

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **19th day August 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	Absent
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, August 19, 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. August 19, 2024. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, August 19, 2024, at 10:02 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. August 19, 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. August 19, 2024. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Bill Pozzi, Republican Chair, stated there are 78 days left until the election and 48 days left to register to vote.

Michael Vonderau of 2204 E. North Street spoke about the dirt piles and renters at the East North Mobile Home Park.

Tinkey Venglar spoke against the Village of Bloomington Incorporation.

County Judge Zeller provided a background and explained the situation regarding the Village of Bloomington Incorporation.

Donna Mercado, Carlos Castro, Kimberly McGill, Joseph Garrison, Felix T. Vasquez, Ernie Pemberton, Michelle Cruz, Andy Reyes, Diana Cano, David Valdez, Yvonne Mercado Gonzales, and William Barr, Bloomington Citizens, all spoke against the Village of Bloomington Incorporation.

Elections Administrator Margetta Hill provided requested information and the Court discussed holding a Town Hall Meeting in Bloomington.

County Engineer John Johnston gave an update on the BANGL, LLC Road Use Agreement for a pipeline installation project in Precincts Nos. 2 and 4.

Animal Services Director Mark Sloat stated Victoria Animal Services will celebrate Hawaii becoming the 50th state on August 21, 2024, by reducing all adoption fees to \$50.00 and if you wear a Hawaiian shirt or a lei, the adoption fees will be waived. Mr. Sloat also thanked Victoria County Sheriff's Office for assisting in criminal actions for Victoria Animal Services.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-1:24:06)

4. August 19, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on August 12, 2024. Motion adopted.

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

(5-1:24:19)

5. August 19, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford, County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	8/19/2024	\$337,150.90
Supplemental Accounts	8/9/2024 – 8/15/2024	\$217,358.13

Motion adopted.

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

(6-1:24:46)

6. August 19, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the monthly report from the County Extension Agent - Family Community Health. Motion adopted.

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

(7-1:25:01)

7. August 19, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the release of the following bond forfeiture judgment from the Court:

- a. Cause No. CIV2-21088: The State of Texas vs. Feliciano Cervantes-Delatorre, Defendant and Bankers Ins. Co., Agent Lauren Alkek DBA A & A Bail Bonds, Surety.

Motion adopted.

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

(8-1:25:27)

8. August 19, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Citizens Medical Center interim vendor payments dated August 15, 2024, in the amount of \$888,281.94 and the ACH report dated August 15, 2024, in the amount of \$2,209,881.74. Motion adopted.

9. Consider the request from the Victoria County Sheriff's Office to reallocate the 2022

TAC Insurance and Seized Vehicle Sale Funds in the amount of \$88,590.00 for the purchase of a new vehicle and take appropriate action.

(9-1:26:08)

9. August 19, 2024. Sheriff Justin Marr provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the request from the Victoria County Sheriff's Office to reallocate the 2022 TAC Insurance and Seized Vehicle Sale Funds in the amount of \$88,590.00 for the purchase of a new vehicle. Motion adopted.

10. Consider approval of title and grades for the Crossroads Regional Public Defender's Office and take appropriate action.

(10-1:27:36)

10. August 19, 2024. Chief Public Defender Brian Watson thanked the Court for their support of the Public Defender's Office and introduced Analisa Benoit as the Legal Office Manager. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the title and grades for the Crossroads Regional Public Defender's Office. Motion adopted.

11. Consider approval of the Victoria County 2025 Holiday Schedule and take appropriate action.

(11-1:35:51)

11. August 19, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Victoria County 2025 Holiday Schedule. Motion adopted.

12. Consider approval of Order No. 2024-0057 for the Joint Election Agreement for the November 5, 2024, General Election and take appropriate action.

(12-1:37:48)

12. August 19, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Order No. 2024-0057 for the Joint Election Agreement for the November 5, 2024, General Election. Motion adopted.

13. Consider approval of the following resolutions for road donations in Pct. 1 and take appropriate actions:

a. Resolution No. 2024-0058 from John Poldrek for the installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve drainage at Guadalupe Road, Victoria, Texas in the value of \$575.00.

(13a-1:39:34)

13a. August 19, 2024. Commissioner Danny Garcia provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0058 for a road donation in the amount of \$575.00 from John Poldrek at Guadalupe Road, Victoria, 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. 2024-0059 from Ignacio Vaigas for the installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve drainage at 201 Viking Dr., Victoria, Texas in the value of \$150.00

(13b-1:39:34)

13b. August 19, 2024. Commissioner Danny Garcia provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0059 for a road donation in the amount of \$150.00 from Ignacio Vaigas at 201 Viking Drive, Victoria, Texas in Precinct No. 1 for installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve drainage. Motion adopted.

14. Consider approval and authorization to pay invoice No. 1049-004 to Rawley McCoy & Associates, PLLC, in connection with the Animal Services Relocation project and take appropriate action.

(14-1:41:03)

14. August 19, 2024. The Commissioners Court passed on Invoice No. 1049-004 to Rawley McCoy and Associates, PLLC, in connection with the Animal Services Relocation project. No action taken.

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

(15-1:41:11)

15. August 19, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the 2024 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments, Expenditures – Line item transfer
- b. General Fund, Sheriff's Office, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- c. Health Department, Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

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

(16-1:41:25)

16. August 19, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. Pama Hencerling, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer - Juvenile Detention:
 - 1. Employment of Marcus Rhodes Garcia, JSO, at a rate of \$20.76 per hour, Budget Codes 100-573-1156 and 231-572-1136 FT@ \$115.38, effective August 20, 2024. Grade 5 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 1.
- b. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
 - 1. Employment of James Thompson, Telecommunications Operator, at a rate of \$22.68 per hour, Budget Code 100-562-1153-\$22.68, effective September 17, 2024. Grade 5 Plan General Tier n/a. Remarks: overmidpoint, however funds exist in current budget.

2. VCSO Salary Adjustment Certification for Jonathan Houser, to be paid Master Certificate Pay of \$69.23 per pay period, effective August 30, 2024. Certification date for Jonathan Houser is July 31, 2024. Budget Coding: Enforcement/CID Certificate Pay 100-563-1137. Remarks: Deputy Houser received his Master Peace Officer certificate on 07/31/2024.
3. Correction (start date): Employment of Bryson Knudsen, Detention Officer, at a rate of \$20.76 per hour, Budget Codes 100-565-1116-\$18.74 and 288-565-1116-\$2.02, effective August 20, 2024. Grade 5 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 1.
4. Employment of Caleb Williams, Detention Officer, at a rate of \$20.76 per hour, Budget Codes 100-565-1116-\$18.74 and 288-565-1116-\$2.02, effective August 20, 2024. Grade 5 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 1.
- c. Ashley Hernandez, Tax Assessor-Collector - County Tax Office:
 1. Correction (salary) Resignation of Angelina Torres, Accounting Clerk, effective August 2, 2024.
- d. Giani Cantu, Human Resources Director - Human Resources:
 1. Salary change for Peggy West, Clerk III, from a rate of \$17.08 per hour, Budget Code 100-505-1105 to a rate of \$18.37 per hour, effective August 10, 2024. Grade 3 Plan General Tier n/a.

Motion adopted.

17. **Closed meeting pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government code §551.074 to discuss personnel in various departments; §551.076 to discuss security matters; §551.072 to discuss real property; §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.**

(17-1:42:14)

17. August 19, 2024. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 11:45 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.074 to discuss personnel in various departments; §551.076 to discuss security matters; §551.072 to discuss real property; §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. **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.**

(18-2:19:57)

18. August 19, 2024. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 12:22 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

19. **Adjourn.**

(19-2:20:09)

19. August 19, 2024. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of August 19, 2024.