

**THE STATE OF TEXAS   §**

**COUNTY OF VICTORIA   §**

Be it remembered that on this the **29th day July 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       | Absent |
| 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, July 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. July 29, 2024. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, July 29, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

**2. Invocation and Pledges.**

(2-0:00)

2. July 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.**

(3-1:29)

3. July 29, 2024. 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 voiced his concerns regarding sewer and water leaks at the East North Mobile Home Park.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rick McBrayer gave an update about the Response Team from San Antonio and commended individuals and offices that helped support them.

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

**4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.**

(4-5:58)

4. July 29, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on July 22, 2024. Motion adopted.

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

(5-6:12)

5. July 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      | 7/29/2024             | \$301,106.22 |
| Supplemental Accounts | 7/19/2024 – 7/25/2024 | \$202,047.82 |

Motion adopted.

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

(6-6:39)

6. July 29, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the District Clerk and Sheriff. Motion adopted.

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

(7-6:56)

7. July 29, 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.**

(8-7:03)

8. July 29, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the board minutes, accounts payable, payroll, personnel changes, and Citizens Medical Center interim vendor payments dated July 25, 2024, in the amount of \$508,260.15 and the ACH report dated July 25, 2024, in the amount of \$1,752,471.49. Motion adopted.

**9. Receive the executed Victoria County Navigation District American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Subrecipient Agreement, Amendment No. 2, and take appropriate action.**

(9-7:46)

9. July 29, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court received the executed Victoria County Navigation District American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Subrecipient Agreement, Amendment No. 2. Motion adopted.

**10. Consider approval of a request for payment to the Victoria County Navigation District in the amount of \$141,631.46 for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Subrecipient Project No. VICT-13 and take appropriate action.**

(10-8:20)

10. July 29, 2024. County Auditor Michelle Samford provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the request for payment to the Victoria County Navigation District in the amount of \$141,631.46 for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Subrecipient Project No. VICT-13. Motion adopted.

**11. Consider approval of the following proposals for repairs to the 311 E. Constitution building and take appropriate action:**

**a. Rain Seal Master for the amount of \$295,800.00.**

(11a-9:09)

11a. July 29, 2024. County Engineer John Johnston provided information and discussed the roof repairs with the Court. County Auditor spoke to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the proposal from Rain Seal Master in the amount of \$295,800.00 for repairs to the 311 E. Constitution building. Motion adopted.

**Consider approval of the following proposals for repairs to the 311 E. Constitution building and take appropriate action:**

**b. Texas Air Systems for the amount of \$26,380.00.**

(11b-9:09)

11b. July 29, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the proposal from Texas Air Systems in the amount of \$26,380.00 for repairs to the 311 E. Constitution building. Motion adopted.

**12. Consider approval of a proposal for repairs to the Extension Office from Rain Seal Master and take appropriate action.**

(12-18:11)

12. July 29, 2024. The Commissioners Court passed on the proposal for repairs to the Extension Office from Rain Seal Master. No action taken.

**13. Consider approval and authorize the County Judge to sign the Amendment to Listing Agreement with Jimmy Zaplac at Coldwell Banker D'Ann Harper, Realtors, in connection to changing the listing price of the property located at 8410 FM 236, Victoria, Texas 77905, and take appropriate action.**

(13-18:22)

13. July 29, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved and authorized the County Judge to sign the Amendment to the Listing Agreement with Jimmy Zaplac at Coldwell Banker D'Ann Harper, Realtors, in connection to changing the listing price of the property located at 8410 FM 236, Victoria, Texas, 77905. Motion adopted.

**14. Consider approval of the following items related to the Victoria County Regional Airport and take appropriate action:**

**a. Agreement with SkyWest for an additional 25 flights.**

(14a-1:42:17)

14a. July 29, 2024. The Commissioners Court passed on the agreement with SkyWest for an additional 25 flights for the Victoria County Regional Airport. No action taken.

**Consider approval of the following items related to the Victoria County Regional Airport and take appropriate action:**

**b. An interlocal agreement with the City of Victoria and/or Sales Tax Development Corporation.**

(14b-1:42:17)

14b. July 29, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Victoria and/or Sales Tax Development Corporation for the Victoria County Regional Airport. Motion adopted.

**15. Consider approval of a request for assistance for the Bloomington Volunteer Fire Department and take appropriate action.**

(15-19:44)

15. July 29, 2024. Moved by and seconded by, the Commissioners Court approved the request for assistance for the Bloomington Volunteer Fire Department. Motion adopted.

**16. Consider the request from Victoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office for Victoria County Auditor's Office to conduct the FY2024 audit for Article 59.06 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Asset Forfeiture Report and take appropriate action.**

(16-20:58)

16. July 29, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the request from Victoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office for Victoria County Auditor's Office to conduct the FY2024 audit for Article 59.06 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Asset Forfeiture Report. Motion adopted.

**17. Consider approval of the following detention and/or residential contracts with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:**

**a. Gregg County.**

(17a-21:32)

17a. July 29, 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 Gregg County. Motion adopted.

**Consider approval of the following detention and/or residential contracts with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:**

**b. Caldwell County.**

(17b-21:32)

17b. July 29, 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 Caldwell County. Motion adopted.

**Consider approval of the following detention and/or residential contracts with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:**

**c. 452nd Judicial District.**

(17c-21:32)

17c. July 29, 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 452nd Judicial District. Motion adopted.

**Consider approval of the following detention and/or residential contracts with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:**

**d. Edwards County.**

(17d-21:32)

17d. July 29, 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 Edwards County. Motion adopted.

**Consider approval of the following detention and/or residential contracts with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:**

**e. Menard County.**

(17e-21:32)

17e. July 29, 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 Menard County. Motion adopted.

**Consider approval of the following detention and/or residential contracts with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:**

**f. Kimble County**

(17f-21:32)

17f. July 29, 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 Kimble County. Motion adopted.

**Consider approval of the following detention and/or residential contracts with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:**

**g. McCulloch County.**

(17g-21:32)

17g. July 29, 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 McCulloch County. Motion adopted.

**Consider approval of the following detention and/or residential contracts with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:**

**h. Mason County.**

(17h-21:32)

17h. July 29, 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 Mason County. Motion adopted.

**Consider approval of the following detention and/or residential contracts with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:**

**i. Wilson County.**

(17i-21:32)

17i. July 29, 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 Wilson County. Motion adopted.

**Consider approval of the following detention and/or residential contracts with the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:**

**j. Karnes County**

(17j-21:32)

17j. July 29, 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 Karnes County. Motion adopted.

**18. Consider approval of the following resolutions for road donations in PCT #1 and take appropriate actions:**

**a. Resolution No. 2024-0053 from Sedona Randolph Inc. for the installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve drainage at 4th & 5th Street, Bloomington, Texas in the value of \$590.00.**

(18a-22:09)

18a. July 29, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0053 for a road donation in the amount of \$590.00 from Sedona Randolph, Inc. at 4th and 5th Street, Bloomington, Texas in Precinct No. 1 for installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve drainage. Motion adopted.

**Consider approval of the following resolutions for road donations in PCT #1 and take appropriate actions:**

**b. Resolution No. 2024-0054 from Veronica E. Vasquez for the installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve drainage at Serene Dr., Victoria, Texas in the value of \$550.00.**

(18b-22:09)

18b. July 29, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0054 for a road donation in the amount of \$550.00 from Veronica E. Vasquez at Serene Drive, Victoria County, in Precinct No. 1 for installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve drainage. Motion adopted.

**19. Receive for the record, the following 2024 Discretionary Funds Budget Amendments and take appropriate action:**

**a. Sheriff's DOJ Federal Forfeiture (362).**

(19a-23:15)

19a. July 29, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received for the record the 2024 Discretionary Fund Budget Amendment for the Sheriff's DOJ Federal Forfeiture Fund (362) as an Increase. Motion adopted.

**Receive for the record, the following 2024 Discretionary Funds Budget Amendments and take appropriate action:**

**b. CDA Contraband Forfeiture Fund (370).**

(19b-23:15)

19b. July 29, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received for the record the 2024 Discretionary Fund Budget Amendment for the CDA Contraband Forfeiture Fund (370) as an Increase. Motion adopted.

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

(20-23:47)

20. July 29, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the 2024 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- b. Emergency Management Fund, Revenues and Expenditures – Line item transfer
- c. Airport Operating Fund, Revenues and Expenditures - Decrease
- d. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 2, Expenditures – Line item transfer
- e. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 4, Expenditures – Line item transfer
- f. General Fund, Sheriff's Office, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- g. Health Department, Expenditures – Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

**21. Consider approval of personnel changes and take appropriate action.**

(21-24:43)

21. July 29, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. Ashley Hernandez, County Tax Assessor Collector - County Tax Office:
  - 1. Certificate of Completion from The Tax Assessor-Collector Association of Texas for successfully completing 4.00 hours of educational training of the Advanced Course-Leadership for Ashley Hernandez, County Tax Assessor-Collector.
- b. Jason Ohrt, County Commissioner, Precinct No. 2 - Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 2:
  - 1. Certificate of Completion from the V.G. Young Institute of County Government for successfully completing 8.00 hours of educational training for the South Texas County Judges and Commissioners Annual Conference for Jason Ohrt, County Commissioner, Precinct No. 2.
- c. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
  - 1. Employment of Michael Balboa, Detention Officer, at a rate of \$20.76 per hour, Budget Codes 100-565-1116 \$18.74 and 288-565-1116 \$2.02 LGC 130.911, effective July 30, 2024. Grade 5 Plan Law Enforcement.
  - 2. VCSO Salary Adjustment Certification for Jadah Ruiz, to be paid Intermediate Certificate Pay of \$23.08 per pay period, effective August 16, 2024. Certification date for Jadah Ruiz is July 14, 2024. Budget Coding: Enforcement/CID Certificate Pay 100-563-1137. Remarks: Deputy Ruiz received her Intermediate Peace Officer's certificate on 07/14/2024.
- d. Brian Watson, Chief Public Defender - Public Defenders Office:
  - 1. Employment of Laurel Jade Ortego, Felony Defender, at a rate of \$52.88 per hour, Budget Code 525-401-1103, effective July 30, 2024. Grade 15 Plan General.

- CONTINUED -



- e. Pama Hencerling, Chief Probation Officer - Juvenile Detention:
  - 1. Salary change for Rebecca Ramirez, Clerk III, from a rate of \$18.00 per hour, Budget Code 100-573-1147 to a rate of \$18.25 per hour, effective July 27, 2024.
- f. Mark Sloat, Animal Services Director - Victoria County Animal Services:
  - 1. Resignation of Selena Hernandez, Animal Services Adoption Coordinator, effective July 22, 2024. Other Remarks: PetSmart Grant.
- g. David Gonzales, Public Health Director - Victoria County Public Health Department:
  - 1. Resignation of Lizeth M. Cruz Solorzano, PAT Parent Educator, effective July 22, 2024.

Motion adopted.

- 22. Closed meeting pursuant to V.C.T.A. government code §551.074 to discuss personnel matters in various departments, §551.071 to conduct a private consultation with the County's attorney regarding matters protected by attorney-client privilege, §551.072 to discuss real property, and §551.087 to discuss economic development.**

(22-25:52)

22. July 29, 2024. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 10:27 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.074 to discuss personnel matters in various departments, §551.071 to conduct a private consultation with the County's attorney regarding matters protected by attorney-client privilege, §551.072 to discuss real property, and §551.087 to discuss economic development.

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

(23-1:42:02)

23. July 29, 2024. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 11:41 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

- 24. Adjourn.**

(24-1:44:01)

24. July 29, 2024. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of July 29, 2024.