

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **16th day October 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	Absent
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, October 16, 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. October 16, 2023. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, October 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. October 16, 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.

(3-1:32)

3. October 16, 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 thanked the Victoria Animal Services Director for handling the dog situation in Queen City Park. Mr. Vonderau spoke about his concerns regarding Queen City Park.

County Treasurer Paige Foster updated the Court regarding the Citizens Healthplex program.

County Judge Zeller stated the last 2023 Commissioners Court meeting will be held on December 18, 2023 and the first Commissioners Court meeting of 2024 will be held on January 8, 2024.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-6:45)

4. October 16, 2023. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on October 9, 2023. Motion adopted.

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

(5-6:57)

5. October 16, 2023. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford, County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	10/16/2023	\$430,699.87
Supplemental Accounts	10/06/2023 – 10/12/2023	\$251,198.13

Motion adopted.

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

(6-7:25)

6. October 16, 2023. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from County Treasurer; District Clerk; County Clerk; Justices of the Peace, Precincts Nos. 1, 3. and 4; Constables, Precincts Nos. 2 and 4; and County Extension Agent Ag/Natural Resources; County Extension Agent 4-H Youth Development; and County Extension Agent - Family Community Health. Motion adopted.

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

(7-7:57)

7. October 16, 2023. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the release of the following bond forfeiture judgment from the Court:

a. Cause No. CIV1-20476: The State of Texas vs. Derek Lovon Jones, Jr., Defendant and Alfredo Z. Padilla, Surety.

Motion adopted.

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

(8-8:23)

8. October 16, 2023. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the interim vendor payment for Citizens Medical Center dated October 12, 2023 in the amount of \$735,302.53 and the ACH report dated October 12, 2023 in the amount of \$1,861,382.47. Motion adopted.

9. Hear a proclamation designating October 15-22, 2023, as Friends of the Library Week in Victoria County and take appropriate action.

(9-8:58)

9. October 16, 2023. Jessica Berger, Victoria Public Library Director, thanked the Court for recognizing the Friends of the Library and the work they do. Ms. Berger introduced Barbara David, Zachary Wendel, Diana Sneed, Diane Boyett, Chuck Lambert, and Robin Knipling, members of the Friends of the Library. President Diana Sneed thanked the Court for recognizing October 15th - 22nd as Friends of the Library Week. Ms. Sneed explained their mission and invited the public to join the Friends of the Library. County Judge Zeller read the Proclamation. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved a Proclamation designating October 15-22, 2023 as Friends of the Library Week in Victoria County. Motion adopted.

- 10. Hear an update from the Victoria County Criminal District Attorney, Constance Filley Johnson, and Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Pama Hencerling, regarding updates to the Juvenile Referral Guidelines and take appropriate action.**

(10-15:38)

10. October 16, 2023. Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Pama Hencerling updated the Court on the history of the Juvenile Referral Guidelines. Mrs. Hencerling advised the Court that there has been an increase in burglary of motor vehicles involving juveniles along with adult offenders and firearms are being stolen during these burglaries. Mrs. Hencerling stated the Juvenile Board voted to revise the guidelines. Criminal District Attorney Constance Filley Johnson spoke about this offense and informed the Court of how the process of these charges have been handled in the past. Mrs. Johnson stated an amendment to the guidelines will be to refer these offenses to the Criminal District Attorney's office. Mrs. Hencerling and Mrs. Johnson answered questions from the Court. No action taken.

- 11. Consider approval of the 2024 Indigent Defense Grant Program Resolution 2023-0115 and take appropriate action.**

(11-24:24)

11. October 16, 2023. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the 2024 Victoria County Resolution No. 2023-0115 for the Indigent Defense Grant Program. Motion adopted.

- 12. Consider approval of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocations plan and take appropriate action.**

(12-26:02)

12. October 16, 2023. Commissioner Jason Ohrt and County Judge's Chief of Staff Giani Cantu provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation plan. Motion adopted.

- 13. Receive District Court Orders setting the 2024 salaries of the Official Court Reporters and Official Alternate Court Reporter for the 24th, 135th, 267th, and 377th, Judicial Districts and take appropriate action.**

(13-28:17)

13. October 16, 2023. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the District Court Orders setting the 2024 salaries of the Official Court Reporters and Official Alternate Court Reporter for the 24th, 135th, 267th, and 377th Judicial Districts. Motion adopted.

- 14. Consider the following regarding 2024 health insurance premiums and take appropriate action:**
a. Discuss and approve the increase in Employee/Retiree Health Insurance Premiums effective January 1, 2024.

(14a-29:28)

14a. October 16, 2023. Human Resources Director Gina Howard provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the increase in Employee/Retiree Health Insurance Premiums, effective January 1, 2024. Motion adopted.

Consider the following regarding 2024 health insurance premiums and take appropriate action:

b. Receive notice of premium increase from Bay Bridge Administrators effective January 1, 2024 in connection with our Medicare Supplemental Retiree coverage.
(14b-29:28)

14b. October 16, 2023. Human Resources Director Gina Howard provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received a notice of premium increase from Bay Bridge Administrators, effective January 1, 2024, in connection with our Medicare Supplemental Retiree coverage. Motion adopted.

15. Consider approval of the detention contract with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Rockwall County take appropriate action.

(15-34:02)

15. October 16, 2023. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention Contract between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Rockwall County. Motion adopted.

16. Consider approval and authorize the County Judge to execute the Reimbursement Agreement for preliminary engineering services with Union Pacific Railroad related to TxDOT Rider 45 Road Improvement Project and take appropriate action.

(16-34:31)

16. October 16, 2023. Commissioner Danny Garcia and County Auditor Michelle Samford provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved and authorized the County Judge to execute the Reimbursement Agreement for preliminary engineering services with Union Pacific Railroad related to the TxDOT Rider 45 Road Improvement Project. Motion adopted.

17. Pursuant to V.T.C.A. Transportation Code §251.152 to hold a public hearing for traffic regulation to install a Stop Sign and a 25 MPH sign at Whitetail Lane in Pct. 3 and take appropriate action.

(17-36:53)

17. October 16, 2023. County Judge Zeller declared a public hearing open at 10:37 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Transportation Code §251.152, prior to the adoption of traffic regulations. Commissioner Gary Burns provided information to the Court. With no public comments, County Judge Zeller closed the public hearing at 10:37 a.m. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court adopted the following traffic regulation changes:

PRECINCT NO. 3

-

Install a Stop sign at Whitetail Lane
Install a 25 MPH sign at Whitetail Lane

Motion adopted.

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

(18-37:55)

18. October 16, 2023. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the 2023 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments, Expenditures – Line item transfer
- b. Emergency Management, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- c. County Jury Fund, Expenditures -Increase
- d. Debt Service Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- e. Health Department, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- f. General Fund, Sheriff's Office, Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

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

(19-38:27)

19. October 16, 2023. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. Pama Hencerling, Chief Probation Officer - Juvenile Detention:
 - 1. Position/Other Code Change for David Wayne Eberle, from JSO - PT, at a rate of \$18.74 per hour, Budget Code 100-573-1157 to JSO, Budget Codes 100-573-1156 and 231-572-1136 FT @ \$115.38, effective October 7, 2023. Other Remarks: TJJD Salary Adjustment - \$115.38. Remarks: LE Grade 6 – Move FT.
 - 2. Employment of Christopher Hirsch, JSO - PT, at a rate of \$18.74 per hour, Budget Code 100-573-1157, effective October 17, 2023. Remarks LE Grade 6.
 - 3. Resignation of Je'nna Rae Newport, Clerk III, with 0.64 Compensatory hours due, effective October 11, 2023.
- b. David Gonzales, Public Health Director - Victoria County Public Health Department:
 - 1. Salary change for Shannon Geistman, Nurse Manager, from a rate of \$30.63 per hour, Budget Code 800-631-1161 to a rate of \$32.63 per hour, effective October 7, 2023. Other Remarks: Cell Phone Allowance \$1,080.04 Annual / 800-631-1139.
 - 2. Employment of Scott Buchanan, Sanitation Inspector, at a rate of \$18.50 per hour, Budget Code 800-631-1154, effective October 24, 2023. Grade 6 Plan General.
 - 3. Employment of Teresa M. Hurtado, Nurse LVN, at a rate of \$20.60 per hour, Budget Code 810-633-1106, effective November 7, 2023. Grade 7 Plan General.

Motion adopted.

20. Closed meeting pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.072 to discuss real property, §551.074 to discuss personnel, and §551.087 to discuss Economic Development.

(20-38:59)

20. October 16, 2023. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 10:39 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.072 to discuss real property, §551.074 to discuss personnel, and §551.087 to discuss Economic Development.

21. 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.

(21-2:09:59)

21. October 16, 2023. The Commissioners Court returned to an open meeting at 12:10 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

22. Adjourn.

(22-2:10:13)

22. October 16, 2023. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of October 16, 2023.