

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **7th day of August A.D., 2023**, 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
Jason Ohrt,	Commissioner Precinct No. 2
Gary Burns,	Commissioner Precinct No. 3
Kenneth Sexton,	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, August 7, 2023, 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. August 7, 2023. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, August 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. August 7, 2023. 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.

(3-1:17)

3. August 7, 2023. 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 spoke about panhandlers in Victoria County. He also spoke about 18 wheelers that exceed the weight limits driving on certain roads and homeless people that are living at local businesses.

Fire Marshal Richard Castillo updated the Court about the Victoria County burn ban. He also thanked everyone for the help at the fundraiser this past weekend.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rick McBrayer stated that he will be doing some research with the State of Texas in regards to disaster declarations related to the drought situation.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-7:09)

4. August 7, 2023. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on July 31, 2023. Motion adopted.

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

(5-7:25)

5. August 7, 2023. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford, County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	8/7/2023	\$550,103.23
Supplemental Accounts	7/28/2023 – 8/3/2023	\$91,640.10

Motion adopted.

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

(6-7:49)

6. August 7, 2023. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the County Judge; County Commissioners, Precincts Nos. 1 - 4; District Clerk; Criminal District Attorney; County Tax Assessor Collector; County Auditor; Justices of the Peace, Precincts Nos. 2 and 3; and Constable, Precinct No. 3. Motion adopted.

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

(7-8:14)

7. August 7, 2023. None. No action taken.

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

(8-8:26)

8. August 7, 2023. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the interim vendor payments for Citizens Medical Center dated August 3, 2023 in the amount of \$727,126.06 and the ACH report dated August 3, 2023 in the amount of \$966,327.38. Motion adopted.

9. Authorize the County Judge and the County's Attorney to execute the FAA grant agreement and any other documents needed in reference to an Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicle (ARFF), and authorize the commitment of up to \$125,000 in local funds for this purpose and take appropriate action.

(9-9:00)

9. August 7, 2023. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court authorized the County Judge and the County's Attorney to execute the FAA grant agreement and any other documents needed in reference to an Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicle (ARFF), and authorized the commitment of up to \$125,000.00 in local funds for this purpose. Motion adopted.

- 10. Discuss and take action on an order authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of up to \$9,950,000 in aggregate principal amount of "Victoria County, Texas Certificates of Obligation, Series 2023"; securing the payment thereof by authorizing the levy of an annual ad valorem tax and a pledge of certain surplus revenues of the County's park system; approving and authorizing the execution of all instruments and procedures related thereto; approving the form of an official statement; and declaring an effective date.**

(10-10:44)

10. August 7, 2023. Bob Henderson, Financial Agent for Victoria County, explained the process for the sale of the Texas Certificates of Obligations. Due to the official order period starting at 9:00 a.m. this morning and running until 10:45 a.m., Mr. Henderson suggested tabling this until the Frost Bank underwriters have the opportunity to receive the definitive orders from the retail investors in order to make a definitive recommendation. Commissioners Court recessed on this agenda item until 1:00 p.m.

(3:00:25) Bob Henderson mentioned that early in the yield curve the interest rates were cut, they increased on the long end, and in the middle they stayed unchanged. Mr. Henderson stated that the change in coupons from 5% to 4% and the discount reduction helped a great deal. The NITC is 4.287 percent. Mr. Henderson recommended that the Court accept this bid from Frost Bank. Jay Juarez with McCall Parkhurst and Horton will compile the transcript of proceedings and present it to the Attorney General's Office for approval. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioner Court approved the order authorizing the issuance, sale, and delivery of up to \$9,950,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of "Victoria County, Texas Certificates of Obligation, Series 2023"; securing the payment thereof by authorizing the levy of an annual ad valorem tax and a pledge of certain surplus revenues of the County's park system; approving and authorizing the execution of all instruments and procedures related thereto; approving the form of an official statement; and declaring an effective date. Motion adopted.

- 11. Consider approval of FY24 Operation Lone Star Grant Program (OLS) Resolution No. 2023-0098, Grant Application No. 4381002, and take appropriate action.**

(11-22:37)

11. August 7, 2023. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided information to the Court. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the FY24 Operation Lone Star Grant Program (OLS) Resolution No. 2023-0098, Grant Application No. 4381002. Motion adopted.

- 12. Hear Proclamation proclaiming August 6-12, 2023 as National Farmer's Market Week and take appropriate action.**

(12-24:41)

12. August 7, 2023. Meridith Byrd from the Farmer's Market spoke to the Court about the market. Ms. Byrd read comments from some of the vendors. Judge Zeller read the Proclamation. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Proclamation proclaiming August 6-12, 2023 as National Farmer's Market Week in Victoria County. Motion adopted.

- 13. Consider approval of Contract No. 20-066-004-C033, amendment no 2 with GrantWorks, Inc. in regards to the Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-DR) Buyout and Acquisition Program and take appropriate action.**

(13-43:20)

13. August 7, 2023. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Contract No. 20-066-004-C033 amendment no. 2 with GrantWorks, Inc. in regards to the Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-DR) Buyout and Acquisition Program. Motion adopted.

- 14. Consider approval of Task Order No. 016-2023 in relation to 311 E. Constitution – HVAC Engineering Services Professional Engineering Services Phase B and take appropriate action.**

(14-44:14)

14. August 7, 2023. County Engineer John Johnston provided information to the Court. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Task Order No. 016-2023 in relation to 311 E. Constitution – Phase B: HVAC Engineering Services Professional Engineering Services. Motion adopted.

- 15. Consider approval of the Interlocal Agreement for E9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point Services (PSAP) FY 2024-2025 biennium between the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) and the Victoria Office of Emergency Management and take appropriate action.**

(15-45:45)

15. August 7, 2023. Emergency Management Coordinator Rick McBrayer provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Interlocal Agreement for E9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point Services (PSAP) FY 2024-2025 biennium between the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) and the Victoria Office of Emergency Management. Motion adopted.

- 16. Consider approval of the following items by the Public Health Department and take appropriate action:**

a. Contract amendment to the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Contract No. 5607/6-565-03.

(16a-46:32)

16a. August 7, 2023. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Contract Amendment to the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Contract No. 5607/6-565-03 for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following items by the Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

b. Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Contract No. 5613/1-565-01.

(16b-46:32)

16b. August 7, 2023. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Contract No. 5613/1-565-01 for the Victoria County Public Health Department.

Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following items by the Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

c. Receive the fully executed amendment to the HIV Health and Social Services Supplemental (State Services R) Contract No. 5611/SR1-565-03.

(16c-46:32)

16c. August 7, 2023. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed amendment to the HIV Health and Social Services Supplemental (State Services R) Contract No. 5611/SR1-565-03 for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following items by the Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

d. Receive the fully executed amendment to the HIV Health and Social Services Supplemental (State Services R) Contract No. 5611/SR1-565-04.

(16d-46:32)

16d. August 7, 2023. David Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided information to the Court. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed amendment to the HIV Health and Social Services Supplemental (State Services R) Contract No. 5611/SR1-565-04 for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following items by the Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

e. Receive the fully executed amendment to the HIV Health and Social Services (State Services) Contract No. 5609/6-565-02.

(16e-46:32)

16e. August 7, 2023. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed amendment to the HIV Health and Social Services Contract No. 5609/6-565-02 for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

17. Consider approval of appointment of April Butler to the Victoria County Child Welfare Board and take appropriate action.

(17-48:24)

17. August 7, 2023. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the appointment of April Butler to the Victoria County Child Welfare Board. Motion adopted.

18. Hear a report from Victoria County Animal Services and take appropriate action.

(18-49:03)

18. August 7, 2023. Mark Sloat, Animal Services Director, informed the Court that Animal Services Officer, Lorraina Kief, will be holding classes twice a week for the students at Bloomington Elementary School on appropriate ownership of animals in care. She will also be the primary officer for the Bloomington/Placedo area. No action taken.

19. Consider approval of the detention and residential contracts with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:

a. Ellis County.

(19a-53:34)

19a. August 7, 2023. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Ellis County. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the detention and residential contracts with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:

b. Hood County - Residential Only.

(19b-53:34)

19b. August 7, 2023. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the Residential Contract between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Hood County. Motion adopted.

20. Receive for the record 2023 Discretionary Fund Budget Amendment for Sheriff's Commissary Fund No. 380 and take appropriate action.

(20-54:08)

20. August 7, 2023. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received for the record the 2023 Discretionary Fund Budget Amendment for the Sheriff's Commissary Fund No. 380 as an increase to expenditures. Motion adopted.

21. Consider approval of the following 2023 budget amendments and take appropriate action:

(21-54:41)

21. August 7, 2023. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the 2023 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments, Revenues and Expenditures - Increase
- b. Emergency Management, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- c. Court - Initiated Guardians Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- d. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 4, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- e. Airport Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- f. Debt Service Fund, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

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

(22-55:26)

22. August 7, 2023. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. Ashley Hernandez, County Tax Assessor Collector - County Tax Office:
 1. Salary and position/other code change for Kamryn Rodriguez, from Asst. Chief Deputy, at a rate of \$19.15 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1104 to Chief Deputy (Tax), at a rate of \$25.71 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1103, effective August 26, 2023. Grade 10 Plan General.
- b. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
 1. Salary and position/other change for Jonathan Billman, from Patrol Corporal, at a rate of \$27.60 per hour, Budget Codes 100-563-1112-26.60, 100-563-1136-1.00, and 100-563-1137-46.15 to Interdiction Deputies-Tier 2, at a rate of \$25.86 per hour, Budget Codes 100-564-1312-24.86, 100-564-1136-1.00, and 100-564-1137-46.15, effective August 12, 2023. Remarks: Voluntary transfer LE Grade 9.
 2. Salary and position/other code change for Blake Eschenburg, from Detention Dep-Tier 1, at a rate of \$24.29 per hour, Budget Codes 100-565-1114-23.29 and 100-565-1136-1.00 to Corporal, at a rate of \$27.60 per hour, Budget Codes 100-565-1109-26.60 and 100-565-1136-1.00, effective August 12, 2023. Remarks: LE; Grade 10.
 3. Resignation of Priscilla Barboza, Detention Tier 2 (DO Tier 1), with 80.0 PTO and 70.90 Compensatory hours due, effective August 11, 2023.
 4. Employment of Tyler Neese, Detention Tier 2 (DO Tier 1), at a rate of \$18.74 per hour, Budget Code 100-565-1117, effective August 15, 2023. Remarks: LE; Grade 6.
 5. Resignation of Samara Pacheco, CMA/EMT/EMT-P, with 214.81 Compensatory hours due, effective August 15, 2023.
 6. VCSO Salary Adjustment Certification for Jonathan Houser, to be paid Advanced Certificate Pay of \$46.15 per pay period, effective September 1, 2023. Certification date for Jonathan Houser is June 20, 2023. Budget Coding: Enforcement/CID Certificate Pay 100-563-1137. Remarks: Jonathan Houser was a recent hire who has an Advanced Peace Officer Certificate.
 7. VCSO Salary Adjustment Certification for Alexander Garcia, to be paid Intermediate Certificate Pay of \$23.08 per pay period, effective September 1, 2023. Certification date for Alexander Garcia is June 27, 2023. Budget Coding: Enforcement/CID Certificate Pay 100-563-1137. Remarks: Alexander Garcia received his Intermediate Peace Officer Certificate on 06/27/2023.
 8. VCSO Salary Adjustment Certification for Walker Baylor, to be paid Advanced Certificate Pay of \$46.15 per pay period, effective September 1, 2023. Certification date for Walker Baylor is May 23, 2023. Budget Coding: Detention Certificate Pay 100-565-1137. Remarks: Walker Baylor received his Advanced Jailer's Certificate on 05/23/2023.

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9. VCSO Salary Adjustment Certification for Marty Lonis, to be paid Intermediate Certificate Pay of \$23.08 per pay period, effective September 1, 2023. Certification date for Marty Lonis is July 7, 2023. Budget Coding: Enforcement/CID Certificate Pay 100-563-1137. Remarks: Marty Lonis received his Intermediate Peace Officer Certificate on 07/07/2023.
 10. VCSO Salary Adjustment Certification for Travis Campbell, to be paid Intermediate Certificate Pay of \$23.08 per pay period, effective September 1, 2023. Certification date for Travis Campbell is July 18, 2023. Budget Coding: Enforcement/CID Certificate Pay 100-563-1137. Remarks: Travis Campbell received his Intermediate Peace Officer Certificate on 07/14/2023.
 11. Resignation of Trentan Little, Detention Deputy Tier 1, with 80.0 PTO and 263.63 Compensatory hours due, effective August 3, 2023.
- c. David Gonzales, Public Health Director - Victoria County Public Health Department:
1. Resignation of Isabel Garcia, Nurse LVN, effective August 4, 2023.
 2. Employment of Dawn Green, PAT Parent Educator, at a rate of \$17.60 per hour, Budget Code 803-631-1150, effective August 8, 2023. Grade 5 Plan General.
 3. Employment of Mary Lou Herrera, Nurse LVN/TB, at a rate of \$21.50 per hour, Budget Codes 800-631-1163 (39.50%) \$8.49; 800-651-1140 (34.50%) \$7.42; and 800-652-1140 (26.00%) \$5.59, effective August 15, 2023. Grade 7 Plan General.
 4. Resignation of Rena Eravi, Extra Help, effective July 31, 2023.
 5. Employment of Lisa Kainer, Community Health Worker, at a rate of \$18.00 per hour, Budget Code 807-631-1101, effective August 8, 2023. Other Remarks: Cell Phone Allowance: \$480.00 - 807-631-1139 (\$18.46 per pay period). Grade 5 Plan General.
 6. Employment of Monica Rios Rodriguez, Community Health Worker I, at a rate of \$18.50 per hour, Budget Code 804-631-1104, effective August 8, 2023. Other Remarks: Cell Phone Allowance: \$480.00 - 804-631-1139 (\$18.46 per pay period). Grade 5 Plan General.
 7. Correction (Date): Resignation of Gail Wright, Community Health Worker II, with 60.40 PTO and 5.15 Compensatory hours due, effective July 31, 2023. Other Remarks: CANCEL - Cell Phone Allowance: \$1080.00 - 804-631-1139.
- d. Pama Hencerling, Chief Probation Officer - Juvenile Detention:
1. Employment of Michael Anderson, JSO - FT, at a rate of \$18.74 per hour, Budget Codes 100-573-1156, effective August 8, 2023. Remarks: LE, Grade 6.
 2. Resignation of Raymond Valdez, JSO - FT, effective August 1, 2023.
- e. Mark Sloat, Animal Services Director - Victoria County Animal Services:
1. Employment of Amber Pyle, Adoption Coordinator, at a rate of \$14.75 per hour, Budget Code 100-630-1113, effective August 8, 2023. Grade 2 Plan General.
 2. Employment of Jordan Tate, Shelter Care Tech, at a rate of \$13.91 per hour, Budget Code 100-630-1109, effective August 8, 2023. Grade 1 Plan General.

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f. Gary Burns, Commissioner, Precinct No. 3 - Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 3:

1. Correction G/L Code: Salary and position/other change for Phillip Henry, from Asst. Foreman, at a rate of \$27.65 per hour, Budget Code 203-613-1104 to Foreman, at a rate of \$32.63 per hour and Park Supplement \$2.36, Budget Codes 203-613-1103 \$32.63 and 203-613-1102 \$2.36, effective July 29, 2023. Other Remarks: plus Annual Cell Phone Allowance 203-613-1139 \$1,080.04. Grade 12 Plan General.

Motion adopted.

23. Adjourn.

(23-3:04:32)

23. August 7, 2023. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of August 7, 2023.