

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **7th day of March A.D., 2022**, the Commissioners Court convened in **Special Session** at the Victoria County Courthouse in the City of Victoria, Victoria County, Texas, with His Honor, Ben Zeller, County Judge, presiding and the following Commissioners attending:

Danny Garcia,	Commissioner Precinct No. 1
Kevin M. Janak,	Commissioner Precinct No. 2
Gary Burns,	Commissioner Precinct No. 3
Clint C. Ives,	Commissioner Precinct No. 4
and	
Heidi Easley,	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk

and the following orders were passed:



COUNTY OF VICTORIA

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF VICTORIA COUNTY, TEXAS

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022, 10:00 AM, SPECIAL TERM

VICTORIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

115 N. BRIDGE ST., ROOM 241, SECOND FLOOR, VICTORIA, TX

1. Call to Order.

(1-0:00)

1. March 7, 2022. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, March 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. March 7, 2022. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting with prayer and the reciting of the Pledges of Allegiance of the United States of America and the State of Texas.

3. Citizens Communication.

(3-1:22)

3. March 7, 2022. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Michael Vonderau of 2204 E. North Street, Victoria, Texas, thanked everyone in regards to the Silver City Neighborhood Clean Up held by Keep Victoria Beautiful. Mr. Vonderau voiced his concerns regarding homeless people that have animals not being fed and asked if someone could take dog food to Christ's Kitchen for these animals. He also mentioned that Victoria County Animal Control hands out free dog food every Friday at the beginning of the month. He also thanked Commissioner Burns for 100% attendance at the City Council's meetings regarding dog-related issues and laws.

Commissioner Gary Burns spoke to the Court regarding several calls from concerned individuals regarding spending the ARPA funds for Victoria County. Commissioner Danny Garcia stated there are more requests than money.

Judge Zeller stated the Victoria County Employees Appreciation BBQ was a big success. Judge Zeller thanked everyone for coming and for their patience in the long line.

Hearing no further comments, Judge Ben Zeller continued to the next agenda item.

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-4:54)

4. March 7, 2022. Moved by Kevin Janak and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on February 28, 2022. Motion adopted.

5. Consider approval of accounts payable and take appropriate action.

(5-6:15)

5. March 7, 2022. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Clint Ives, the Commissioners Court approved the accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford, County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	3/7/2022	\$354,952.49
Supplemental Accounts	2/25/2022 – 3/3/2022	\$123,502.20

Motion adopted.

6. Receive monthly and quarterly reports from various county officials and departments and take appropriate action.

(6-6:52)

6. March 7, 2022. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kevin Janak, the Commissioners Court approved the monthly reports from the County Treasurer; District Clerk; Criminal District Attorney; County Auditor; Fire Marshal; Justices of the Peace, Precincts Nos. 2 and 4; Victoria County Extension Agent 4-H Youth Development; and Victoria County Extension Agent Ag Natural Resources. Motion adopted.

7. Consider approval of bond forfeiture releases and take appropriate action.

(7-7:22)

7. March 7, 2022. None. No action taken.

8. Consider approval of CMC Interim vendor payments and take appropriate action.

(8-7:27)

8. March 7, 2022. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Clint Ives, the Commissioners Court approved interim vendor payments for Citizens Medical Center dated March 3, 2022 in the amount of \$950,477.96 and the ACH report dated March 3, 2022 in the amount of \$2,355,666.05. Motion adopted.

9. Hear update from County Judge regarding the possibility of a Public Defender's Office in Victoria County and take appropriate action.

(9-8:19)

9. March 7, 2022. County Judge Ben Zeller explained the process of a Public Defender's Office and reviewed prior discussions, noting how some of Victoria' District Court Judges are also interested in looking into this once again. The Court will need to decide whether the County continues with the current operation or moves forward with a Public Defender's Office. Models that are available are to 1) form a department within Victoria County or 2) contract for a turn-key operation with a non-profit. Judge Zeller mentioned the State has possible funding available that could potentially cover 100% of costs for the first two years, with other grant opportunities that could fund the program beyond the first two years and cover the majority of costs, if the County is able to form a regional office with one or more neighboring Counties. Commissioner Burns inquired about the State's funding and the non-profit organization. Judge Zeller responded. Commissioner Garcia stated this would help this issue of the District Judges not having attorneys when they need them, while also helping Victoria County cover the cost. He also said as the committee moves forward, they would provide information to Court. Judge Zeller stated this item will be back on the agenda within the coming weeks or months. No action taken.

10. Ratify FY2022 Operation Lone Star (OLS) Grant Adjustment, Grant No. 4381001 and take appropriate action.

(10-20:14)

10. March 7, 2022. Sheriff Justin Marr provided information to the Court. Moved by Clint Ives and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court ratified the FY2022 Operation Lone Star (OLS) Grant Adjustment, Grant No. 4381001 for the Victoria County Sheriff's Office. Motion adopted.

11. Receive an Annual Audit Report for the FY2021 Victoria County Juvenile Probation Department and take appropriate action.

(11-21:01)

11. March 7, 2022. Moved by Kevin Janak and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received an Annual Financial and Compliance Report for the year ended August 31, 2021 for Victoria County Juvenile Probation Department. Motion adopted.

12. Consider approval of the following items for the Victoria County Health Department and take appropriate action:

a. Enterprise Fleet Management - Open End (Equity) Lease Rate Quotes.

(12a-21:37)

12a. March 7, 2022. David Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided information to the Court. Moved by Kevin Janak and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the Enterprise Fleet Management Open End (Equity) Lease Rate Quotes to lease three vehicles for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following items for the Victoria County Health Department and take appropriate action:

b. State R Grant Contract No. 5608/SR3-565-04.

(12b-21:37)

12b. March 7, 2022. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided the Court with information. Moved by Kevin Janak and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the amendment to return funds that will not be able to be used by the contract end date in connection to the State R Grant Contract No. 5608/SR3-565-04 for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following items for the Victoria County Health Department and take appropriate action:

c. Ryan White Grant Contract No. 5608/5-559-03.

(12c-21:37)

12c. March 7, 2022. David Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided information to the Court. Moved by Kevin Janak and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the amendment to return funds that will not be able to be used by the contract end date in connection to the Ryan White Grant Contract No. 5608/5-559-03 for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following items for the Victoria County Health Department and take appropriate action:

d. Receive fully executed Bilateral Contract Amendment No. 3 to modify contract No. 24550133 from the Texas Department of Family Services.

(12d-21:37)

12d. March 7, 2022. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided the Court with information. Moved by Kevin Janak and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed Bilateral Contract Amendment No. 3 to modify contract no. 24550133 from the Texas Department of Family Services for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following items for the Victoria County Health Department and take appropriate action:

e. Receive fully executed Amendment to Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Crisis CoAg Grant Contract No. HHS000769700001 Amendment No. 3.

(12e-21:37)

12e. March 7, 2022. David Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided information to the Court. Moved by Kevin Janak and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed amendment to Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Crisis CoAg Grant Contract No. HHS000769700001 Amendment No. 3 for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following items for the Victoria County Health Department and take appropriate action:

f. Resolution No. 2022-0025 accepting an Anonymous Public Donation to Victoria Animal Control in the amount of \$301.00.

(12f-21:37)

12f. March 7, 2022. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided the Court with information. Moved by Kevin Janak and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2022-0025 for an anonymous donation in the amount of \$301.00 to be utilized for and dedicated to Victoria County Animal Control. This donation assisted with the adoption of two animals. Motion adopted.

- 13. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2022-0024 for a road donation in PCT No. 3 from Rowme Services for installation of a pipe culvert to improve drainage on Lone Star Dr., Victoria, Texas in the amount of \$1,069.00 and take appropriate action.**

(13-26:14)

13. March 7, 2022. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Clint Ives, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2022-0024 for a road donation in the amount of \$1,069.00 from Rowme Services for installation of a pipe culvert to improve drainage on Lone Star Drive, Victoria, Texas in Precinct No. 3. Motion adopted.

- 14. Consider approval of amendments to the Court Interpreter Policy and take appropriate action.**

(14-26:59)

14. March 7, 2022. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Clint Ives, the Commissioners Court approved the amendments to the Court Interpreter Policy. Motion adopted.

- 15. Consider approval of the 2022 budget amendment to General Fund/Various**

Departments, Expenditures and take appropriate action.

(15-28:29)

15. March 7, 2022. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kevin Janak, the Commissioners Court approved the 2022 budget amendment to General Fund/Various Departments, Expenditures as a line item transfer. Motion adopted.

16. Consider approval of personnel changes and take appropriate action.

(16-29:05)

16. March 7, 2022. Moved by Clint Ives and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. Michelle Samford, County Auditor - Auditor's Office:
 1. Salary change for Elizabeth Vasquez, Internal Auditor, from a rate of \$21.17 per hour, Budget Code 100-495-1104 to a rate of \$21.77 per hour, effective March 12, 2022.
- b. Ashley Hernandez, Tax Assessor Collector - Tax Office:
 1. Resignation of Brenda Morales, Clerk III, with 4.62 PTO and 5.26 Compensatory hours due, effective March 9, 2022.
 2. Retirement of Susan A. Hebert, Clerk III, with 80.0 PTO and 53.91 Compensatory hours due, effective February 28, 2022.
 3. Employment of Chelsea Ann Rivas, Clerk III, at a rate of \$13.82 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1106, effective March 8, 2022.
- c. Pama Hencerling, Chief Probation Officer - Juvenile Detention:
 1. Resignation of Jordan Dane Flanagan, Supervision Officer (JSO), effective February 24, 2022.
 2. Resignation of Ella Dewett Soto, Supervision Officer II (JSO II), with 80.0 PTO and 39.76 Compensatory hours due, effective February 24, 2022.
 3. Dismissal of Zskaira Raykel Williams, Extra Help (CRO), effective March 2, 2022.
 4. Dismissal of Dustin Cody Jackson, Supervision Officer (JSO), effective March 3, 2022.
- d. David Gonzales, Public Health Director - Victoria County Public Health Department:
 1. Salary change for Ashley Moreno, Clerk III, from a rate of \$14.42 per hour, Budget Code 800-630-1108 to a rate of \$15.42 per hour, effective February 26, 2022.
- e. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
 1. Employment of David Hinojosa, Detention Deputy Tier 1 (Jailer), at a rate of \$18.53 per hour, Budget Code 100-565-1114, effective March 9, 2022.

Motion adopted.

17. Closed meeting pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.087 to discuss Economic Development, §551.072 to discuss Real Property, and §551.076 to discuss

safety and security matters.

(17-29:33)

17. March 7, 2022. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 10:30 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.087 to discuss Economic Development; §551.072 to discuss Real Property, and §551.076 to discuss safety and security matters.

18. Pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, return to an open meeting and take any action deemed necessary based upon discussion in the closed meeting.

(18-2:08:18)

18. March 7, 2022. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 12:08 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

19. Adjourn.

(19-2:08:26)

19. March 7, 2022. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of March 7, 2022.