

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **16th day January A.D., 2024**, 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
Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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. January 16, 2024. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. January 16, 2024. County 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.

(3-2:53)

3. January 16, 2024. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rick McBrayer spoke about the winter weather and thanked the warming centers that were available for Victoria County during the winter weather. He also thanked the organizations that provided donations and food.

Animal Services Director Mark Sloat spoke about the freeze foster event they held before the winter weather arrived and stated on Sunday, Victoria Animal Services handed out 100 bails of straw that was donated for animals during winter weather.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-8:06)

4. January 16, 2024. A correction was made to the motion for agenda item no. 35, to reflect the correct amount of \$425.00 for a road donation in Precinct No. 1. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court, approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on January 8, 2024. Motion adopted.

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

(5-8:34)

5. January 16, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford, County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	1/16/2024	\$775,871.99
Supplemental Accounts	1/5/2024 – 1/11/2024	\$158,505.23

Motion adopted.

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

(6-9:04)

6. January 16, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the District Clerk and Constables, Precincts Nos. 2 and 3. Motion adopted.

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

(7-9:21)

7. January 16, 2024. None. No action taken.

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

(8-9:38)

8. January 16, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the interim vendor payment for Citizens Medical Center dated January 11, 2024, in the amount of \$882,166.16 and the ACH report dated January 11, 2024, in the amount of \$2,029,177.95. Motion adopted.

9. Hear an operational update from Animal Services and take appropriate action.

(9-10:43)

9. January 16, 2024. Animal Services Director Mark Sloat provided an operational update for Victoria Animal Services. Director Sloat spoke about intakes, the Finder to Foster Program, number of calls for service, spay/neuter, social media, adoptions, foster care, national intakes and outcomes, Petsmart Charities, Best Friends Animal Society, Education Program at Bloomington Elementary, and the new location for Victoria Animal Services. He also answered questions from the Court. No action taken.

10. Consider approval of a request for assistance from the Victoria Livestock Show and take appropriate action.

(10-39:02)

10. January 16, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the letter of request for assistance for the "Set Up" and "Knock Down" of the annual Victoria Livestock Show, to begin on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Motion adopted.

11. Consider approval of the following service agreements for the Victoria Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

a. Zumba Services/Community Conversations of Health (Health Disparities) Grant.

(11a-40:09)

11a. January 16, 2024. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Services Agreement between Victoria County Public Health Department and Lolly Hamilton, instructor, through the Zumba Services/Community Conversations of Health (Health Disparities) Grant. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following service agreements for the Victoria Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

b. Ellen Vallejo Smith for Yoga Services/Community Conversations on Health (Health Disparities) Grant.

(11b-40:09)

11b. January 16, 2024. David Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided the Court with information. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Services Agreement between Victoria County Public Health Department and Ellen Vallejo Smith (Downward Dog Wellness Victoria), instructor, through the Yoga Services/Community Conversations on Health (Health Disparities) Grant Contract No. HHS001057600044. Motion adopted.

12. Consider approval of a request for payment to Billy T. Cattan Recovery Outreach, Inc. in the amount of \$113,750.00 for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Subrecipient Project No. VICT-10 and take appropriate action.

(12-45:02)

12. January 16, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information and answered questions from the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the request for payment to Billy T. Cattan Recovery Outreach, Inc. in the amount of \$113,750.00 for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Subrecipient Project No. VICT-10. Motion adopted.

13. Consider approval of the following in reference to CDBG-DR infrastructure Project Grant, GLO Grant No. 20-065-094-C262, and take appropriate action:

a. Construction Change Order No. 1.

(13a-46:50)

13a. January 16, 2024. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Construction Change Order No. 1 in reference to CDBG-DR Infrastructure Project Grant, GLO Grant No. 20-065-094-C262. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following in reference to CDBG-DR infrastructure Project Grant, GLO Grant No. 20-065-094-C262, and take appropriate action:

b. Certificate of Construction Completion.

(13b-46:50)

13b. January 16, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Certificate of Construction Completion in reference to CDBG-DR Infrastructure Project Grant, GLO Grant No. 20-065-094-C262. Motion adopted.

- 14. Consider approval of the PetSmart Charities Grant Agreement and take appropriate action.**

(14-36:50)

14. January 16, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling explained the grant. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the PetSmart Charities Grant Agreement in the amount of \$50,000.00. Motion adopted.

- 15. Consider approval of the following in connection with the FY24-25 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program, Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC), and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and take appropriate action:**
a. Resolution No. 2024-0010, supporting the Victoria County Grant Application Submission.

(15a-48:05)

15a. January 16, 2024. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided information and held a discussion with the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0010 supporting the Victoria County Grant Application Submission in connection with the FY 24-25 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program, Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC), and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following in connection with the FY24-25 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program, Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC), and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and take appropriate action:
b. Letter of Support for the City of Victoria Grant Application.

(15b-48:05)

15b. January 16, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Letter of Support for the City of Victoria Grant Application in connection with the FY 24-25 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program, Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC), and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Motion adopted.

- 16. Receive the Racial Profiling Report for 2023 from the Victoria County Sheriff's Office and take appropriate action.**

(16-57:37)

16. January 16, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the Racial Profiling Report for 2023 from the Victoria County Sheriff's Office. Motion adopted.

- 17. Consider approval of the detention and residential contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Lamb County and take appropriate action.**

(17-59:44)

17. January 16, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Lamb County. Motion adopted.

- 18. Ratify and receive for the record The Texas State Senate Lease Agreement between Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst and Victoria County for office space at 311 Constitution St., Suite 120, and take appropriate action.**

(18-1:00:11)

18. January 16, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court ratified and received for the record The Texas State Senate Lease Agreement between Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst and Victoria County for office space at 311 Constitution Street, Suite 120. Motion adopted.

- 19. Receive a letter of permission to enter the private property of Kenneth Kickendahl located at 6092 Lower Mission Valley Road, Victoria, Texas 77905 for the purpose of conducting repairs to a county bridge in Pct. 2 and take appropriate action.**

(19-1:01:27)

19. January 16, 2024. Commissioner Jason Ohrt provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received a letter of permission to enter the private property of Kenneth Kickendahl located at 6092 Lower Mission Valley Road, Victoria, Texas 77905 for the purpose of conducting repairs to a county bridge in Precinct No. 2. Motion adopted.

- 20. Consider approval of the following 2023 budget amendments and take appropriate action:**

(20-1:02:14)

20. January 16, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the 2023 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- b. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 4, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- c. Health Department, Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

- 21. Consider approval of the following 2024 budget amendments and take appropriate action:**

(21-1:02:41)

21. January 16, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the 2024 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments, Revenues and Expenditures – Increase
- b. Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, Expenditures - Increase
- c. Capital Credits Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- d. Pretrial Intervention, Expenditures - Increase
- e. Victoria County Care Court, Expenditures - Increase
- f. Airport Operating Fund, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- g. Health Insurance Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- h. Capital Projects Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- i. Leose Fund, Expenditures - Increase

Motion adopted.

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

(22-1:03:55)

22. January 16, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. Jason Ohrt, County Commissioner, Precinct No. 2 - Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 2:
 - 1. Transcript from the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas for 55.25 continuing education hours for the year 2023 for Jason D. Ohrt, Commissioner, Precinct No. 2.
- b. Gary Burns, County Commissioner, Precinct No. 3 - Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 3:
 - 1. Transcript from the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas for 17.50 continuing education hours for the year 2023 for Gary Burns, Commissioner, Precinct No. 3.
- c. Kenneth Sexton, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4 - Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 4:
 - 1. Transcript from the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas for 50.50 continuing education hours for the year 2023 for Kenneth Sexton, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4.
- d. Commissioners Court:
 - 1. Correction to 2024 Salary Orders for, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4 and Juvenile Detention Probation.
- e. Pama Hencerling, Chief Probation Officer - Juvenile Services:
 - 1. Salary change for Felizia N. Galarza, Clerk III, from a rate of \$16.00 per hour, Budget Code 231-588-1111 to a rate of \$16.50 per hour, Budget Code 231-588-1109, effective January 13, 2024. Remarks: Grade 3 General.
 - 2. Dismissal of Daniel Galarza, JSO-FT, with 6.38 Compensatory hours due, effective January 11, 2024.
 - 3. Resignation of Celeste Maria Garcia, JSO-FT, with 8.31 PTO and 22.17 Compensatory hours due, effective January 11, 2024.
- f. David Gonzales/Kim Plummer, Public Health Director/District Clerk – Victoria County Public Health Department/District Clerk's Office:
 - 1. Salary and position change for Crystal Vasquez, from Casework Associate (Public Health Department), at a rate of \$17.75 per hour, Budget Codes 800-655-1104 (70.03%)\$12.43 and 800-673-1104 (29.97%)\$5.32 to Deputy Clerk (District Clerk's Office), at a rate of \$20.97 per hour, Budget Codes 123-450-1105 (\$.50), 125-450-1105 (\$ 1.00), and 100-450-1105 (\$19.47), effective January 13, 2024. Other Remarks: Transfer of Departments. Grade 4 Plan General.
- g. Kelly Hubert, Facilities Director - Facilities Management:
 - 1. Employment of Alejandra Valle De Garcia, Custodian, at a rate of \$14.50 per hour, Budget Code 100-510-1104, effective January 17, 2024.
 - 2. Employment of Barbara Ann Fillmore, Custodian, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, Budget Code 100-510-1104, effective January 17, 2024.

- h. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
 - 1. Employment of Yesenia Aguayo, LVN, at a rate of \$24.58 per hour, Budget Code 100-565-1128-24.58, effective January 17, 2024.
 - 2. Correction (Cert Pay/Grade), Salary and position/other change for Philip Garcia, from SRO, at a rate of \$26.07 per hour, Budget Codes 395-560-1109-26.07 and Cert Pay-395-560-1137=46.15 to Investigator, at a rate of \$30.85 per hour, Budget Codes 100-563-1106-30.85 and Cert Pay 100-563-1137-46.15, effective December 30, 2023. Remarks LE Grade 9 Tier 1.
- i. Richard Castillo, Fire Marshal - Fire Marshal's Office:
 - 1. Correction (Cell \$, Position, Category), Salary change for Marshal B. Frazier (2184), Fire Marshal, Asst., at a rate of \$31.61 per hour, from Budget Codes 100-550-1107, Salary and 100-550-1139 Cellphone Allowance to Budget Codes 100-550-1107 Salary, 100-550-1137 Cert. Pay - \$69.23, and 100-550-1139 Cell Allow. \$41.54, effective December 16, 2023. Other Remarks: \$138.46 to be paid on January 19, then \$69.23 each pay period going forward.

Motion adopted.

23. Closed meeting pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.087 to discuss economic development.

(23-1:11:39)

23. January 16, 2024. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 11:11 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.087 to discuss economic development.

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

(24-1:49:56)

24. January 16, 2024. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 11:49 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

25. Adjourn.

(25-1:50:08)

25. January 16, 2024. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of January 16, 2024.