court - May 2026
 - g. Civil Court - April 2026
 - h. Civil Court - May 2026
 - i. Family Court - April 2026
 - j. Family Court - May 2026
 - k. Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2 - May 2026
 - l. Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4 - May 2026
 - m. Statutory Court - April 2026
 - n. Statutory Court - May 2026
 - o. TCEQ/OSSF - May 2026
 - p. TxDMV - May 2026

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Bobby Rinn, 2nd Commissioner Greg Mikel, Passed, (4-0).

15. **Commissioners' Court Inquiry**

(Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.042, the Commissioners Court may inquire about a subject not specifically listed on this agenda. Responses are limited to a recitation of existing policy, or statement of specific factual information given in response to the inquiry. Any deliberation or decision shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda of a future meeting.)

Billy Doherty (Austin County Auditor) explained to the court that Human Resources has been doing background checks on employees which is not currently a line item on the budget and would like to add it to next year's budget.

Commissioner Rinn inquired about the change in the deployment policy being put into the county policy.

Judge Lapham stated that since the court passed it today, it should go on our policy. However, it will be passed along to Human Resources to see what steps need to be taken to get it added.

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Chip Reed, 2nd Commissioner Bobby Rinn, Passed, (4-0).

Court adjourned at 9:42 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 June 22, 2026.

Date: 7-6-2026

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

By: Kayla Whitley
Deputy Clerk



FILED

2026 JUL -6 PM 2: 36

Diane Day
COUNTY CLERK
AUSTIN COUNTY, TEXAS