

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **28th day October 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, October 28, 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. October 28, 2024. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, October 28, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. October 28, 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.

(3-2:07)

3. October 28, 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 stated individuals can still vote today and voiced his concerns regarding legal evictions.

County Judge Zeller reminded the public that early voting continues all week from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Victoria Animal Services Director Mark Sloat stated Victoria Animal Services received a grant through Best Friends Animal Society and explained how the money would be spent.

Human Resources Director Giani Cantu updated the Court on the Walk Across Texas challenge and Victoria County employee's open enrollment.

Fire Marshal Richard Castillo updated the Court on the burn ban, provided the current KBDI numbers, and spoke about recent fires in Victoria County. Fire Marshal Castillo stated on November 9, 2024, the Victoria County Volunteer Fire Department will hold their annual fundraiser at the Officer's Club from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Commissioner Danny Garcia stated the Bloomington Volunteer Fire Department will hold their annual fundraiser this Saturday, November 2, 2024, at the Bloomington Fire Station.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-15:45)

4. October 28, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meetings held on October 21, 2024. Motion adopted.

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

(5-16:02)

5. October 28, 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	10/28/2024	\$231,948.53
Supplemental Accounts	10/18/2024 – 10/24/2024	\$126,166.65

Motion adopted.

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

(6-16:27)

6. October 28, 2024. None. No action taken.

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

(7-16:35)

7. October 28, 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.

(8-16:44)

8. October 28, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the board minutes, accounts payable, payroll, personnel changes, interim vendor payments dated October 24, 2024, in the amount of \$700,006.60 and the ACH report dated October 24, 2024, in the amount of \$2,200,074.50. Motion adopted.

9. Vote and approve the ballot for the Victoria Central Appraisal District Board of Directors election and take appropriate action.

(9-17:26)

9. October 28, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Gary Burns, the Commissioners Court voted Mr. Jason Ohrt with 868 votes and approved Resolution No. 2024-0085 regarding the ballot for the election of the Victoria Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. Motion adopted.

10. Discuss and consider possible modifications to the Victoria County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria and take appropriate action.

(10-21:39)

10. October 28, 2024. Jim Allison, Attorney for Victoria County, discussed the modifications with the Court. After discussion, Commissioners Court passed on the modifications to the Victoria County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria. No action taken.

11. Consider approval of the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet 1500 from Lake Country

Chevrolet for Road & Bridge, Pct. 2 and take appropriate action.

(11-58:04)

11. October 28, 2024. Commissioner Jason Ohrt provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet 1500 from Lake Country Chevrolet for Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 2. Motion adopted.

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

a. Webb County.

(12a-59:07)

12a. October 28, 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 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:

b. Scurry-Borden Counties.

(12b-59:07)

12b. October 28, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention Contract between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Scurry-Borden Counties. Motion adopted.

13. Receive the following letters of permission to enter and work on private property to clear the drainage easement in the Serenity Estates Subdivision in Pct. 2 and take appropriate action:

a. Jack Kohutek at Bliss Drive.

(13a-59:35)

13a. October 28, 2024. Commissioner Jason Ohrt provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the letter of permission to enter and work on private property in Precinct No. 2 from Jack Kohutek at Bliss Drive to clear the drainage easement in the Serenity Estates Subdivision. Motion adopted.

Receive the following letters of permission to enter and work on private property to clear the drainage easement in the Serenity Estates Subdivision in Pct. 2 and take appropriate action:

b. Joshua J. Edwards at Serenity Estates, Block 1, Lot 3 / 000 Bliss Drive.

(13b-59:35)

13b. October 28, 2024. Commissioner Jason Ohrt provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the letter of permission to enter and work on private property in Precinct No. 2 from Joshua J. Edwards at Serenity Estates, Block 1, Lot 3 / 000 Bliss Drive to clear the drainage easement in the Serenity Estates Subdivision. Motion adopted.

Receive the following letters of permission to enter and work on private property to clear the drainage easement in the Serenity Estates Subdivision in Pct. 2 and take appropriate action:

c. Rudy Escobar at 462 Bliss Drive.

(13c-59:35)

13c. October 28, 2024. Commissioner Jason Ohrt provided information to the Court.

Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the letter of permission to enter and work on private property in Precinct No. 2 from Rudy Escobar at 462 Bliss Drive to clear the drainage easement in the Serenity Estates Subdivision. Motion adopted.

- 14. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2024-0086 for road donation in Pct. 3 from Bobby Shaw for installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve drainage at 434 Schaar Rd. in the amount of \$327.80 and take appropriate action.**

(14-1:00:25)

14. October 28, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2024-0086 for a road donation in the amount of \$327.80 from Bobby Shaw at 434 Schaar Road in Precinct No. 3 for installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to improve drainage. Motion adopted.

- 15. Receive for the record a Discretionary Funds Budget Amendment for the CDA Contraband Forfeiture Fund (370) and take appropriate action.**

(15-1:00:52)

15. October 28, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received for the record the 2024 Discretionary Funds Budget Amendment for the CDA Contraband Forfeiture Fund (370) as an Increase to Expenditures. Motion adopted.

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

(16-1:01:14)

16. October 28, 2024. Moved by Gary Burns and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the 2024 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments, Expenditures – Increase
- b. Emergency Management, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- c. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 2, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- d. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 3, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- e. Airport Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

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

(17-1:01:43)

17. October 28, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. Kim Plummer, District Clerk - District Clerks Office:
 - 1. Certificate of Completion from Texas District Court Alliance for Satisfactory Participation in the 24th Annual TDCA Workshop held October 15-17, 2024 for Kim Plummer, District Clerk.
- b. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
 - 1. Employment of Thay Blute, Detention Officer, at a rate of \$20.76 per hour, Budget Codes 100-565-1116-\$18.74 and 288-565-1116-\$2.02, effective October 29, 2024. Grade 5 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 1.
- c. Pama Hencerling, Chief Probation Officer - Juvenile Detention:

1. Salary change for Carolyn Hernandez, Cook, from a rate of \$15.00 per hour, Budget Codes 100-573-1174 \$5.00 (33.33%) and 392-573-1174 \$10.00 (66.67%) to a rate of \$15.75 per hour, Budget Codes 100-573-1174 \$5.25 (33.33%) and 392-573-1174 \$10.50 (66.67%), effective November 2, 2024. Grade 1 Plan General.
2. Correction: Resignation of Vera LeBlanc Abernathy, Clerk III, effective October 11, 2024.
- d. Mark Sloat, Animal Services Director - Victoria Animal Services:
 1. Employment of Maritza Gutierrez, Animal Control Officer, at a rate of \$16.57 per hour, Budget Code 100-630-1107, effective November 12, 2024. Grade 4 Plan General Tier n/a
- e. Ben Zeller, County Judge - County Judge's Office:
 1. Certification from State of Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for Procurement Specialist Amanda Reyes as a Certified Texas Contract Manager.

Motion adopted.

- 18. 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.**
(18-1:02:48)

18. October 28, 2024. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 11:11 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.

- 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 the closed meeting.**
(19-1:03:28)

19. October 28, 2024. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 12:41 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

- 20. Adjourn.**
(20-1:03:32)

20. October 28, 2024. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of October 28, 2024.