



Minutes for the Travis County Commissioners Court September 19, 2023 Voting Session

Minutes Prepared by the Travis County Clerk
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Call to Order

Meeting called to order on September 19, 2023, in the Travis County Administration Building, Commissioners Courtroom, 700 Lavaca Street, 1st Floor, Austin, TX, Dyana Limon-Mercado County Clerk, was represented by Deputy Jasmine Acosta.

Present: County Judge Andy Brown
Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion
Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea
Commissioner Precinct 3 Ann Howard
Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret J. Gómez

MOTION: Authorize Judge Brown to sign documents on behalf of the Court members who are physically not present.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

Public Communication

Clerk's Note: There were no Public Comment Speakers.

County Announcements

Clerk's Note: There were no County Announcements.

Consent Motion

MOTION: Approve Consent items; 3,4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.a-h, 17, 18,19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26.a-b, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 42.a-e, 43, and 44.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

Resolutions & Proclamations

1. Approve proclamation recognizing September 15–October 15, 2023, as "Hispanic Heritage Month in Travis County." (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: NO ACTION NECESSARY

2. Approve a proclamation recognizing September 25th - 29th, 2023 as "Clean Energy Week" in Travis County. (Commissioner Shea)

MOTION: Approve a proclamation recognizing September 25th - 29th, 2023 as "Clean Energy Week".

RESULT: APPROVED - UNANIMOUS

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

Auditor

3. Approve payment of claims by the County Treasurer. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

4. Receive revenue and expenditure reports, and other statutorily required reports, for the month of July 2023 from the County Auditor's Office. The reports are submitted electronically as allowed by Local Government Code §114.023 (a) and prescribed by the County Auditor. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Emergency Services

5. Consider and take appropriate action regarding the following:

- A. Outdoor burning in the unincorporated areas of Travis County

Members of the Court heard from:

Tony Callaway, Travis County Fire Marshal

MOTION: Approve new burn ban starting September 19, 2023, and set to expire October 18, 2023.

RESULT: APPROVED - UNANIMOUS

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 3 Ann Howard

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

- B. County response to natural disaster or other emergency
(Judge Brown)

RESULT: NO ACTION NECESSARY

6. Consider and take appropriate action on an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Medical Examiner Services between Travis County and Atascosa County.
(Commissioners Shea & Howard)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Health & Human Services

7. Consider and take appropriate action to approve Modification 6 of the interlocal agreement with Integral Care for substance abuse disorder managed services (SAMSO). (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

8. Consider and take appropriate action to approve the Central Texas Food Bank Services Insights and data sharing agreement: Central Texas Food Bank and Travis County. (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

9. Consider and take appropriate action to approve the continuation of services and contract negotiations to renew the Interlocal Agreement between Travis County and the City of Austin for the provision of Animal Services, Contract #4400001725 through November 30, 2023. (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

10. Consider and take appropriate action to approve the continuation of services and contract negotiations to renew the Interlocal Agreement between Travis County and the City of Austin for the provision of Public Health Services, Contract #4400001726 through November 30, 2023. (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Justice & Public Safety

11. Consider and take appropriate action on the acceptance of a BRINC Ball Throw Phone donation for the Travis County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team with an estimated value of \$2,000.00. The Throw Phone is being donated by Sgt. James Moore, which he personally won at a TTPOA (Texas Tactical Police Officer's Association) Conference. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Planning & Budget

12. Authorize the County Treasurer to invest County funds. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

13. Consider and take appropriate action on budget amendments, transfers, and discussion items. (Commissioner Gómez)

Members of the Court heard from:

Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, Planning and Budget Office (PBO)

Clerk's Note: Budget Amendments N1-N2, and A1 in Item 13 were added to the Consent Motion.

MOTION: Approve Budget Amendments A2-A3 in Item 13

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

14. Consider and take appropriate action on the following grant programs, applications, contracts and related special budgets, and permissions to continue:
 - A. New contract with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for \$129,649 through the Detection and Mitigation of COVID-19 in Confinement Facilities Grant in Juvenile Probation
 - B. Annual contract with the Office of the Attorney General for \$34,601.67 through the Statewide Automated Victim Notification Service grant in Information Technology Services
 - C. Annual contract with the Office of Violence Against Women for \$79,129, including a \$29,629 grant match, for the Other Victim Assistance Grant in the County Attorney's Office

- D. Contract amendment to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) Discretionary State Aid – Residential Projects grant to increase the award by \$745,960 in Juvenile Probation
- E. Contract amendment to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Grant with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to decrease the award by \$125,000 and move funds to Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program grant in HHS
- F. Contract amendment to the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program grant with TDHCA to increase award by \$125,000 through transfer from LIHEAP grant and accept additional funding increase of \$1,046,131 in HHS
- G. Contract amendment to the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program Emergency Supplement grant with TDHCA to move \$88,448 between grant budget categories in HHS
- H. Permission to continue the FY 2023 Community Development Block Grant for up to \$36,320 through November 30, 2023 (Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

- 15. Consider and take appropriate action on FY 2024 budget issues, including:
 - A. Rebudgeting of Debt Funded Year 2023 Capital Projects into Fiscal Year 2024
 - B. Changes After Markup List
 - C. Other Remaining Items (Judge Brown)

Members of the Court heard from:

Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, PBO
 Aerin-Renee Pfaffenberger, Assistant Budget Director, PBO
 Alex Braden, Assistant Budget Director, PBO
 Aaron Pepper, Analyst II, PBO
 Vicki Ashley, Division Director, County Attorney's Office

MOTION: Approve the changes in Items 15.a-c.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

16. Consider and take appropriate action on an order approving setting the Travis County tax rates for the year beginning January 1, 2023

Members of the Court heard from:

Jessica Rio, County Executive, PBO

Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, PBO

A. Total maintenance and operations Tax Rate

Members of the Court heard from:

Jessica Rio, County Executive, PBO

MOTION: Approve the property tax rate to be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 26.9707 cents for each \$100 valuation of all taxable property for maintenance and operations, which is effectively a 3.5 percent increase in the tax rate, and that the tax rate of 26.9707 cents is hereby levied for the current tax year for general operating purposes.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

B. Total Debt Service Tax Rate

MOTION: Approve the property tax rate of 3.4948 cents for each \$100 valuation of all taxable property is hereby levied for the current tax year for debt service to provide sinking funds and to pay interest on outstanding debt, which includes both bonds and certificates of obligation.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

C. Total County Ad Valorem Tax Rate
(Judge Brown)

MOTION: Approve two components of the Travis County property tax rate for the current year having been approved in this order, property taxes are increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 26.9707 cents for maintenance and operations, and a tax rate of 30.4948 cents for debt service, and, therefore, a total tax rate of 30.4655 cents for each \$100 valuation of all taxable property has been hereby levied for the current tax year.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion
AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

Purchasing

17. Receive bids from County Purchasing Agent. (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

18. Approve Change Order No. 4 to Contract No. 4400006843 with M.A. Smith Contracting Company, Inc., in the amount of \$42,107.68, for the Steiner Ranch Emergency Evacuation Route. (Transportation & Natural Resources) (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

19. Approve Modification No. 3 to Contract No. 4400004916 with RVE, Inc., in the amount of \$434,252.93, for the design of the Gilleland Creek Greenway Improvements, Section 1 Project. (Transportation & Natural Resources) (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

20. Approve contract award for the Flood Warning and Detection System, RFP No. 2206-005-TM, in the amount of \$208,728.90, to the sole respondent, High Sierra Electronics, Inc. (Transportation & Natural Resources) (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

21. Approve Modification No. 1 to Contract No. 4400006644 with El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission, in the amount of \$445,358.00, for food access services. (Health & Human Services) (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

22. Approve Modification No. 1 to Contract No. 4600000730 with Austin Free-Net, in the amount of \$110,258.00, for digital skills and literacy services. (Juvenile Probation) (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

23. Approve Modification No. 1 to Contract No. 4600000720 with Austin - Travis County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center dba Integral Care, for professional psychiatric evaluation and treatment services. (Juvenile Probation) (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

24. Approve termination of Contract No. 4400005925 with The Safe Alliance, for Crime Victims Services. (District Attorney's Office) (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

25. Approve Modification No. 5 to Contract No. 4400003080 with Mauro Psychological Services, PLLC, as needed, for Psychological/ Psychiatric Services. (District and Criminal Courts) (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Technology & Operations

26. Consider and take appropriate action on the following Personnel Amendments:

- A. Routine Personnel Actions
- B. Non-Routine Personnel Actions
(Commissioners Travillion & Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

27. Consider and take appropriate action regarding the license agreement amendment between Travis County and the Travis County Credit Union to relocate an ATM machine to the Nelda Wells Spears Tax Office located at 2433 Ridgepoint Drive in Travis County. (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

28. Consider and take appropriate action on work completed by Blackmon Mooring for damage caused in the Winter Storm of February 2021. (Commissioners Travillion & Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

29. Consider and take appropriate action regarding the space allocation of 6,908 SF on the second floor of 5501 Airport Blvd. for the Travis County Sheriff's Office. (Commissioner Travillion)

Members of the Court heard from:

Gabe Stock, Interim Director, Facilities Management Department (FMD)

MOTION: Approve Item 29.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

Transportation & Natural Resources

30. Consider and take appropriate action regarding a request to approve an Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT for the design and construction of a right-turn lane on US290 at Ledgestone Terrace Project in Precinct Three. (Commissioner Howard)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

31. Consider and take appropriate action regarding an Interlocal Agreement with Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority to continue to provide transit passes for employees. (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

32. Receive briefing on the bulk water station in southeast Travis County to resume charging customers. (Commissioner Gómez)

Members of the Court heard from:

Charles Bergh, Division Director, Parks, Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR)

Tim Speyrer, District Park Manager, TNR

Cynthia McDonald, County Executive, TNR

RESULT: DISCUSSED

33. Consider and take appropriate action regarding a request to approve a Reimbursement Agreement with Creedmoor-Maha Water Supply Corporation for the design and construction of a water line relocation to accommodate the County's proposed Williamson Road Drainage Improvement Project in Precinct Four. (Commissioner Gómez).

RESULT: DISCUSSED

34. Consider and take appropriate action regarding a request for TNR staff to travel to Mexico City for the Cities Forward Kickoff Event September 26-29, 2023. (Commissioner Shea)

RESULT: DISCUSSED

35. Consider and take appropriate action on a Construction and Mitigation Agreement between Butler Family Partnership, Ltd. and Travis County for traffic mitigation associated with the proposed Creedmoor 216 development in Precinct Four. (Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: DISCUSSED

36. Consider and take appropriate action regarding educational materials detailing the proposed 2023 Bond Referendum, Propositions A and B. (Commissioners Travillion & Shea)

Members of the Court heard from:

Cynthia McDonald, County Executive, TNR

Hector Nieto, Public Information Officer, Public Information Office (PIO)

MOTION: Approve Item 36.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

SECONDER: County Judge Andy Brown

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

37. Receive briefing from the West Travis County Public Utility Agency (WTCPUA) and the City of Bee Cave regarding the Hamilton Pool Road waterline project and potential use of an easement at the Travis County's Parks West Office. (Commissioners Shea & Howard)

Members of the Court heard from:

Cynthia McDonald, County Executive, TNR

Jason Bayes, Vice President, Municipal, Murfee Engineering Company

Jennifer Riechers, General Manager, West Travis County Public Utility Agency

Greg Chico, Division Manager, Real Estate Division, TNR

RESULT: DISCUSSED

38. Plat for recording: East Village RA – 18 & 22 (Long Form Final Plat – Three commercial lots, one open space/drainage easement lot, and 858 linear feet of streets – 38.73 acres – Hulsey Road - City of Austin's two-mile ETJ) in Precinct Two. (Commissioner Shea)

RESULT: DISCUSSED

39. Approve setting a public hearing on October 17, 2023, to receive comments on a request to authorize the filing of an instrument to vacate a section of right-of-way on Lippincott Street, in Austin's Colony Phase 2, a subdivision in Precinct One. (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: DISCUSSED

Other

40. Consider and take appropriate action on the Travis County Healthcare District DBA Central Health property tax rates for the 2023 tax year

Items 40 and 41 are associated with one another and were called for concurrent discussion.

- A. Total maintenance and operations tax rate
- B. Total debt service tax rate
- C. Total ad valorem tax rate
(Judge Brown)

Judge Brown announced that Item 40 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

Members of the Court heard from:

Mike Geeslin, President and CEO, Central Health
Jeff Knodel, VP and CFO, Central Health
Ann Kitchen, Manager, Central Health Board of Managers
Jonathan Morgan, Chief Operating Officer, Central Health
Monica Crowley, VP, Chief Strategy, Planning Officer, and Sr. Counsel,
Central Health
Cynthia Valadez, Secretary, Central Health Board of Managers
Shannon Jones, Manager, Central Health Board of Managers
Peck Young, Director Center for Public Policy and Political Studies,
ACC
Virginia Badillo, Community Health Worker, Austin Voices for Education
Sayra Castro, Community Health Worker, Austin Voices for Education
Maria Emerson, Travis County Resident
Nora Comstock, Travis County Resident
Janet Iturbe, Community Health Worker, Austin Voices for Education
Barbara Shirley, Travis County Resident
Mia Greer, Chief Operating Officer, Community Coalition for Health
Charles Moody, CEO, Community Coalition for Health
Amber Orr, Travis County Resident
Reyes Martinez, Travis County Resident
Brenda Fierro, Travis County Resident
Rachel Blair, Chief Operating Officer, Health Alliance for Austin Musicians
Allen Weeks, Travis County Resident
Shay Sayed, Travis County Resident
Teresa Rivera, Travis County Resident
Maria Mendoza, Travis County Resident
Marycelda Coll, Travis County Resident
Robert Lilly, Participatory Defense Organizer, Grassroots
Leadership
Gonzalo Barrientos, Former Senator, 14th District
Maria Alonzo, Travis County Resident

RESULT: DISCUSSED

41. Consider and take appropriate action on the Travis County Healthcare District DBA Central Health Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. (Judge Brown)

Items 40 and 41 are associated with one another and were called for concurrent discussion. Please refer to Item 40 for a summary of the action taken by the Court.

Judge Brown announced that Item 41 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

42. Consider and take appropriate action to approve license agreements for the use of the following Early Voting and Election Day polling sites for the November 7, 2023 Joint General and Special Elections
- A. Balcones-Wilshire, LLC (Balcones Woods Shopping Center)
 - B. Riverbend Centre, LLC
 - C. Genesis Presbyterian
 - D. LBJ School of Public Affairs
 - E. Peace Lutheran Church
(Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

43. Approve and authorize the County Attorney to sign a request that Travis County join as a signatory to a proposed amicus brief to be filed in support of the Plaintiffs in K.C. v. Medical Licensing Board of Indiana, No. 23-2366 (7th Cir.). *(This Item may be taken into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.071)* (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

44. Consider and take appropriate action to approve an interlocal agreement between Travis County and the Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health for Central Health to provide (1) cooperation with Mazars USA LLP, the auditors doing the performance audit, and (2) reimbursement of costs (not to exceed \$845,200.00) to Travis County for the performance audit. (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez).

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

45. Approve bond for appointed Probate Court # 2 Judge, Nicholas Chu. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: NO ACTION NECESSARY

Executive Session

46. Receive briefing and take appropriate action regarding Travis County information security issues.¹ & ⁶ (Commissioners Travillion & Howard)

Judge Brown announced that Item 46 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney and Consultation with Attorney and Gov't Code Ann 551.089, IT Security.

RESULT: NO ACTION NECESSARY

Adjourn

Minutes Approved by the Commissioners Court

Date of Approval

Andy Brown, County Judge