

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **12th day August 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, August 12, 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. August 12, 2024. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Regular Term for Monday, August 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. August 12, 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. County Judge Zeller held a moment of silence in honor of the passing of Jim Hartman.

3. Citizens Communication.

(3-2:09)

3. August 12, 2024. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Human Resources Director Giani Cantu introduced Joy Liggett, Human Resources Specialist.

County Treasurer Paige Foster and Human Resources Director Giani Cantu stated Victoria County will participate in the Walk Across Texas this year.

Mark Mize, owner of Outlaw Pass, voiced his concerns regarding ex-felons working at the solar farms across from Outlaw Pass.

Michael Vonderau of 2204 E. North Street thanked the SWAT Team for the conviction at the East North Mobile Home Park and spoke about the orange fence, also in the East North Mobile Home Park, due to plumbing repairs.

Chief Public Defender Brian Watson introduced Jade Ortego, Felony Defender, for the Victoria County Public Defender's office.

Animal Services Director Mark Sloat informed the Court that they had 27 adoptions in 2 days and spoke about the adoption event on August 21, 2024.

Commissioner Gary Burns stated there was a good turnout at the public presentation that Animal Services Director Mark Sloat held in Quail Creek.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-16:15)

4. August 12, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on August 5, 2024. Motion adopted.

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

(5-16:31)

5. August 12, 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	8/12/2024	\$355,492.70
Supplemental Accounts	8/2/2024 – 8/8/2024	\$102,502.50

Motion adopted.

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

(6-17:00)

6. August 12, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the County Treasurer; County Clerk; Criminal District Attorney; Tax Assessor Collector; County Auditor; Justices of the Peace, Precincts Nos. 1 - 4; Constables, Precincts Nos. 1, 2, and 3; and Pre-Trial Services. Motion adopted.

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

(7-17:33)

7. August 12, 2024. None. No action taken.

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

(8-17:43)

8. August 12, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the Citizens Medical Center interim vendor payments dated August 8, 2024, in the amount of \$709,329.01 and the ACH report dated August 8, 2024, in the amount of \$1,881,680.95. Motion adopted.

9. Set a date for public hearings on the adoption of the proposed 2025 Victoria County Budget, and the 2024 tax rate and take appropriate action.

(9-18:16)

9. August 12, 2024. County Judge Ben Zeller provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the date for the public hearing for the adoption of the proposed 2025 Victoria County Budget and 2024 Tax Rate for Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Commissioner's Court. Motion adopted.

10. Consider adopting rates and percentage breakdown for Road and Bridge revenues

for 2025 and take appropriate action.

(10-19:19)

10. August 12, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court adopted the rates and percentage breakdown for the 2025 Road and Bridge revenues. Motion adopted.

- 11. Review and discuss no new revenue and voter approval tax rates calculated by the Tax Assessor-Collector and take appropriate action.**

(11-19:55)

11. August 12, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the no new revenue and voter approval tax rates calculated by the Tax Assessor-Collector. Motion adopted.

- 12. Hold a public hearing on the application for tax abatement from Portside Energy, LLC., and take appropriate action.**

(12-23:24)

12. August 12, 2024. County Judge Zeller stated they are still in conversation with Portside Energy, LLC and the public hearing will not be held at this time for the application for tax abatement. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court authorized County Judge Ben Zeller and Commissioner Danny Garcia to continue conversations with Portside Energy, LLC. Motion adopted.

- 13. Consider approval of the grant completion report for the TX CDBG contract No. 20-066-004-C033 Hurricane Harvey Buyout/Acquisition-General Land Office (GLO) and take appropriate action.**

(13-24:21)

13. August 12, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the grant completion report for the TX CDBG Contract No. 20-066-004-C033 Hurricane Harvey Buyout/Acquisition-General Land Office (GLO). Motion adopted.

- 14. Consider approval of an agreement with John D. Mercer & Associates, dba Lynn Engineering to provide professional engineering services for the Community Development Block grant (CDBG) MITMOD grant program and take appropriate action.**

(14-25:54)

14. August 12, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling and Commissioner Danny Garcia provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved an agreement with John D. Mercer and Associates dba Lynn Engineering to provide professional engineering services for the Community Development Block grant (CDBG) MITMOD grant program. Motion adopted.

- 15. Consider approval of a Road Use Agreement with BANGL, LLC for a pipeline installation project in Pct. 2 and Pct. 4 and take appropriate action.**

(15-30:04)

15. August 12, 2024. Grant Specialist Maddison Heibel and Commissioner Kenneth Sexton provided the Court with information. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Road Use Agreement with BANGL, LLC for a pipeline installation project in Precinct No. 2 and Precinct No. 4, contingent on BANGL, LLC's signature. Motion adopted.

16. Consider approval of the following items for the Juvenile Detention and/or Juvenile Services and take appropriate action:

a. Consolidating a copy machine maintenance contract with Office Systems.

(16a-34:51)

16a. August 12, 2024. Kelly Arnecke, Assistant Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, provided the Court with information. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved a consolidated copy machine maintenance contract with Office Systems for the Juvenile Detention and Juvenile Services. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following items for the Juvenile Detention and/or Juvenile Services and take appropriate action:

b. A carport estimate, and terms and conditions for Victoria County Juvenile Detention.

(16b-34:51)

16b. August 12, 2024. Assistant Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Kelly Arnecke provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved a carport estimate and terms and conditions for the Victoria County Juvenile Detention. Motion adopted.

17. Receive for the record a quarterly investment report as presented by the Victoria County Treasurer and take appropriate action.

(17-36:44)

17. August 12, 2024. County Treasurer Paige Foster provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court received for the record a quarterly investment report as presented by the Victoria County Treasurer. Motion adopted.

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

a. Gaines County.

(18a-39:35)

18a. August 12, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Gaines County. Motion adopted.

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

b. Hill County.

(18b-39:35)

18b. August 12, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Hill County. Motion adopted.

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

c. Kendall County.

(18c-39:35)

18c. August 12, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Kendall County. Motion adopted.

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

d. Angelina County.

(18d-39:35)

18d. August 12, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Angelina County. Motion adopted.

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

(19-40:39)

19. August 12, 2024. After the Court discussed the holiday schedule, the Commissioners Court passed on the Victoria County 2025 Holiday Schedule. No action taken.

20. Receive for the record 2024 Discretionary Fund Budget Amendment for CDA Contraband Forfeiture Fund 370 and take appropriate action.

(20-57:16)

20. August 12, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received for the record the 2024 Discretionary Fund Budget Amendment for the CDA Contraband Forfeiture Fund (370) as an Increase to Expenditures. Motion adopted.

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

(21-57:44)

21. August 12, 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

Motion adopted.

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

(22-58:16)

22. August 12, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. Ben Zeller, County Judge - County Judge's Office:
 - 1. Salary change for Loria Proctor, Projects and Planning Assistant, from a rate of \$23.08 per hour, Budget Code 100-400-1105 to a rate of \$24.58 per hour, effective July 27, 2024. Other Remarks: cellphone allowance remains at 41.54 per pay period. Grade 8 Plan General.
- b. Brian Watson, Chief Public Defender, - Public Defender's Office:
 - 1. Employment of Analisa Benoit, Legal Office Manager, at a rate of \$28.85 per hour, Budget Code 525-401-1107, effective August 13, 2024. Plan General. Remarks: Grant position - TIDC PDO Grant Grades - TBD.
 - 2. Employment of Noah Jackson, Assistant Public Defender I, at a rate of \$36.06 per hour, Budget Code 525-401-1106, effective August 20, 2024. Plan General. Remarks: Grant position - TIDC PDO Grant Grades - TBD.
- c. David Gonzales, Public Health Director - Victoria County Public Health Department:
 - 1. Resignation of Lizeth M Cruz Solorzano, PAT Parent Educator, effective July 22, 2024.
 - 2. Employment of Amanda R. Gonzalez, PAT Parent Educator, at a rate of \$18.00 per hour, Budget Code 803-631-1150, effective August 20, 2024. Grade 5 Plan General Tier n/a.
- d. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
 - 1. Correction (Emp. Category) for 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 Tier 1.
 - 2. Salary change and position/other code change for Connor Patterson, from Patrol Deputy, at a rate of \$25.31 per hour, Budget Codes 100-563-1109-\$24.29, 288-563-1109-\$1.02, and 100-563-1137-\$23.08 Cert Pay to Patrol Corporals, at a rate of \$27.94 per hour, Budget Codes 100-563-1112-\$27.60, 288-563-1112-\$.34, and 100-563-1137-\$23.08 Cert Pay, effective August 10, 2024. Grade 8 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 1.
 - 3. Position/other code change for Braeden Yaws, from Detention Deputy, at a rate of \$20.76 per hour, Budget Codes 100-565-1114-\$18.74 and 288-565-1114-\$2.02 to Inmate Services Officer, at a rate of \$20.76 per hour, Budget Code 100-565-1112-\$20.76, effective August 10, 2024. Grade 7 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 1.
- e. Giani Cantu, HR Director - Human Resources Department:
 - 1. Employment of Olivia Joy Liggett, Human Resources Specialist, at a rate of \$28.00 per hour, Budget Code 100-505-1102, effective August 12, 2024. Grade 11 Plan General Tier n/a.
- f. Ashley Hernandez, Tax Assessor Collector - County Tax Office:
 - 1. Resignation of Angelina Torres, Accounting Clerk, effective August 2, 2024.

Motion adopted.

- 23. 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.**

(23-1:00:06)

23. August 12, 2024. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 10:59 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.074 to discuss personnel in various departments and §551.072 to discuss real property.

- 24. 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.**

(24-1:25:42)

24. August 12, 2024. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 11:25 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

- 25. Adjourn.**

(25-1:25:56)

25. August 12, 2024. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of August 12, 2024.