



Minutes for the Travis County Commissioners Court February 25, 2025 Voting Session

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

Meeting called to order on February 25, 2025, 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
Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

Public Communication

Members of the Court heard from:

June Mighty, Director, Human Resources Management Department (HRMD)
David Canales, Finance and Administration Manager, HRMD
Gene Holloway, Director of Organizational Culture, HRMD
Larry Akers, Mobility Austin

County Announcements

Clerk's Note: There were no County Announcements.

Public Hearings

1. Receive comments regarding the issuance of a Mass Gathering Permit for the Luck Reunion event scheduled to take place on March 13-14, 2025, at 1100 Bee Creek Road, Spicewood, TX 78669. (Judge Brown)

MOTION: Open the Public Hearing.
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

Members of the Court heard from:

Gary Howell, Travis County Fire Marshal
Danny Timmons, Deputy Assistant III, Travis County Fire Marshal
Scott Marsh, Luck Reunion

MOTION: Close the Public Hearing.

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

Resolutions & Proclamations

2. Consider and take appropriate action to approve a proclamation recognizing the Alpha Kappa Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. for 85 years of service in Austin, Texas and the Travis County community. (Commissioner Travillion)

Members of the Court heard from:

Cassandra Walker, Alpha Kappa Zeta
Juanita Jackson, Alpha Kappa Zeta
Yvonne Swain, Alpha Kappa Zeta
Jessica Williams, Alpha Kappa Zeta

MOTION: Approve Item 2.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

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

ABSENT: Andy Brown

3. Consider and take appropriate action to approve proclamation recognizing the month of February 2025 as Black History Month in Travis County. (Commissioner Travillion)

Members of the Court heard from:

Robert Lilly, Grassroots Leadership

MOTION: Approve Item 3.
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

4. Consider and take appropriate action to approve a proclamation honoring Dean Senator Judith Zaffirini on her achievement as the First Woman Dean of the Senate. (Commissioners Travillion & Shea)
RESULT: NO ACTION NECESSARY

Auditor

5. Approve payment of claims by the County Treasurer. (Judge Brown)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
6. Consider and take appropriate action on Management Representation Letter to be provided to Atchley & Associates, LLP regarding the fiscal year 2024 County-wide annual financial audit. (Judge Brown)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Emergency Services

7. Consider and take appropriate action regarding the following:
- A. Outdoor burning in the unincorporated areas of Travis County
 - B. County response to natural disaster or other emergencies (Judge Brown)
- RESULT: NO ACTION NECESSARY**
8. Consider and take appropriate action regarding the issuance of a Mass Gathering Permit for the Luck Reunion event scheduled to take place on March 13-14, 2025, at 1100 Bee Creek Road, Spicewood, TX 78669. (Judge Brown)

Note: In accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 751.007, only Judge Brown will take action on this item.

MOTION: Approve Item 8.
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

Health & Human Services

9. Receive Briefing and Updates on Opioid Abatement Investment and Harm Reduction Services (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

Members of the Court heard from:

Laura Peveto, Director, Office of Children Services, Health and Human Service (HHS)
Courtney Lucas Bissonnet, Strategic Advisor, HHS

RESULT: DISCUSSED

Intergovernmental Relations

10. Consider and take appropriate action on the following grant programs, applications, contracts and related special budgets, letters of support, memorandum of understanding, and permissions to continue:

- A. Permission to Continue for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting grant from United Way for Greater Austin for \$108,786 in the Health and Human Services Department
- B. Grant agreement for the Title IV-E Legal Administration grant solicited by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services for a reimbursement of up to an estimated \$183,566.44 in the District Attorney's Office
- C. Contract amendment for the FY 25 Weatherization Assistance Program from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs in the Health and Human Services department

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

- D. Letter of Intent to apply for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant - South solicited by the U.S. Forest Service for \$250,000 in the Emergency Services department, which has a county match of \$62,500

Members of the Court heard from:

Dashiell Daniels, Travis County Grants Administrator
Chuck Brotherton, County Executive, Emergency Services
Julie Wheeler, Intergovernmental Relations Officer, Intergovernmental
Relations Office
Jessica Rio, County Executive, Planning and Budget Office (PBO)
Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, PBO
Cynthia McDonald, County Executive, Transportation and Natural Resources
(TNR)
Gabe Mahlum, Park Land Resource Manager, TNR

Judge Brown announced that Item 10.d would be further considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

Clerk's Note: Commissioner Howard read the following language into the record before making a motion:

"... That we would go for the grant to increase our wildland mitigation and fire prevention efforts, especially in high-risk wildfire areas and on County-owned land. We'd apply for a grant with both public and private lands being eligible. The proposed project areas would include the BCP (Balcones Canyonlands Preserves), Travis County Parks, and private land abutting Travis County Parkland or BCP. Additional details of the program could emerge from a planning process and would be presented to the Court."

MOTION: Direct staff to put together a program that mirrors this outline and submit a Letter of Intent for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant.

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 3 Ann Howard

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

FRIENDLY

AMENDMENT: Modify the language "especially in high-risk wildfire areas and County-owned land" in the Letter of Intent to read "especially in high-risk wildfire areas, prioritizing County-owned land, then private land."

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

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

11. Consider and take appropriate action on County appointments to the Central Health Board of Managers including the appointment, duties, and evaluation of the Travis County and City of Austin joint appointee. (*This item may be taken into Executive Session under Government Code section 551.074 Personnel Matters exception and Government Code section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney exception*). (Judge Brown)

Judge Brown announced that Item 11 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney and Gov't. Code Ann. 551.074, Personnel Matters.

MOTION: Invite Sedora Jefferson, Brittney Justice, Geronimo Rodriguez, and Dr. Guadalupe Zamora to be interviewed.
RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**
MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 3 Ann Howard
SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea
AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

Community Legal Services

12. Receive quarterly update from Community Legal Services Department. (Commissioner Howard)

Items 12 and 13 are associated with one another and were called for concurrent discussion.

Members of the Court heard from:

Geoffrey Burkhart, County Executive, Community Legal Services, Justice and Public Safety

Bradley Hargis, Executive Director, Capital Area Private Defender Service

RESULT: DISCUSSED

13. Receive update from Capital Area Private Defender Service. (Commissioner Gómez)

Items 12 and 13 are associated with one another and were called for concurrent discussion. Please refer to Item 12 for a summary of the action taken by the Court.

Planning & Budget

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

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

15. Consider and take appropriate action on budget amendments, transfers, and discussion items. (Commissioner Gómez)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
16. Consider and take appropriate action on Travis County's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Guidelines (Commissioner Gómez)

Members of the Court heard from:

Jessica Rio, County Executive, Planning and Budget Office (PBO)
Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, PBO
Alex Braden, Assistant Budget Director, PBO
Michelle Surka, Planning and Budget Analyst Sr, PBO

MOTION: Approve Item 16.
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

17. Consider and take appropriate action regarding a resolution approving and authorizing a WildHorse Ranch PID Community Benefit Fee Escrow Agreement relating to an assessment levy request for Improvement Area #3. (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: NO ACTION NECESSARY

Purchasing

18. Receive bids from County Purchasing Agent. (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
19. Approve termination of Contract No. 4400005922 with YWCA of Greater Austin for Individual and Group Counseling Services. (Juvenile Probation Department) (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
20. Approve Modification No. 3 to Contract No. 4400007280 with McGriff Insurance Services, LLC, in the amount of \$2,089,000.00, for Sole Insurance Broker of Record Services for Property, Boiler and Machinery Insurance. (Human Resources Management Department) (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

21. Approve contract award for Locksmith Services, IFB 2409-001-JR, for estimated requirements, to the lowest bidder, Urgent Lock and Key LLC. (Facilities Management) (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

22. Approve exemption, ratifications and contract awards for Housing Continuum Services as follows (Health & Human Services):

- A. Contract No. 4400008050 with Casa Marianella, in the amount of \$224,250.00.
- B. Contract No. 4400008051 with Ending Community Homelessness Coalition dba, ECHO, in the amount of \$100,000.00.
- C. Contract No. 4400008052 with Youth and Family Alliance, dba LifeWorks, in the amount of \$150,000.00.
- D. Contract No. 4400008053 with VinCare Services of Austin Foundation dba, Saint Louise House, in the amount of \$256,732.00.
- E. Contract No. 4400008054 with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc., in the amount of \$463,548.00. (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

23. Approve exemption, ratifications and contract awards for Early Childhood Services as follows (Health & Human Services):

- A. Contract No. 4400008000 with Any Baby Can, Inc., in the amount of \$200,000.00
- B. Contract No. 4400008001 with Austin Child Guidance Center, in the amount of \$206,607.00
- C. Contract No. 4400008002 with Austin Community College, in the amount of \$120,000.00
- D. Contract No. 4400008003 with AVANCE Austin, in the amount of \$150,000.00.
- E. Contract No. 4400008004 with Communities In Schools of Central Texas, in the amount of \$137,000.00. (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

24. Approve order exempting the purchase of repair services for the Sally Port doors at the Central Booking Facility from Hydraulic Supply & Service Co., from the competitive procurement process, pursuant to County Purchasing Act § 262.024(a)(2) and authorize Purchasing Agent to issue purchase orders. (Sheriff's Office) (Commissioner Travillion).

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Technology & Operations

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

A. Routine Personnel Actions (Commissioners Travillion & Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Transportation & Natural Resources

26. Consider and take appropriate action on a proposed License Agreement with UPD Howard SW Land LLC for sidewalk improvements within the right-of-way of Howard Lane, a roadway in Precinct One. (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Other

27. Approve the minutes for the December 17 and December 20, 2024, Voting Sessions. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

28. Approve the minutes for the January 7, January 14, January 28, February 4, and February 11, 2025, Voting Sessions. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Clerk's Note: The Court held a moment of silence in remembrance of Heath "Donell" Creech.

Executive Session

The Commissioners Court will consider the following items in Executive Session. The Commissioners Court may also consider any other matter posted on the agenda if there are issues that require consideration in Executive Session and the Commissioners Court announces that the item will be considered during Executive Session.

Note 1: Gov't Code Ann 551.071, Consultation with Attorney

Note 2: Gov't Code Ann 551.072, Real Property

Note 3: Gov't Code Ann 551.074, Personnel Matters

Note 4: Gov't Code Ann 551.076, Security

Note 5: Gov't Code Ann 551.087, Economic Development Negotiations

Note 6: Gov't Code Ann 551.089, IT Security

Note 7: Gov't Code Ann 551.0745, Deliberation by Commissioners Court about County Advisory Body

Note 8: Gov't Code Ann 551.089, security personnel/critical infrastructure

29. Receive briefing and take appropriate action regarding Travis County security and information security issues.^{1,4,6} (Commissioner Travillion & Howard)

Judge Brown announced that Item 29 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney, Gov't. Code Ann. 551.076, Security, and Gov't Code Ann 551.089, IT Security.

RESULT: POSTPONED

30. Receive briefing and take appropriate action regarding Travis County Supportive Housing Initiative.¹ (Commissioners Howard & Gómez)

Judge Brown announced that Item 30 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

31. Receive briefing and take appropriate action regarding public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Austin Light Rail Phase 1 Project.^{1,2} (Commissioner Travillion)

Judge Brown announced that Item 31 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney and Gov't. Code Ann. 551.072, Real Property.

MOTION: Move approval of the proposed letter commenting on the draft statement for the Austin Light Rail Phase One Project as discussed in executive session.

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

32. Receive a legal briefing and take appropriate action on the Economic Development Agreement between Travis County and the Colorado River Project, LLC (Commissioner Travillion)

Judge Brown announced that Item 32 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

RESULT: POSTPONED

33. Receive briefing on recent federal actions affecting grants.¹

Judge Brown announced that Item 33 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

RESULT: POSTPONED

34. Receive briefing and take appropriate action on the recruitment, appointment, employment, and duties for the position of Travis County Fire Marshal. (Judge Brown)

Judge Brown announced that Item 34 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney and Gov't. Code Ann. 551.074, Personnel Matters.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

Adjourn

Minutes Approved by the Commissioners Court

Date of Approval

Andy Brown, County Judge