



Minutes for the Travis County Commissioners Court September 5, 2024 Special Voting Session

**Minutes Prepared by the Travis County Clerk
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Call to Order

Meeting called to order on September 5, 2024, in the Travis County Administration Building, Commissioners Courtroom, 700 Lavaca Street, 1st Floor, Austin, TX, Dyana Limon-Mercado County Clerk, was represented by Deputy Lola Ogunro.

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

Signature Motion

MOTION: Each Commissioner not physically present delegates the authority to the County Judge to sign any documents, including orders related to items before the court today on their behalf.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 3 Ann Howard

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

ABSENT: Jeffrey Travillion

Public Communication

MOTION: Approve shortening the public comment time limit from three minutes to two minutes for each speaker for the September 5, 2024, budget mark-up.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: County Judge Andy Brown

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

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

Members of the Court heard from:

Yasmine Smith, Vice President, Justice and Advocacy, Austin Area Urban League
June Mighty, Director, Human Resources Management Department

Agenda Items

1. Consider and take appropriate action regarding Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Mark-Up.

Members of the Court heard from:

Peggy Morton, Member, Austin Sanctuary Network
Robert Lilly, Participatory Defense Organizer, Grassroots Leadership
Steven Flournoy, Travis County Resident
Kaylee Brilhart, Attorney, Travis County Public Defender's Office (TCPDO)
Arielle Lewis-Zavala, Investigations Supervisor, TCPDO
Rochelle Vasquez, Attorney, TCPDO
Darwin Hamilton, Member, Oversight Committee for TCPDO
Ofelia Zapata, Trustee, District 2, Austin Independent School District
Bob Batlan, Founding Member, Advocates for Social Justice
Adeola Ogunkeyede, Chief Public Defender, TCPDO
Amalia Beckner, Attorney, TCPDO
Andrea Marsh, Board Chair, Organizational Development, TCPDO
Janel Vanzant, Attorney, TCPDO
Chantel Pridgon, Participatory Defense Organizer, Grassroots Leadership

RESULT: DISCUSSED

Mark-Up Items

1. Review process for viewing and tracking budget mark-up changes.

Members of the Court heard from:

Jessica Rio, County Executive, Planning and Budget Office (PBO)
Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, PBO
Aerin-Renee Pfaffenberger, Assistant Budget Director, PBO
Alex Braden, Assistant Budget Director, PBO
Michael Chang, Business Consultant I, PBO

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Recap current budget status, including:
 - A. Preliminary Budget;
 - B. Revenue and other available funds (4th Revenue Estimate); and
 - C. Changes to Preliminary Budget.

Members of the Court heard from:

Jessica Rio, County Executive, PBO

Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, PBO

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Approve the Preliminary Budget to establish baseline for beginning budget mark-up process.

Members of the Court heard from:

Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, PBO

MOTION: Approve the Preliminary Budget to establish a baseline for beginning budget mark-up process.

RESULT: APPROVED - UNANIMOUS

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

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

4. Approve Changes to Preliminary Budget recommended by PBO.

Members of the Court heard from:

Alex Braden, Assistant Budget Director, PBO

Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, PBO

Cynthia McDonald, County Executive, Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR)

MOTION: Approve Changes to Preliminary Budget by PBO.

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

FRIENDLY

AMENDMENT: Increase one-time funds and decrease ongoing funds for the Nuisance Abatement Pilot program and include a formal review of the effectiveness of the program.

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 3 Ann Howard.

RESULT: FRIENDLY AMENDMENT ACCEPTED

Clerk's Note: A Vote on the Standing Motion was taken.

RESULT: APPROVED - UNANIMOUS

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

5. Approve transactions for Rebudgeting of Debt Funded Year 2024 Capital Projects into Fiscal Year 2025.

Members of the Court heard from:

Aerin-Renee Pfaffenberger, Assistant Budget Director, PBO

MOTION: Approve transactions for Rebudgeting of Debt Funded Year 2024 Capital Projects into Fiscal Year 2025.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

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

6. Consider and take appropriate action on remaining FY 2025 compensation issues.

Members of the Court heard from:

Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, PBO

RESULT: DISCUSSED

7. Review selected items on Budget Agenda Worksheet.

BH-22: Hazardous Duty – Imminent Danger Pay (Road and Bridge Fund \$62,732)

Members of the Court heard from:

June Mighty, Director, HRMD

Cynthia McDonald, County Executive, TNR

MOTION: Approve the \$62,732 in ongoing funding for hazardous duty and imminent danger pay for Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR) staff who are subjected to physically hazardous conditions and potential imminent danger in their line of work, and request TNR staff to come back to Commissioners Court with policy for further discussion if costs exceed the approved amount.

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

BH- 0701b: AOT Program - Resources for Contract and Attorney - Funding for Two Years - Revised at Budget Hearing - Including data analysis showing benefits of the program in preparation of diversion efforts

BH- 0731b: AOT Program - Probate Division - Funding for Two Years - Revised at Budget Hearing - Including data analysis showing benefits of the program in preparation of diversion efforts

Members of the Court heard from:

Laura Peveto, Director, Office of Children Services, Health and Human Services

MOTION: Approve two years of one-time funding for resources related to Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and include data analysis showing the benefits of AOT in preparation of diversion efforts.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: County Judge Andy Brown

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

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

BH-23: Additional Engineering Inspectors Staffing 2 Full-Time Employees (FTEs) – Revised at Budget Hearing

Members of the Court heard from:

Aerin-Renee Pfaffenberger, Assistant Budget Director, PBO
Cynthia McDonald, County Executive, TNR
Anna Bowlin

MOTION: Approve the request.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

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

BH-27: Workforce Development Program

Members of the Court heard from:

Robert Armistead, Division Director, Parks, TNR

MOTION: Approve the request.

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

BH-12: FTE conversion from Special Project Worker (SPW)

BH-16: 3% Compensation for CSCD Employees

BH-28: Park Supervisors

BH- 31: I35 Corridor Intercity Passenger Rail Project -New Request Discussed at Budget Hearing

BH-34: Community Outreach Operating Resources - Data Research & Planning

BH-36: Tier Two - Practicum Education - HHS Counseling Program (6 Interns + 1 FTE)

MOTION: Approve the following requests: BH-12, BH-16, BH-28, BH-31, BH-34, and BH-36 and move \$125,000 from ongoing funds to one-time funds.

MOVER: County Judge Andy Brown

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

FRIENDLY

AMENDMENT: Add Earmark against the Allocated Reserve for CSCD for \$405,210 in one-time funds for 3% Compensation for CSCD Employees

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

RESULT: **FRIENDLY AMENDMENT ACCEPTED**

Clerk's Note: A Vote on the Standing Motion was taken.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

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

BH-24: Land Management - Wildland Fire Operations and Maintenance - 4 FTEs

BH-29: Historic Moore's Bridge at Richard Moya Park Preservation and Restoration Project

BH-3818a: Work-Based Learning/Summer Youth Employment-Staffing Supports – Revised at Budget Hearing

BH-05: Enterprise Project Management Office

BH-01: Director of Organizational Culture/Contractual Consulting Services – (less 140k)

BH-37: Deaf Services FTE's Request

BH-26: Park Operations Specialists

BH-32: Peer Support Specialist (1.0 FTE) - Reentry Resources

BH-18: Supportive Housing Operational Funds

BH-1905a: Supportive Housing Caseworker (1.0 FTE) - MHPD at Step 3 - Revised at Budget Hearing

BH-3051a: Throckmorton Research and Monitoring - Revised at Budget Hearing

BH-35: Social Service Investments – Access to Basic Supports

BH-02: Add Earmark against the Allocated Reserve for HRMD for \$80,000 in one-time funds for Learning and Development Programing

Members of the Court heard from:

Jay Alexander, Assistant Division
Director, Parks, TNR
Vicki Ashley, County Executive, Innovative Justice and Program Analysis,
Justice and Public Safety (JPS)
Korey Darling, Division Director, HHS
June Mighty, Director, HRMD
Paul Hopingardner, County Executive, Technology and Operations

MOTION: Approve the following requests: BH-24, BH-29, BH-3818a, BH-05, BH-01, BH-37, BH-26, BH-32, BH-18, BH-1905a, BH-3051, BH-35, and BH-02.
RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**
MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion
SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea
AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

8. Authorize HRMD to post and advertise new positions.

Members of the Court heard from:

Jessica Rio, County Executive, PBO
June Mighty, Director, HRMD

MOTION: Authorize HRMD to post new positions.
RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**
MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea
SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion
AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

9. Approve Fiscal Year 2025 earmarks on reserves: Allocated Reserve and Capital Acquisition Resources Reserve.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

10. Authorize Planning and Budget Office to adjust Unallocated Reserve and balance budget against Allocated Reserve based on 5th (final) Revenue Estimate.

MOTION: Authorize PBO to adjust the Unallocated Reserve and balance the budget against the Allocated Reserve.
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

Adjourn

**Minutes Approved by the Commissioners
Court**

Date of Approval

Andy Brown, County Judge