

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **30th day September 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 Clerk

and the following orders were passed:



COUNTY OF VICTORIA

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF VICTORIA COUNTY, TEXAS

Monday, September 30, 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. September 30, 2024. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, September 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. September 30, 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.

(3-1:24)

3. September 30, 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 thanked Commissioner Ohrt for helping with Keep Victoria Beautiful. Mr. Vonderau also voiced his concerns regarding a historical house on Liberty Street and Heaven's Gate.

County Treasurer Paige Foster updated the Court on Victoria County investments and stated the new jury payment system for jurors will change over this week.

Chief Appraiser Keri Wickliffe informed the Court that there will be a community outreach project held in Bloomington on October 14, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. to help citizens with exemptions and answer any questions about their property value.

John Gilley IV, Commissioner for the Victoria County Navigation District, joined by fellow Commissioner David Murphy, addressed the Court regarding Victoria County's proposal to include a pilot program regarding taxes into the County's Tax Abatement program.

County Engineer John Johnston stated the downtown parking project will begin tomorrow. Mr. Johnston also mentioned there will be an Animal Services pre-proposal meeting tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. with interested contractors.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-11:51)

4. September 30, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on September 23, 2024. Motion adopted.

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

(5-12:08)

5. September 30, 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	9/30/2024	\$646,361.99
Supplemental Accounts	9/20/2024 – 9/26/2024	\$200,052.06

Motion adopted.

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

(6-12:32)

6. September 30, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the monthly report from the County Treasurer. Motion adopted.

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

(7-12:49)

7. September 30, 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.

(8-12:57)

8. September 30, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the board minutes, accounts payable, payroll, personnel changes, interim vendor payments dated September 26, 2024, in the amount of \$643,414.84 and the ACH report dated September 26, 2024, in the amount of \$1,915,973.82. Motion adopted.

9. Consider authorization to advertise an Invitation for Bid (IFB) - Replace and Upgrade Communications and Weather Equipment at the Airport Traffic Control Tower, pending legal review, for the Victoria Regional Airport and take appropriate action.

(9-13:40)

9. September 30, 2024. Victoria Regional Airport Executive Director Lenny Llerena provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved to authorize to advertise an Invitation for Bid (IFB) to replace and upgrade communications and weather equipment at the Airport Traffic Control Tower, pending, legal review, for the Victoria Regional Airport. Motion adopted.

- 10. Hear an update on the Victoria County Texas Wildlife Services Program from The Wildlife Damage Management Technician and take appropriate action.**

(10-14:44)

10. September 30, 2024. Keith Wheat of Wildlife Services provided the numbers for captured animals and gave an update on the Victoria County Texas Wildlife Services Program. No action taken.

- 11. Consider approval of a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Interlocal Agreement for the FY2025 Feral Hog Abatement Program and take appropriate action.**

(11-17:01)

11. September 30, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service Interlocal Agreement for the FY25 Feral Hog Abatement Program. Motion adopted.

- 12. Receive the following executed FY2025-2026 Victim Coordinator Liaison Grant (VCLG) contracts and take appropriate action:**

a. Criminal District Attorney's Office, Contract No. C-01582.

(12a-18:49)

12a. September 30, 2024. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the executed FY2025-2026 Victim Coordinator Liaison Grant (VCLG) contract no. C-01582 for the Criminal District Attorney's Office. Motion adopted.

Receive the following executed FY2025-2026 Victim Coordinator Liaison Grant (VCLG) contracts and take appropriate action:

b. Sheriff's Office, Contract No. C-01583.

(12b-18:49)

12b. September 30, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the executed FY2025-2026 Victim Coordinator Liaison Grant (VCLG) contract no. C-01583 for the Sheriff's Office. Motion adopted.

- 13. Authorize the County Judge to execute a contract with the Health and Human Services Commission for the Mental Health Inpatient Facility project, subject to completed negotiations and legal review, and take appropriate action.**

(13-19:29)

13. September 30, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court authorized the County Judge to execute a contract with the Health and Human Services Commission for the Mental Health Inpatient Facility project, subject to completed negotiations and legal review. Motion adopted.

- 14. Consider the following in connection with the Mental Health Inpatient Facility project and take appropriate action:**
a. Ratify a Commercial Contract with the South Texas Zoological Society to purchase unimproved property for the Mental Health Inpatient Facility site.

(14a-19:52)

14a. September 30, 2024. County Engineer John Johnston provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court ratified a Commercial Contract with the South Texas Zoological Society to purchase unimproved property for the Mental Health Inpatient Facility site. Motion adopted.

Consider the following in connection with the Mental Health Inpatient Facility project and take appropriate action:

- b. Authorize John Johnston, County Engineer to execute future documents related to the project.**

(14b-19:52)

14b. September 30, 2024. John Johnston, County Engineer, provided the Court with information. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court authorized John Johnston, County Engineer, to execute future documents related to the Mental Health Inpatient Facility project. Motion adopted.

- 15. Consider approval of the following request for plat exemptions in Pct. 2 and take appropriate action:**

- a. Drew & Allison Brown at 904 Springwood Dr.**

(15a-21:46)

15a. September 30, 2024. County Engineer John Johnston spoke to the Court about the plat exemption. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the plat exemption request from Drew and Allison Brown at 904 Springwood Drive in Victoria, Texas, in Precinct No. 2 with the following conditions:

- * Shall secure and verify the 911 addresses for the tracts with the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission.
- * No future tract created shall be less than 1-acre, excluding easements.
- * All created/revised tracts, new property deeds and ingress/egress easement(s) must be created and filed in the Victoria County Clerk's Public Records.
- * Further subdivision of tracts shall comply with the requirements of the effective published version of the VCDSM at the time of subdivision.
- * Each tract will have its own water well and Onsite Sanitary Sewer Facility (OSSF) (septic system).
- * Each tract shall have public right of way frontage or access to a public right-of-way through an ingress/egress easement with the following requirements:
 - ~Any private/public ingress/egress easements to a public ROW shall be constructed and maintained as an all-weather roadway capable of supporting any/all emergency services vehicles as determined by the Sheriff and the Fire Marshal of Victoria County.
 - ~Maintenance of ingress/egress easement(s) shall be the sole responsibility of the developer and/or property owners.

~The developer/property owners shall install Knoxbox(es) at all gates across private/public access easements. The placement and installation of all Knoxbox(es) shall be approved by the Victoria County Fire Marshal.

Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following request for plat exemptions in Pct. 2 and take appropriate action:

b. James Wagner, Sarah Bryan & Chelsey Keen at 2339 Lower Mission Valley Rd.
(15b-21:46)

15b. September 30, 2024. County Engineer John Johnston spoke to the Court about the plat exemption. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the plat exemption request from James Wagner, Sarah Bryan and Chelsey Keen at 2339 Lower Mission Valley Road in Victoria, Texas, in Precinct No. 2 with the following conditions:

- * Shall secure and verify the 911 addresses for the tracts with the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission.
- * The tract conveyed must be greater than 10-acres.
- * No future tract created shall be less than 1-acre, excluding easements.
- * All created/revised tracts, new property deeds and ingress/egress easement(s) must be created and filed in the Victoria County Clerk's Public Records.
- * Further subdivision of tracts shall comply with the requirements of the effective published version of the VCDSM at the time of subdivision.
- * Each tract will have its own water well and Onsite Sanitary Sewer Facility (OSSF) (septic system).
- * Each tract shall have public right of way frontage or access to a public right-of-way through an ingress/egress easement with the following requirements:
 - ~Any private/public ingress/egress easements to a public ROW shall be constructed and maintained as an all-weather roadway capable of supporting any/all emergency services vehicles as determined by the Sheriff and the Fire Marshal of Victoria County.
 - ~Maintenance of ingress/egress easement(s) shall be the sole responsibility of the developer and/or property owners.
 - ~The developer/property owners shall install Knoxbox(es) at all gates across private/public access easements. The placement and installation of all Knoxbox(es) shall be approved by the Victoria County Fire Marshal.

Motion adopted.

16. Receive and approve the Retiree Health Program renewal for 2025 from Bay Bridge Administrators under the Hartford Medical Plan AGP 3139 and take appropriate action.

(16-23:12)

16. September 30, 2024. Human Resources Director Giani Cantu provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received and approved the Retiree Health Program renewal for 2025 from Bay Bridge Administrators under the Hartford Medical Plan AGP 3139. Motion adopted.

17. Receive and approve the 32Dental Plan Renewal through Kansas City Life Insurance Company for 2025 and take appropriate action.

(17-24:28)

17. September 30, 2024. Giani Cantu, Human Resources Director, provided the Court with information. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received and approved the 32Dental Plan Renewal through Kansas City Life Insurance Company for 2025. Motion adopted.

18. Receive for the record the renewal agreement with Corpay Inc. dba Fuelman for fuel card services and take appropriate action.

(18-25:17)

18. September 30, 2024. Procurement Specialist Amanda Reyes provided the Court with information. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received for the record the renewal agreement with Corpay Inc. dba Fuelman for fuel card services. Motion adopted.

19. Receive for the record 2024 property tax rates for all taxing entities within Victoria County and take appropriate action.

(19-26:17)

19. September 30, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received for the record the 2024 property tax rates for all taxing entities within Victoria County. Motion adopted.

20. Receive notice from the Travis County Medical Examiner of an increase in fees beginning January 1, 2025, and take appropriate action.

(20-26:44)

20. September 30, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court received notice from Travis County Medical Examiner of an increase in fees beginning January 1, 2025. Motion adopted.

**21. Consider approval of the following detention and/or residential contracts for the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:
a. Reeves County.**

(21a-27:49)

21a. September 30, 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 Reeves County. Motion adopted.

**Consider approval of the following detention and/or residential contracts for the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:
b. Val Verde County.**

(21b-27:49)

21b. September 30, 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 Val Verde County. Motion adopted.

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

c. Coryell County.

(21c-27:49)

21c. September 30, 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 Coryell County. Motion adopted.

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

d. Webb County.

(21d-27:49)

21d. September 30, 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 Webb County. Motion adopted.

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

e. Brazoria County.

(21e-27:49)

21e. September 30, 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 Brazoria County. Motion adopted.

22. Consider approval of purchasing a 2025 Chevrolet 2500 HD from Sewell Chevrolet for Road & Bridge, Pct. 2 and take appropriate action.

(22-28:14)

22. September 30, 2024. Commissioner Ohrt provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved purchasing a 2025 Chevrolet 2500 HD from Sewell Chevrolet for Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 2. Motion adopted.

23. Consider approval of Citizens Medical Center ICU Additions and Renovations AIA Document G702 for Payment No. 4 and take appropriate action.

(23-28:47)

23. September 30, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Citizens Medical Center ICU Additions and Renovations AIA Document G702 for Payment No. 4 in the amount of \$236,868.02. Motion adopted.

24. Consider approval of the following in connection to the TxDOT Off-System Bridge

Replacement Program for the Old Highway Road Bridge Widening project in Pct. 4 and take appropriate action:

a. Purchase of 0.2697-acres and removal of live oak trees, from Martha Baros in the amount of \$9,400.00.

(24a-29:34)

24a. September 30, 2024. Commissioner Kenneth Sexton provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the purchase of 0.2697 acres and removal of live oak trees from Martha Baros in the amount of \$9,400.00 in connection to the TxDOT Off-System Bridge Replacement Program for the Old Highway Road Bridge widening project in Precinct No. 4. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following in connection to the TxDOT Off-System Bridge Replacement Program for the Old Highway Road Bridge Widening project in Pct. 4 and take appropriate action:

b. Purchase of 0.2253-acres and removal of live oak trees, from Cindy Burger in the amount of \$9,600.00.

(24b-29:34)

24b. September 30, 2024. Commissioner Kenneth Sexton provided the Court with information. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the purchase of 0.2253 acres and removal of live oak trees from Cindy Burger in the amount of \$9,600.00 in connection to the TxDOT Off-System Bridge Replacement Program for the Old Highway Road Bridge widening project in Precinct No. 4. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following in connection to the TxDOT Off-System Bridge Replacement Program for the Old Highway Road Bridge Widening project in Pct. 4 and take appropriate action:

c. Purchase of 0.0193-acres from Michael D. Booker in the amount of \$500.00.

(24c-29:34)

24c. September 30, 2024. Commissioner Kenneth Sexton provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the purchase of 0.0193 acres and removal of live oak trees from Michael D. Booker in the amount of \$500.00 in connection to the TxDOT Off-System Bridge Replacement Program for the Old Highway Road Bridge widening project in Precinct No. 4. Motion adopted.

- 25. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2024-0078 for road donation in Pct. 4 from Dynaenergetics US, Inc. for installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve drainage at Perimeter Road, in Victoria, Texas in the value of \$1,200.00 and take appropriate action.**

(25-32:21)

25. September 30, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0078 for a road donation in the amount of \$1,200.00 from Dynaenergetics US, Inc. at Perimeter Road, Victoria, Texas in Precinct No. 4 for installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve drainage. Motion adopted.

- 26. Consider approval of the following 2024 budget amendments and take appropriate**

action:

(26-32:51)

26. September 30, 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 – Increase
- b. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 1, Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

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

(27-33:12)

27. September 30, 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. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
 - 1. Salary change and position/code change for Mathew Vasquez, from Warrants Officer, at a rate of \$27.39 per hour, Budget Codes 100-563-1119-\$27.39 and 100-563-1137-\$46.15-Cert. Pay to Investigator, at a rate of \$31.16 per hour, Budget Codes 100-563-1106-\$31.16 and 100-563-1137-\$46.15-Cert. Pay, effective October 5, 2024. Grade 9 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 2.
 - 2. Employment of Jessica Parr, Clerk III, at a rate of \$16.58 per hour, Budget Code 100-562-1148, effective October 8, 2024. Grade 3 Plan General.
 - 3. Position/code change for Haley Vasquez, from Clerk III, at a rate of \$16.99 per hour, Budget Code 100-562-1148 to Asst. Financial Officer, Budget Code 100-562-1123, effective October 5, 2024. Grade 3 Plan General.
 - 4. Position/code change for Brandey Davis, from Sergeant, at a rate of \$31.16 per hour, Budget Codes 100-565-1108-\$29.14, 288-565-1108-\$2.02, and 100-565-1137-\$46.15-Cert, Pay to Patrol Deputy, at a rate of \$25.56 per hour, Budget Codes 100-563-1109-\$24.29, 288-563-1109-\$1.27 and 100-563-1137-\$46.15-Cert. Pay, effective October 5, 2024. Grade 7 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 2.
- b. Richard Castillo, Fire Marshal - Fire Marshal's Office:
 - 1. Salary change for Xavier Lee Sledge, ARFF Specialist, from a rate of \$13.45 per hour, Budget Code 100-550-1111, to a rate of \$15.45 per hour, effective October 5, 2024. Other Remarks: Hourly salary is based on 2964 annual hours - Grade 2. Grade 2 Plan Fire.
 - 2. Correction (Effective Date): Employment of Charles A. Lobstein, ARFF Specialist, at a rate of \$16.20 per hour, Budget Codes 100-550-1111 and 100-550-1137 - \$69.23 per pp, effective October 8, 2024. Other Remarks: additional ARFF Specialist to fill 2964 annual schedule - budget amendment using current funds in 100-550-1107. Grade 2 Plan Fire.
 - 3. Correction (Effective Date) for Drew E. Pilkington, from Assistant Fire Marshal, at a rate of \$23.84 per hour, Budget Codes 100-550-1107, 100-550-1137-\$69.23 per pp, and 100-550-1139-\$41.54 per pp to Deputy Fire Marshal, at a rate of \$34.86 per hour, Budget Codes 100-550-1108, 100-550-1137-\$69.23 per pp, and 100-550-1139-\$41.54 per pp, effective October 5, 2024.

Other Remarks: move to position on general plan on a 2080 annual work schedule. Grade 8 Plan Fire.

- c. Constance Filley Johnson - District Attorney - Criminal District Attorney's Office:
 - 1. Employment of Adam L. West, Assistant (CDA) Felony, at a rate of \$51.92 per hour, Budget Codes 100-475-1104 \$40.87 and 289-475-1104 \$11.05, effective October 1, 2024. Grade 18 Plan General.
- d. Ben Zeller, County Judge - County Judge's Office:
 - 1. Employment of Robin Harkey, Chief of Staff, at a rate of \$38.46 per hour, Budget Codes 100-400-1103 and 100-400-1139, \$41.54 per pay period, effective October 7, 2024. Grade 16 Plan General Tier n/a.
- e. Pama Hencerling, Chief Probation Officer - Juvenile Detention:
 - 1. Employment of Benjamin Jesus Ramos, JSO, at a rate of \$20.76 per hour, Budget Codes 100-573-1156 and 231-572-1136 FT @ 230.77, effective October 1, 2024. Grade 5 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 1.

Motion adopted.

- 28. Closed meeting pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government code §551.074 to discuss personnel in various departments; §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.**
(28-33:53)

28. September 30, 2024. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 10:34 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.074 to discuss personnel in various departments; §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.

- 29. 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 the closed meeting.**
(29-2:18:44)

29. September 30, 2024. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 12:18 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

- 30. Adjourn.**
(30-2:18:57)

30. September 30, 2024. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of September 30, 2024.