



Minutes for the Travis County Commissioners Court August 13, 2024 Voting Session

Minutes Prepared by the Travis County Clerk
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Call to Order

Meeting called to order on August 13, 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
Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

MOTION: Approve shortening the public comment time limit from three minutes to two minutes for each speaker for the August 13, 2024, voting session.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: County Judge Andy Brown

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

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

ABSENT: Jeffrey Travillion

Public Communication

Members of the Court heard from:

Shannon Steele, Benefits Manager, Human Resources Management Department
Brian Peña, President, University Democrats at UT Austin
Caitlyn Kalb, Vice President, University Democrats at UT Austin
Andrea Gregg, Travis County Resident
Karen Bradford, Travis County Resident

County Announcements

Clerk's Note: The County Judge noted that Travis County is taking part in turning unnecessary lights off between 11pm and 6am during the fall bird migration, which takes place from August 15, 2024, to November 30, 2024, and encouraged everyone to do the same.

Public Hearings

1. Receive comments for approval of Fiscal Year 2024–2025 Travis County District Clerk's Records Management Plan. (Judge Brown)

MOTION: Open the Public Hearing.
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

Members of the Court heard from:
Velva Price, Travis County District Clerk

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

2. Receive comments regarding the Travis County 2024 proposed tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2025 County Budget. (Judge Brown & Commissioner Travillion)

MOTION: Open the Public Hearing.
RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**
MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion
SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 3 Ann Howard
AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

Members of the Court heard from:
Jessica Rio, County Executive, Planning and Budget Office (PBO)
Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, Planning and Budget Office
Sean Oliver, Program Manager, Life Anew Restorative Justice

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

3. Consider and take appropriate action to approve a proclamation honoring and recognizing the retirement of Dr. Molly Beth Malcolm. (Judge Brown)

Members of the Court heard from:

Cassie Fitzgerald, Director, Public Affairs, Elections, & Voter Registration,
Austin Community College

MOTION: Approve Item 3.
RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**
MOVER: County Judge Andy Brown
SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion
AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

Auditor

4. Approve payment of claims by the County Treasurer. (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

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

RESULT: NO ACTION NECESSARY

6. Consider and take appropriate action on an Internship Agreement between Austin Community College and Travis County for an internship program with the Travis County Medical Examiner. (Commissioners Shea & Howard)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Health & Human Services

7. Consider and take appropriate action to approve the renewal of the Host Agency Agreement with AARP for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

8. Consider and take appropriate action to approve additional updates to the final version of the Program Year 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan and Program Year 2024 Action Plan and authorize the submission of the revised plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, San Antonio Field Office, Region VI. (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

9. Consider and take appropriate action on a resolution for a proposed 2024 tax rate election to increase access to affordable and high-quality child care and afterschool/summer programming and related services for low-income families and to develop and administer related workforce and economic development programs. (*This item may be taken into executive session pursuant Texas Gov't Code §551.071, Consultation with Attorney.*) (Judge Brown & Commissioner Travillion)

Members of the Court heard from:

Pilar Sanchez, County Executive, Travis County Health and Human Services (HHS)
Korey Darling, Division Director, Research and Planning, HHS
Hilda Rivas, Senior Planner, Research and Planning, HHS
Tamitha Blackmon, Owner, Nehemiah Christian School
Veronda Durden, President, and CEO, Any Baby Can
Manuel Gonzalez, Board Secretary and Trustee, Place 5, Austin Community College
Andrew Hairston, Co-Chair, Social Justice Ministry, Ebenezer Third Baptist Church
Sherwynn Patton, Life Anew Restorative Justice Allison
Alter, District 10 Council Member, City of Austin Linda
Welsh, Travis County Resident
Colin Swanson, Executive Director, Mainspring Schools
Parc Smith, CEO, American YouthWorks
Adam Orman, Co-Founder and Board Chair, Good Work Austin
Christa Holt, Travis County Resident
Richard Robinson, Life Anew Restorative Justice
Yesenia Prieto, Early Childhood Director
Lynn Boswell, District 5 Trustee, Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees
Deisy Morales, Travis County Resident
Ryan Pollack, Representative, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
Choquette Hamilton, Founder, Rise Center for Liberation in Early Childhood Education
Doug Greco, Community Organizer and Travis County Resident
Margaret Warnell, Bright Beginnings Childcare
Danielle Ketchens, Childcare Provider and Travis County Resident
Loretta Johnson, Childcare Provider and Travis County Resident
Marley Archie, Boys and Girls Club of the Austin Area

MOTION: Approve Item 9.
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

Innovative Justice & Program Analysis

10. Receive update on Counsel at First Appearance (CAFA) Operational Test Shifts and consider and take appropriate action on options for transitioning from operational test shifts to implementation. (Judge Brown & Commissioner Howard)

Members of the Court heard from:

Vicki Ashley, Interim County Executive, Innovative Justice and Policy
Analysis, Justice and Public Safety (JPS)
Jesse Valdez, Project Manager, Information and Technology Services
Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, Planning and Budget Office (PBO)
Adeola Ogunkeyede, Chief Public Defender, Travis County Public Defender's
Office (TCPDO)
Steven Flournoy, Travis County Resident
Sally Hernandez, Travis County Sheriff
Velva Price, Travis County District Clerk
Rachel Gunner, Psychotherapist & Travis County Resident
Peggy Morton, Member, Austin Sanctuary Network
Robert Lilly, Participatory Defense Organizer, Grassroots Leadership
Laura Ann Martinez, Leader, Vocal Texas
Chantel Pridgon, Participatory Defense Organizer, Grassroots Leadership
Lillian Ortiz, Member, Austin Sanctuary Network
Gracie Pankl, Travis County Resident
Bob Batlan, Founding Member, Advocates for Social Justice Reform
Shaman Perskin, Member, Vocal Texas
Lora Ann Gerson, Member, Advocates for Social Justice Reform
Alfredo Reyes Jr., Member, Vocal Texas
Catina Delonth, Member, Grassroots Leadership
Yasmine Smith, Vice President, Justice and Advocacy, Austin Area Urban
League
Delia Garza, Travis County Attorney
Cliff Brown, Judge, 147th District Court

MOTION: Instruct the Planning and Budget Office to work with all the stakeholders to (1) come back to Commissioners Court on August 27, 2024, with more refined numbers in order to implement Council at First Appearance (CAFA) beyond operational test shifts, (2) identify potential challenges for future consideration and (3) reserve the necessary funds in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget that are needed for this endeavor to have potentially two shifts per day at some point in FY 2025.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 3 Ann Howard

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

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

Planning & Budget

11. Authorize the County Treasurer to invest County funds. (Judge Brown)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
12. Consider and take appropriate action on budget amendments, transfers, and discussion items. (Commissioner Gómez)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
13. Consider and take appropriate action on:

Members of the Court heard from:

Julie Joe, Attorney VII, Travis County Attorney's Office
Jessica Rio, County Executive, Planning and Budget Office
Travis Gatlin, Budget Director, PBO

- A. An order setting the Travis County tax rates for the year beginning January 1, 2024: (1) Total Maintenance and Operations Tax Rate, (2) Total Debt Service Tax Rate, (3) Total County Ad Valorem Tax Rate

MOTION: Approve the property tax rate to be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 30.6204 cents for each \$100 valuation of all taxable property for maintenance and operations, which is effectively a 12.7 percent increase in the tax rate, and that the tax rate of 30.6204 cents is hereby levied for the current tax year for general operating purposes.

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

MOTION: Approve that a property tax rate of 3.8241 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 1 Jeffrey Travillion

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

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

MOTION: Approve that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 34.4445 cents for each \$100 valuation of all taxable property, which is effectively a 13.9 percent increase in the tax rate.

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

- B. An Order Calling an Election to be Held on November 5, 2024, for the Purpose of Approving or Rejecting a Tax Rate that Exceeds the Voter-Approval Tax Rate for the 2024 Tax Year. (Judge Brown & Commissioner Travillion)

MOTION: Approve Item 13.b.

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

Purchasing

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

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

15. Approve Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 4400006680 with Geofill Material Technologies, LLC., dba Geofill Construction, in the amount of \$60,293.84, for the County Clerk Expansion Project. (Facilities Management Department) (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

16. Approve Modification No. 2 to Contract No. 4400007143 with Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP, in the amount of \$250,000.00, for legal services. (County Attorney's Office) (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
17. Approve Modification No. 2 to Contract No. 4400005830 with Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP for legal services to review the HUB Disparity Study. (Purchasing Office) (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
18. Approve Modification No. 2, an assignment of Contract No. 4400000863, for Visitation Services, from Rhonda Hohmann to Angela C. Tucker-Hamiyeh dba Access Visitation Services, LLC. (Juvenile Probation Department) (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
19. Approve exemption and contracts for Residential Treatment Services, as-needed, as follows (Juvenile Probation) (Commissioner Jeffrey Travillion):
- A. 4400000632, Life Support Counseling and Research dba Therapeutic Family Life
 - B. 4400000593, Lutheran Services of the South, Inc.
 - C. 4400000594, Pegasus Schools, Inc.
 - D. 4400000595, Settlement Club dba Settlement Home for Children
 - E. 4400000598, Connections Individual and Family Services, Inc.
 - F. 4400000631, Roy Maas Youth Alternatives (Commissioner Travillion)
- RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT**
20. Declare items surplus property and sell at public auction pursuant to Local Government Code, Section 263.152(a)(1). (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Technology & Operations

21. Consider and take appropriate action on the following Personnel Amendments:
- A. Routine Personnel Actions (Commissioners Travillion & Gómez)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Transportation & Natural Resources

22. Consider and take appropriate action on a Traffic Mitigation Agreement between EAM Decker Tract 2, LLC and Travis County for traffic mitigation associated with the proposed NRP Rodeo Drive development, in Precinct One. (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
23. Consider and take appropriate action on an Amendment to the Sidewalk, Trail, and Recreational Easement Agreement with the Las Entradas Development Corporation and City of Manor for construction of a trailway within the Las Entradas tracts as part of the Gilleland Creek Greenway Improvements Project in Precinct One and Two. (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
24. Approve setting a public hearing on September 10, 2024, to receive comments regarding a request to authorize the filing of an instrument to vacate a portion of a drainage easement located in Lot 4A of Austin Lake Hills Section 1, Block 41, a subdivision in Precinct Three. (Commissioner Howard)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
25. Consider and take appropriate action regarding a temporary detour and restriction of all traffic along Bob Johnson Rd. at the intersection of Johnson Ln./Black Bear Dr. to Koala St. beginning on or about Tuesday, August 20, 2024, and continuing through Tuesday, February 4, 2025, or until work is complete, in Precinct Three. (Commissioner Howard)

Members of the Court heard from:

Brian Burk, Senior Engineer, Public Works, TNR

MOTION: Approve Item 25.

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

26. Approve setting a public hearing on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, to receive comments regarding the temporary restriction of all traffic and detour along Turnersville Rd. N at the intersection of State Highway 45 to Turnersville Rd. beginning on or about Tuesday, September 17, 2024, and continuing through Wednesday, September 17, 2025, or until work is complete, in Precinct Four. (Commissioner Gómez)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

27. Consider and take appropriate action on the following regarding improvements for a project on FM812 from US183 to the Travis/Bastrop County line:

- A. A resolution for the project pursuant to Texas Transportation Code § 201.209 that authorizes the State and a local government to enter into agreements in accordance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 791
- B. A Right of Way Procurement Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for proposed improvements on FM812 from US183 to the Travis/Bastrop County line (Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: NO ACTION NECESSARY

Other

28. Consider and approve Fiscal Year 2024–2025 District Clerk's Records Management Plan. (Judge Brown)

MOTION: Approve Item 28.

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

29. Consider and take appropriate action on District Clerk's request to increase jury pay. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

30. Consider and take appropriate action to approve License Agreements for the use of the following as Early Voting and Election Day polling sites for the November 5, 2024 Joint General and Special Elections.

A. Tri-Marsh Realty LLC / Shops at Arbor Walk

B. BVA SPM SPE LLC and Southpark Meadows SPE HL, LLC (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

31. Consider and take appropriate action on a request to approve the 2024 community investment plan pursuant to section 4.10.2 of the Economic Development Performance Agreement between Travis County and Colorado River Project, LLC. (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

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

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

Judge Brown announced that Item 32 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: NO ACTION NECESSARY

33. Receive legal briefing and take appropriate action concerning the County's authority to regulate development of the 290 landfill property.¹ (Judge Brown)

Judge Brown announced that Item 33 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney. The Judge adjourned the meeting; however, it was learned that a speaker who had signed up for the item was not heard. The Court reconvened the meeting to hear from the speaker. No action was taken by the Court.

Members of the Court heard from:
Corbin Graham, Graham Development

RESULT: NO ACTION NECESSARY

34. Receiving briefing and take appropriate action regarding recruitment, interview, and hiring process for County Executive, Innovative Justice & Program Analysis.^{1&3} (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: NO ACTION NECESSARY

Adjourn

Minutes Approved by the Commissioners Court

Date of Approval

Andy Brown, County Judge