

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **11th day March A.D., 2024**, the Commissioners Court convened in **Regular 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 11, 2024, 10:00 AM, REGULAR TERM

VICTORIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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

1. Call to Order.

(1-0:00)

1. March 11, 2024. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Regular Term for Monday, March 11, 2024, at 10:01 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. March 11, 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.

(3-2:55)

3. March 11, 2024. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Judge Zeller recognized Representative Geanie Morrison and U.S. Marshal T. Michael O'Connor.

Victoria Animal Services Director Mark Sloat stated there was a rabies positive skunk case in the Quail Creek area and recommended making sure animals are up-to-date on their vaccinations. Mr. Sloat responded to Commissioner Ohrt's and Judge Zeller's questions.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-5:57)

4. March 11, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on March 4, 2024. Motion adopted.

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

(5-6:11)

5. March 11, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford, County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	3/11/2024	\$582,342.95
Supplemental Accounts	3/1/2024 – 3/7/2024	\$170,220.65

Motion adopted.

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

(6-6:47)

6. March 11, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the County Treasurer; Criminal District Attorney; County Tax Assessor Collector; County Auditor; Fire Marshal; Justices of the Peace, Precincts Nos. 1 - 4; Constables, Precincts Nos. 2, 3, and 4, and Pre-Trial Services. Motion adopted.

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

(7-7:18)

7. March 11, 2024. None. No action taken.

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

(8-7:53)

8. March 11, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the interim vendor payment for Citizens Medical Center dated March 7, 2024, in the amount of \$952,301.80 and the ACH report dated March 7, 2024, in the amount of \$3,114,435.69. Motion adopted.

9. Consider approval of the following scopes of work with Centurion for the Victoria Regional Airport and take appropriate action:

a. Preliminary site analysis preparation for tracts A and B.

(9a-8:37)

9a. March 11, 2024. Airport Executive Director Lenny Llerena and David Alexander with Centurion discussed the Development Feasibility Study, Rental Car Facility, and the Planning Study for the Victoria Regional Airport. The Commissioners Court passed on the scope of work for the preliminary site analysis preparation for tracts A and B with Centurion for the Victoria Regional Airport at this time. No action taken.

Consider approval of the following scopes of work with Centurion for the Victoria Regional Airport and take appropriate action:

b. Preliminary site evaluation and analysis for possible rental car provider.

(9b-8:37)

9b. March 11, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the scope of work for the preliminary site evaluation and analysis for a possible rental car provider with Centurion for the Victoria Regional Airport. Motion adopted.

10. Discuss and consider extending the promotions at the Victoria Regional Airport and take appropriate action.

(10-38:28)

10. March 11, 2024. Victoria Regional Airport Executive Director Lenny Llerena provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved to extend the promotions for the Victoria Regional Airport until June 30, 2024. Motion adopted.

11. Consider approval of the purchase of a John Deere tractor and loader from Shoppa's Farm Supply for the Victoria Regional Airport and take appropriate action.

(11-44:02)

11. March 11, 2024. Victoria Regional Airport Executive Director Lenny Llerena provided information to the Court. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the purchase of a John Deere tractor and loader from Shoppa's Farm Supply for the Victoria Regional Airport. Motion adopted.

12. Consider approval of the modified statement of award for the FY2024 TIDC Improvement Grant for the Regional Public Defender Office and take appropriate action.

(12-2:16:12)

12. March 11, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the modified statement of award for the FY2024 TIDC Improvement Grant for the Regional Public Defender Office. Motion adopted.

13. Consider approval of the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Contract No. 5613/1-565-02 for the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action.

(13-2:17:24)

13. March 11, 2024. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided the Court with information. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Contract No. 5613/1-565-02 for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

14. Consider approval of a 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) Grant Award, Application No. 3186209, and take appropriate action.

(14-2:18:12)

14. March 11, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved a 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) Grant Award, Application No. 3186209. Motion adopted.

15. Consider approval of a request for payment to Billy T. Cattin Recovery Outreach, Inc. in the amount of \$116,975 for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Subrecipient Project No. VICT-10 and take appropriate action.

(15-2:18:54)

15. March 11, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the request for payment to Billy T. Cattin Recovery Outreach, Inc. in the amount of \$116,975.00 for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Subrecipient Project No.

VICT-10. Motion adopted.

- 16. Ratify the General Land Office (GLO) Community Development Block Grant-Diaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Contract 20-065-094-C262, Amendment No. 4 and take appropriate action.**

(16-2:19:28)

16. March 11, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court ratified the General Land Office (GLO) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Contract 20-065-094-C262, Amendment No. 4. Motion adopted.

- 17. Consider approval of FY25 Operation Lone Star Grant Program (OLS) Resolution 2024-0022, Application No. 5066001, and take appropriate action.**

(17-2:20:30)

17. March 11, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the FY25 Operation Lone Star Grant Program (OLS) Resolution 2024-0022, Application No. 5066001. Motion adopted.

- 18. Ratify the Victoria County Sheriff's Office Rural Law Enforcement Salary Assistance Grant Program Contract Award No. IA-0000000425, Senate Bill 22 and take appropriate action.**

(18-2:21:36)

18. March 11, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court ratified the Victoria County Sheriff's Office Rural Law Enforcement Salary Assistance Grant Program Contract Award No. IA-0000000425, Senate Bill 22. Motion adopted.

- 19. Consider approval of a request for a plat exemption from Chris & Jacob Boyd at 808 Reinecke Rd. in Pct. 2 and take appropriate action.**

(19-2:22:48)

19. March 11, 2024. County Engineer John Johnston provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the request for plat exemption from Chris and Jacob Boyd at 808 Reinecke Road in Precinct No. 2. Motion adopted.

- 20. Discuss and consider the use of a QR code to accept donations for Victoria County Animal Services and take appropriate action.**

(20-2:24:16)

20. March 11, 2024. Animal Services Director Mark Sloat explained the QR code process to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the use of a QR code to accept donations for Victoria County Animal Services. Motion adopted.

- 21. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-0021, for a donation of a 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe valued at \$7,660 from Gulf Bend Center to be used by the Victoria County Sheriff's Office, and take appropriate action.**

(21-2:29:11)

21. March 11, 2024. Sheriff Justin Marr provided the Court with information. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0021 for a donation of a 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe valued at \$7,660.00 from Gulf

Bend Center to be used by the Victoria County Sheriff's Office. Motion adopted.

- 22. Consider approval of a TXWARN Interlocal Agreement with Harris County Universal Services-Radio for the Victoria County Sheriff's Office and take appropriate action.**

(22-2:29:50)

22. March 11, 2024. Emergency Management Director Rick McBrayer provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved a TXWARN Interlocal Agreement with Harris County Universal Services-Radio for the Victoria County Sheriff's Office. Motion adopted.

- 23. Ratify a request for payment to GrantWorks, Inc. in the amount of \$8,671.95 in connection to the CDBG Hurricane Disaster Recovery Program Contract No. 20-065-094-C262 and take appropriate action.**

(23-2:31:45)

23. March 11, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court ratified a request for payment to GrantWorks, Inc. in the amount of \$8,671.95 in connection to the CDBG Hurricane Disaster Recovery Program Contract No. 20-065-094-C262. Motion adopted.

- 24. Consider approval of a request for a \$5,182.41 payment to Union Pacific Railroad in connection to the Rehabilitate and Widen Roadway Project for McCoy Road and Bayer Road in Pct. 1 and take appropriate action.**

(24-2:32:37)

24. March 11, 2024. County Engineer John Johnston provided the Court with information. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved a request for a \$5,182.41 payment to Union Pacific Railroad in connection to the Rehabilitate and Widen Roadway Project for McCoy Road and Bayer Road in Precinct No. 1. Motion adopted.

- 25. Consider approval of the Renewal Agreement with the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) for the Affordable Care Act Reporting and Tracking Service (ARTS) reporting to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and employees and take appropriate action.**

(25-2:33:22)

25. March 11, 2024. County Treasurer Paige Foster provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Renewal Agreement with the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) for the Affordable Care Act Reporting and Tracking Service (ARTS) reporting to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and employees. Motion adopted.

- 26. Receive a report and hold a discussion related to the old County Jail and take appropriate action.**

(26-46:47)

26. March 11, 2024. A discussion was held in regards to the 1940 Victoria County Jail building. John Griffin, Victoria resident, presented the Court with an Analysis and Recommendation for Adaptive Reuse of the 1940 Victoria County Jail for Victoria Preservation, Inc. and Victoria County. Court members were presented with flash drives

with this report for their review. Speaking in favor of restoring the 1940 Victoria County Jail building and voicing their reasons for asking for a delay in the decision to demolish the building were citizens of Victoria County: John Griffin, Stephanie Mueller of Victoria Preservation Inc. (VPI), Paul Janda with the Victoria County Historical Commission (VCHC), John Kisalus with VPI and VCHC, James Wearden, T. Michael O'Connor, Stephen Williams, Geanie Morrison, Michael L. Williams; and Calhoun County residents Alysa Jarvis and Russell Cain. Questions were asked by Commissioners Sexton and Ohrt, and information was provided by Judge Zeller in regards to findings from previous building inspections that were conducted. The audience was offered to tour the building on Wednesday, March 13th at 9:00 a.m. County Engineer John Johnston, advised that anyone touring the old jail building would be required to wear a N-95 mask and sign a liability waiver prior to entry into the building. No action taken.

27. Consider approval of the following in connection to the Victoria County Old Jail Demo and new parking lot project and take appropriate action:
a. Victoria County Old Jail Demo and New Parking Resolution 2024-0023 Delegation of Authority

(27a-2:09:04)

27a. March 11, 2024. The Commissioners Court passed on the Victoria County Old Jail Demo and New Parking Resolution 2024-0023 Delegation of Authority in connection to the Victoria County Old Jail Demo and new parking lot project. No action taken.

Consider approval of the following in connection to the Victoria County Old Jail Demo and new parking lot project and take appropriate action:

b. Authorization to Advertise for Competitive Sealed Proposals

(27b-2:09:04)

27b. March 11, 2024. The Commissioners Court passed on the authorization to advertise for Competitive Sealed Proposals in connection to the Victoria County Old Jail Demo and new parking lot project. No action taken.

28. Receive and discuss the budget calendar for the FY2025 Budget and take appropriate action.

(28-2:34:16)

28. March 11, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received and discussed the budget calendar for the FY2025 Budget. Motion adopted.

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

(29-2:36:51)

29. March 11, 2024. Commissioner Kenneth Sexton provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the final documents for the purchase of Road and Bridge equipment from Associated Supply Company, Inc. for Precinct No. 1 and Precinct No. 4. Motion adopted.

30. Consider approval of the following 2024 budget amendments and take appropriate

action:

(30-2:38:09)

30. March 11, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the 2024 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments, Expenditures – Line item transfer
- b. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 4, Expenditures - Increase
- c. Airport Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- d. General Fund, Sheriff's Office, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- e. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 1, Revenue and Expenditures - Increase
- f. Pretrial Intervention, Expenditures - Increase
- g. Capital Projects Fund, Expenditures - Increase

Motion adopted.

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

(31-2:38:55)

31. March 11, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. Richard Castillo, Fire Marshal - Fire Marshal's Office:
 - 1. Resignation of Michael A. Carbajal, Lt. Deputy Fire Marshal-ARFF, with 80.0 PTO and 35.67 Compensatory hours due, effective March 8, 2024.
 - 2. Employment of Drew Pilkington, Deputy Fire Marshal-ARFF, at a rate of \$30.24 per hour, Budget Code 100-550-1108, effective March 12, 2024. Grade 14 Plan General.
- b. Kenneth Sexton, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4 - Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 4:
 - 1. Employment of Angelo Rodriguez, Extra Help, at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, Budget Code 204-614-1130, effective March 12, 2024.
- c. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
 - 1. Resignation of Gabriel Guajardo, Detention Officer, with 23.53 PTO and 15.75 Compensatory hours due, effective March 8, 2024.
 - 2. Resignation of Cash Bohac, Detention Deputy, with 28.52 Compensatory hours due, effective March 10, 2024.
 - 3. Employment (Re-hire) of Jessie Gonzales, Extra Help, at a rate of \$25.31 per hour, Budget Code 100-563-1130, effective March 12, 2024. Remarks: PRN/Seasonal.
 - 4. Employment of Cory Zuill, Detention Officer, at a rate of \$20.76 per hour, Budget Codes 100-565-1116-\$18.74 and 288-565-1116-\$2.02 STATE GRANT LGC 130. Grade 5 Plan Law Enforcement.
 - 5. Resignation of Matthew Padier, Kitchen Officer, with 80.0 PTO and 140.72 Compensatory hours due, effective March 7, 2024.

- CONTINUED -

d. David Gonzales, Public Health Director - Victoria County Public Health

Department:

1. Dismissal of Sunni Edmerson, Community Health Worker I, with 1.13 Compensatory hours due, effective March 1, 2024. Other Remarks: CANCEL: Cell Phone Allowance: \$480.00 - 804-631-1139 (\$18.46 per pay period).
2. Salary and position/other change for Lori Marroquin, from CSA III (Community Service Aide), at a rate of \$17.00 per hour, Budget Code 808-631-1108 to Casework Associate, at a rate of \$17.50 per hour, Budget Codes 800-655-1104 (70.00%) \$12.25 and 800-673-1104 (30.00%) \$5.25, effective March 9, 2024. Other Remarks: Position Transfer. Grade 3 Plan General.
3. Employment (Rehire) of Elizabeth Flores, CSA (Community Service Aide), at a rate of \$19.39 per hour, Budget Code 808-631-1126, effective March 12, 2024. Grade 3 Plan General.

Motion adopted.

32. Adjourn.

(32-2:39:48)

32. March 11, 2024. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of March 11, 2024.