

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **4th day March 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

Monday, March 4, 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. March 4, 2024. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, March 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. March 4, 2024. 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.

(3-1:59)

3. March 4, 2024. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

County Engineer John Johnston informed the Court that the City of Victoria notified him on Friday that Bridge Street will be closed from Constitution Street to Goodwin Street starting Monday evening for about a month. Mr. Johnston discussed the parking situation for the Courthouse.

County Judge Zeller spoke about the parking challenge during the closure of Bridge Street.

Commissioner Gary Burns and Commissioner Kenneth Sexton spoke about the panhandle fires and how individuals are helping with deliveries.

County Engineer John Johnston stated that Senator Lois Kolkhorst has opened her office in the 311 Constitution Building and Dr. Jill Fox, District Director, will also be operating in that space.

County Judge Zeller stated that Election Day is tomorrow and all polling locations are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Victoria Regional Airport's Executive Director Lenny Llerena reviewed the enplanements for February 2024.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-9:24)

4. March 4, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on February 26, 2024. Motion adopted.

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

(5-9:41)

5. March 4, 2024. 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	3/4/2024	\$1,157,846.60
Supplemental Accounts	2/23/2024 – 2/29/2024	\$123,327.94

Motion adopted.

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

(6-10:13)

6. March 4, 2024. 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; and County Treasurer. Motion adopted.

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

(7-10:34)

7. March 4, 2024. None. No action taken.

8. Consider approval of CMC Interim vendor payments board minutes, accounts payable, payroll, and personnel changes, and take appropriate action.

(8-10:44)

8. March 4, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the board minutes, accounts payable, payroll, personnel changes, and interim vendor payment for Citizens Medical Center dated February 29, 2024, in the amount of \$784,659.11 and the ACH report dated February 29, 2024, in the amount of \$2,548,538.16. Motion adopted.

9. Hear a report from the Library Advisory Board and take appropriate action.

(9-11:30)

9. March 4, 2024. Commissioners Court did not receive a report from the Victoria Public Library Advisory Board. This agenda item was passed by the Court. No action taken.

10. Consider approval of the following items from the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

a. Texas Health and Human Services Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.

(10a-11:58)

10a. March 4, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Texas Health and Human Services Indirect Cost Rate Agreement for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

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

b. Receive for the record a fully executed Lamar Contract 4465353 (Texas Home Visiting Grant).

(10b-11:58)

10b. March 4, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received for the record a fully executed Lamar Contract 4465353 (Texas Home Visiting Grant) for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

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

c. Receive for the record a fully executed 2023/2024 Memorandum of Understanding with Gulf Bend Center.

(10c-11:58)

10c. March 4, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received for the record a fully executed 2023/2024 Memorandum of Understanding with Gulf Bend Center. Motion adopted.

- 11. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2024-0020, for a donation of a Commercial Grade Shooting Target valued at \$795 from The NRA Foundation to be used by the Victoria County Sheriff's Office, and take appropriate action.**

(11-13:24)

11. March 4, 2024. Chief Deputy Will Franklin provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0020 for a donation of a Commercial Grade Shooting Target valued at \$795.00 from the NRA Foundation to be used by the Victoria County Sheriff's Office. Motion adopted.

- 12. Consider approval and authorization of payment to A&A Constructors, Inc. in connection to the Victoria County Courthouse Entry Steps & Repair Project and take appropriate action.**

(12-14:33)

12. March 4, 2023. County Engineer John Johnston provided information to the Court. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved and authorized Application No. 1 and Certificate for Payment in the amount of \$11,400.00 and Application No. 2 and Certificate of Payment in the amount of \$54,150.00 to A & A Constructors, Inc., in connection to the Victoria County Courthouse Entry Steps and Repair Project. Motion adopted.

- 13. Consider approval of a Final Plat for the McNeely Estate, located in Pct. 3, and take appropriate action.**

(13-16:15)

13. March 4, 2024. John Johnston, County Engineer, provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Final Plat for the McNeely Estate located in Precinct No. 3. Motion adopted.

- 14. Receive for the record an annual audit report for the Victoria County Juvenile**

Probation Department for Fiscal Year 2023 and take appropriate action.

(14-17:16)

14. March 4, 2023. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received for the record an annual audit report for the Victoria County Juvenile Probation Department for Fiscal Year 2023. Motion adopted.

15. Consider approval of the Psychoeducational/Counseling Services Contract for the Victoria Juvenile Justice Center with Daniel Rodriguez and take appropriate action.

(15-17:48)

15. March 4, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the Psychoeducational/Counseling Services Contract with Daniel Rodriguez for the Victoria Juvenile Justice Center. Motion adopted.

16. Receive for the record the 2023 Racial Profiling Report for Victoria County Constable Pct. 1 and take appropriate action.

(16-18:21)

16. March 4, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received for the record the 2023 Racial Profiling Report for the Victoria County Constable, Precinct No. 1. Motion adopted.

17. Consider approval of the purchase of Road and Bridge equipment for Pct. 1 and Pct. 4 from Associated Supply Company, Inc., and take appropriate action.

(17-18:56)

17. March 4, 2024. Commissioner Danny Garcia provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the purchase of Road and Bridge equipment from Associated Supply Company, Inc. for Precinct No. 1 and Precinct No. 4. Motion adopted.

18. Discuss and consider county projects and take appropriate action.

(18-20:45)

18. March 4, 2024. County Judge Zeller stated that due to the County projects exceeding the amount of money allowed, they reviewed the list of projects and have an updated list. County Engineer John Johnston reviewed and discussed the status of each project on the new list. The Court held a discussion regarding the projects. No action taken.

19. Receive for the record an Advance Funding Agreement for Bridge Removal Off the State System from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) Highway Bridge Program CSJ No. 0913-27-094 for the Victoria Barge Canal on Dupont Road in Pct. 1, and take appropriate action.

(19-42:54)

19. March 4, 2024. Commissioner Danny Garcia spoke about the closing of the bridge and provided additional information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received for the record an Advance Funding Agreement for Bridge Removal Off the State System from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Highway Bridge Program CSJ No. 0913-27-094 for the Victoria Barge Canal on Dupont Road in Precinct No. 1. Motion adopted.

20. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-0019 for a road donation in Pct. 3 from Manuel Hernandez for the installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve

drainage at 511 Duck Dr. Victoria, Texas 77905 in the amount of \$624 and take appropriate action.

(20:45;45)

20. March 4, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0019 for a road donation in the amount of \$624.00 from Manuel Hernandez at 511 Duck Drive, Victoria, Texas, 77905 in Precinct No. 3 for installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve drainage. Motion adopted.

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

(21-46:22)

21. March 4, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the 2024 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments, Expenditures – Line item transfer
- b. County Clerk Archive Fee Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- c. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 3, Expenditures - Increase
- d. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 4, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- e. Airport Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- f. Capital Projects Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- g. Health Department, Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

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

(22-47:23)

22. March 4, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. David Gonzales, Public Health Director - Victoria County Public Health Department:
 - 1. Correction: Employment of Destiny Cano, Special Projects/Public Relations Director, at a rate of \$20.00 per hour, Budget Code 808-631-1112, effective February 13, 2024. Other Remarks: ANNUAL CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE: \$1080.04 808-631-1139. Grade 7 Plan General.
- b. Danny Garcia, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1 - Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 1:
 - 1. Salary change for Rudy Ramirez, Sr. Equipment Operator, from a rate of \$21.50 per hour, Budget Code 201-611-1108 to a rate of \$23.19 per hour, effective February 24, 2024. Grade 7 Plan General.
 - 2. Salary and position/other change for Anthony Hernandez, from Equipment Operator, at a rate of \$19.00 per hour, Budget Code 201-611-1105 to Sr. Equipment Operator, at a rate of \$23.19 per hour, Budget Code 201-611-1108, effective February 24, 2024. Grade 7 Plan General.
- c. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
 - 1. Employment of Jacob Irvin, Detention Officer, at a rate of \$20.76 per hour, Budget Codes 100-565-1116-18.74, 288-565-1116-2.02 and State Grant 24 LGC 130.911, effective March 5, 2024. Grade 5 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 1.

- CONTINUED -

- d. Pama Hencerling, Chief Probation Officer - Juvenile Detention:
 - 1. Dismissal of Lydia Gonzales, Cook, with 84.17 Compensatory hours due, effective February 26, 2024.
 - 2. Resignation of Brandon Lee Escobar, JSO, with 8.63 Compensatory hours due, effective February 25, 2024.
- e. Constance Filley Johnson, Criminal District Attorney, Criminal District Attorney's Office:
 - 1. Resignation of Zachary A. Miles, Assistant CDA (Felony), with 80.0 PTO hours due, effective March 1, 2024.

Motion adopted.

23. Closed meeting pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.074 to discuss personnel matters.

(23-48:09)

23. March 4, 2024. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 10:48 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.074 to discuss personnel matters.

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.

(24-48:12)

24. March 4, 2024. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 11:14 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

25. Adjourn.

(25-48:25)

25. March 4, 2024. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of March 4, 2024.