

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **29th day April 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

and the following orders were passed:



COUNTY OF VICTORIA

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF VICTORIA COUNTY, TEXAS

Monday, April 29, 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. April 29, 2024. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, April 29, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. April 29 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.

(3-1:43)

3. April 29, 2024. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Judge Zeller remembered Dr. Jill Fox who passed away unexpectedly and held a moment of silence in her memory. Judge Zeller provided the visitation and funeral information for Dr. Fox and gave his condolences to her family.

Commissioner Ohrt stated that Dr. Fox's presence will be greatly missed.

Ernie Byrd, a Victoria resident, voiced his concerns regarding no action being taken on the flooding issues in Victoria County.

Michael Vonderau of 2204 E. North Street thanked Judge Zeller and the Victoria Police Department for speaking with the homeless group that stays around Heavens Gate Funeral Home. Mr. Vonderau also spoke about the Lutheran Church fundraiser that was held.

Cody Parsons, an Inez resident, questioned when the digging of the ditches around Tipton Road would begin. Commissioner Kenneth Sexton responded to Mr. Parsons.

Mike Williams with Victoria Preservation, Inc. spoke about Dr. Jill Fox being a beautiful person and informed the Court about the passing of Dr. Robert Shook.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-12:56)

4. April 29, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on April 22, 2024. Motion adopted.

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

(5-13:14)

5. April 29, 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	4/29/2024	\$683,402.42
Supplemental Accounts	4/19/2024 – 4/25/2024	\$151,781.04

Motion adopted.

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

(6-13:43)

6. April 29, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the monthly report from the County Treasurer. Motion adopted.

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

(7-14:00)

7. April 29, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the release of the following bond forfeiture judgments from the Court:

- a. Cause No. CIV1-21309: The State of Texas vs. Desiray Rene Morales, Defendant and Bankers Ins. Co., Agent Lauren Alkek DBA A & A Bail Bonds, Surety.
- b. Cause No. CIV1-21310: The State of Texas vs. Desiray Rene Morales, Defendant and Bankers Ins. Co., Agent Lauren Alkek DBA A & A Bail Bonds, Surety.

Motion adopted.

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

(8-14:39)

8. April 29, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns 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 April 25, 2024, in the amount of \$671,209.88 and the ACH report dated April 25, 2024, in the amount of \$1,584,226.53. Motion adopted.

9. Hear a proclamation designating April 28 - May 5, 2024, as Soil and Water

Stewardship Week and take appropriate action.

(9-15:18)

9. April 29, 2024. Stephen Diebel with the Victoria Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) thanked the Court for their support. Mr. Diebel introduced SWCD board members Sherilyn Arnecke and Richard Huegele. County Judge Zeller read the proclamation for Texas Soil and Water Stewardship Week. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the proclamation that the week of April 28 - May 5, 2024 is Texas Soil and Water Stewardship Week. Motion adopted.

10. Hear a proclamation designating May 2, 2024, as National Day of Prayer in Victoria County and take appropriate action.

(10-20:16)

10. April 29, 2024. The Commissioners Court passed on the proclamation designating May 2, 2024, as National Day of Prayer in Victoria County. No action taken.

11. Receive notice of Victoria FY22 Operation Stonegarden Grant Adjustment Approval, Grant #3186208, and take appropriate action.

(11-20:48)

11. April 29, 2024. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the notice of Victoria FY22 Operation Stonegarden Grant Adjustment Approval, Grant No. 3186208. Motion adopted.

12. Consider approval of the following for 2025 Texas Indigent Defense Commission Continuation Applications and take appropriate action:

a. Indigent Defense Assistant Improvement Grant Resolution No. 2024-0032.

(12a-21:33)

12a. April 29, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0032 for the 2025 Indigent Defense Assistant Improvement Grant Program (Indigent Defense Coordinator) in connection to the 2025 Texas Indigent Defense Commission Continuation Application. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following for 2025 Texas Indigent Defense Commission Continuation Applications and take appropriate action:

b. Crossroads Regional Public Defenders Office Improvement Grant Resolution No. 2024-0033.

(12b-21:33)

12b. April 29, 2024. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided the Court with information. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0033 for the 2025 Indigent Defense Improvement Grant Program (Crossroads Regional Public Defender's Office) in connection to the 2025 Texas Indigent Defense Commission Continuation Application. Motion adopted.

13. Hear an update regarding the Victoria County Heritage Department and take

appropriate action.

(13-24:14)

13. April 29, 2024. Jeff Wright, Heritage Director, provided an update to the Court regarding the Victoria County Heritage Department. Mr. Wright reviewed Courthouse tours, recent presentations, organizations, research assistance, and conferences attended. He also discussed the Victoria County Historical Commission, Victoria Preservation, Inc. and the master plan for the old Victoria County Jail. No action taken.

- 14. Receive for the record a fully executed task order with CivilCorp related to the site evaluation of the property submitted in response to SFP - Real Property for Inpatient Mental Health Facility and take appropriate action.**

(14-46:12)

14. April 29, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court received for the record a fully executed task order with CivilCorp related to the site evaluation of the property submitted in response to SFP-Real Property for the Inpatient Mental Health Facility. Motion adopted.

- 15. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2024-0031 for a road donation in Pct. 3 from Charles Odis for the installation of a pipe culvert to improve drainage on 310 Blue Jay Loop, Victoria, Texas 77905 at the value of \$609, and take appropriate action.**

(15-47:28)

15. April 29, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0031 for a road donation in the amount of \$609.00 from Charles Odis at 310 Blue Jay Loop, Victoria, Texas, 77905, in Precinct No. 3 for the installation of a pipe culvert to improve drainage. Motion adopted.

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

(16-47:47)

16. April 29, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the 2024 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments, Expenditures – Line item transfer
- b. Court Facility Fee Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- c. Capital Projects Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- d. Airport Fund, Expenditures – Increase
- e. Elections Administrators Special Fund, Revenues and Expenditures - Increase
- f. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 3, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- g. General Fund, Sheriff's Office, Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

- 17. Consider approval of personnel changes and take appropriate action.**

(17-48:37)

17. April 29, 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. Ashley Hernandez, County Tax Assessor - County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office:

1. Salary change for Mary Garza, Asst Chief Deputy, from a rate of \$19.75 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1104 to a rate of \$20.10 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1104, effective April 20, 2024.
2. Salary change for Mary Goldstein, Asst Chief Deputy, from a rate of \$19.50 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1104 to a rate of \$20.10 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1104, effective April 20, 2024.
3. Salary change for Shelly Szilagi, Deputy Clerk, from a rate of \$17.25 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1106 to a rate of \$18.00 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1106, effective April 20, 2024.
4. Salary change for Morgan Busby, Deputy Clerk, from a rate of \$17.25 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1106 to a rate of \$18.00 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1106, effective April 20, 2024.
5. Salary change for Misty Hahn, Deputy Clerk, from a rate of \$17.25 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1106 to a rate of \$18.00 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1106, effective April 20, 2024.

b. Constance Filley Johnson, Criminal District Attorney - Criminal District Attorney's Office:

1. Other Code Change for Jordan G. Fries, First Assistant CDA/Appellate, at a rate of \$59.43 per hour, from Budget Codes 100-475-1140 - \$50.07 and 288-475-1140 - \$9.36 to Budget Codes 100-475-1140 - \$50.07 and 289-475-1140 - \$9.36, effective April 20, 2024.
2. Other Code Change for Andrea M. Harvey, Assistant CDA, at a rate of \$51.92 per hour, from Budget Codes 100-475-1104 - \$40.87 and 288-475-1104 - \$11.05 to Budget Codes 100-475-1104 - \$40.87 and 289-475-1104 - \$11.05, effective April 20, 2024.
3. Other Code Change for Jessica A. Shawver, Assistant CDA, at a rate of \$51.92 per hour, from Budget Codes 100-475-1104 - \$40.87 and 288-475-1104 - \$11.05 to Budget Codes 100-475-1104 - \$40.87 and 289-475-1104 - \$11.05, effective April 20, 2024.
4. Other Code Change for Luis A. Martinez, Assistant CDA, at a rate of \$50.99 per hour, from Budget Codes 100-475-1104 - \$39.94 and 288-475-1104 - \$11.05 to Budget Codes 100-475-1104 - \$39.94, and 289-475-1104 - \$11.05, effective April 20, 2024.
5. Other Code Change for Donaciano Chacon, Investigator, at a rate of \$33.39 per hour, from Budget Codes 100-475-1185 - \$27.94, 288-475-1185 - \$5.45, and 100-475-1137 - \$69.23 - Cert. Pay to Budget Codes 100-475-1185 - \$27.94, 289-475-1185 - \$5.45, and 100-475-1137 - \$69.23 - Cert. Pay, effective April 20, 2024.
6. Other Code Change for Roman Goodwine, Investigator, at a rate of \$33.39 per hour, from Budget Codes 100-475-1185 - \$27.94, 288-475-1185 - \$5.45, and 100-475-1137 - \$69.23 - Cert. Pay to Budget Codes 100-475-1185 - \$27.94, 289-475-1185 - \$5.45, and 100-475-1137 - \$69.23 - Cert. Pay, effective April 20, 2024.

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7. Other Code Change for Robert Bianchi, Investigator, at a rate of \$33.39 per hour, from Budget Codes 100-475-1185 - \$27.94, 288-475-1185 - \$5.45, and 100-475-1137 - \$69.23 - Cert. Pay to Budget Codes 100-475-1185 - \$27.94, 289-475-1185 - \$5.45, and 100-475-1137 - \$69.23 - Cert. Pay, effective April 20, 2024.
8. Other Code Change for Amanda K Roessler, Victim Assistance Coordinator, at a rate of \$28.84 per hour, from Budget Codes 305-475-1107 - \$24.97 and 288-475-1107 - \$3.87 to Budget Codes 305-475-1107 - \$24.97 and 289-475-1107 - \$3.87, effective April 20, 2024.
9. Other Code Change for Gwendolyn H Sanford, Victim Assistance Coordinator (Misd), at a rate of \$24.34 per hour, from Budget Codes 100-475-1230 - \$23.63 and 288-475-1230 - \$0.71 to Budget Codes 100-475-1230 - \$23.63 and 289-475-1230 - \$0.71, effective April 20, 2024.
- c. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
 1. VCSO Salary Adjustment Certification for Patrick Osborn, to be paid Intermediate Certificate Pay of \$23.08 per pay period, effective May 24, 2024. Certification date for Patrick Osborn is April 17, 2024. Budget Coding: Detention Certificate Pay 100-565-1137. Remarks: Deputy Osborn earned his Intermediate Peace Officer Certificate on 04/17/2024.
 2. Resignation of BreNae Williams, Detention Officer, with 34.14 Compensatory hours due, effective April 29, 2024.
- d. Jason Ohrt, Commissioner, Precinct No. 2 - Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 2:
 1. Employment of Devin Immenhauser, Sr. Equipment Operator, at a rate of \$22.50 per hour, Budget Code 202- 612-1108, effective April 30, 2024. Grade 7 Plan General.
- e. David Gonzales, Public Health Director - Victoria County Public Health Department:
 1. Resignation of Delicia Hicks, PAT Parent Educator, effective April 22, 2024.
 2. Resignation of Margaret Garcia, Sanitation Inspector, effective May 3, 2024.

Motion adopted.

18. **Closed meeting pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government code §551.0745 to discuss Board and Commissions, §551.076 to discuss Security Matters, §551.072 to discuss Real Property, §551.074 to discuss Personnel Matters, §551.087 to discuss economic development, and §551.071 to conduct a private consultation with the County's attorney regarding matters protected by the attorney-client privilege.**

(18-49:09)

18. April 29, 2024. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 10:49 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.0745 to discuss Board and Commissions; §551.076 to discuss Security Matters; §551.072 to discuss Real Property; §551.074 to discuss Personnel Matters, §551.087 to discuss economic development; and §551.071 to conduct a private consultation with the County's attorney regarding matters protected by the attorney-client privilege.

19. **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 closed meeting.**

(19-2:02:54)

19. April 29, 2024. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 12:02 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

20. Adjourn.

(20-2:03:00)

20. April 29, 2024. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of April 29, 2024.