

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **16th day December 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, December 16, 2024, 10:00 AM, SPECIAL TERM

VICTORIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

115 N. BRIDGE ST., ROOM 241, SECOND FLOOR, VICTORIA, TX

1. Call to Order.

(1-0:35)

1. December 16, 2024. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, December 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:38)

2. December 16, 2024. 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.

(3-1:30)

3. December 16, 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 Party Chair, stated that January 15, 2025- February 14, 2025 is the filing period for the school board and city council election on May 3, 2025.

Judge Zeller mentioned, Bloomington Incorporation election is on May 3, 2025.

Michael Vonderau of 2204 E. North Street thanked Commissioner Burns for the helicopter at Patriot Park. He also thanked The Salvation Army for the Thanksgiving meal, . spoke about the water leak in the trailer park and the high water bill due to the leak.

Rick McBrayer, Emergency Management Coordinator, spoke about the airplane crash that happened on December 11, 2024. Airport Manager Lenny Llerena also provided information about the incident.

Assistant Fire Marshal Drew Pilkington, spoke about the airplane crash and the first responders involved. Assistant Fire Marshal Pilkington, stated the burn ban is still in effect and there is a firework safety zone at Patriot Park for New Years Eve. He also mentioned that although there is not a ban on fireworks, certain types are not allowed during the burn ban, such as those with rockets or fins.

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-28:39)

4. December 16, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on December 9, 2024. Motion adopted.

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

(5-29:34)

5. December 16, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford, County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	12/16/2024	\$945,985.69
Supplemental Accounts	12/06/2024 – 12/12/2024	\$247,306.32

Motion adopted.

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

(6-29:58)

6. December 16, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the Criminal District Attorney; Sheriff; Constable, Precinct No. 2, and Pre-Trial Services. Motion adopted.
7. **Consider approval of bond forfeiture releases and take appropriate action.**
(7-30:26)
7. December 16, 2024. No action taken.
8. **Consider approval of CMC Interim vendor payments and take appropriate action.**
(8-30:36)
8. December 16, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the CMC interim vendor payments dated December 12, 2024, in the amount of \$895,869.82 and the ACH report dated December 12, 2024, in the amount of \$2,094,411.31. Motion adopted.
9. **Pursuant to Local Government Code §81.005, designate the day of the week of each month for Regular Term Commissioners' Court for 2025, and all other meetings to be Special Term meetings and take appropriate action.**
(9-31:06)
9. December 16, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, Pursuant to Local Government Code §81.005 the Commissioners Court designated the 2nd Monday of each month as Regular Term Commissioners Court meetings for 2025, and all other meetings as Special Term. Motion adopted
10. **Consider appointments to the Victoria County Historical Commission and take appropriate action.**
(10-32:00)
10. December 16, 2024. The Commissioners Court passed on appointment to the Victoria County Historical Commission. No action taken.
11. **Consider the following in connection to Victoria County's liability insurance coverage and take appropriate action:**
a. Receive FY 2025 Liability Coverage Renewal with Texas Association of Counties for the coverage period of January 1, 2025 – January 1, 2026
(11a-32:38)
11a. December 16, 2024. Sarah Hamman, Compliance Specialist spoke about liability insurance renewal for 2025 with Texas Association of Counties along with an invoice for coverage. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received FY 2025 Liability coverage renewal with TAC for coverage period of January 1, 2025- January 1, 2026. Motion adopted
Consider the following in connection to Victoria County's liability insurance coverage and take appropriate action:
b. Authorize payment for Invoice 00002427
(11b-32:38)
11b. December 16, 2024 Sarah Hamman, Compliance Specialist, spoke about liability insurance renewal for 2025 with Texas Association of Counties along with an invoice for coverage. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received FY 2025 Liability coverage renewal with TAC for coverage period of January 1, 2025- January 1, 2026. Motion adopted
12. **Consider approval of the following request for payment in connection to the Rehabilitate and Widen Roadway Project for McCoy Road and Bayer Road in Precinct No. 1 and take appropriate action:**
a. Union Pacific Railroad Co. in the amount of \$1,489.55 (GL 199-580-5305) regarding additional work requested by VCND to install railroad crossing arm and lights at the RR crossing on McCoy Road under Rider 45 project
(12a-35:30)
12a. December 16, 2024. Danny Garcia, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1 spoke. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the request for payment in regard to the Rehabilitate and Widen Roadway Project for McCoy Road and Bayer Road in Precinct No. 1. Motion adopted.
13. **Consider approval and authorization of John Johnston, County Engineer, to execute future documents related to the Victoria County Regional Public Safety Training Center project and take appropriate action**
(13-36:32)

13. December 16, 2024. County Engineer John Johnston, provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved and authorized John Johnston to secure future documents related to the Victoria County Regional Public Safety Training Center project. Motion adopted.

- 14. Receive the following executed Professional Services Agreements with Elite Engineering and take appropriate action:**
a. Additional Services in connection to the Victoria County Regional Public Safety Training Center Project, located at 1952 Guadalupe Road

(14a-38:33)

14a. December 16, 2024. County Engineer John Johnston spoke. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the Professional Services with Elite Engineering agreement for Additional Services in connection to the Victoria County Regional Public Safety Training Center Project, located at 1952 Guadalupe Road. Motion adopted.

Receive the following executed Professional Services Agreements with Elite Engineering and take appropriate action:

- b. Professional Engineering Services in connection to the Profit Drive Complex Project, located at 1409 LaValliere Street**

(14b-38:33)

14b. December 16, 2024. County Engineer John Johnston spoke. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the executed agreement with Elite Engineering for Professional Services in connection to the Profit Drive Complex Project located at 1409 LaValliere Street. Motion adopted.

- 15. Consider approval of FY2025 Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Overtime and Authorized Expenses Agreement and take appropriate action.**

(15-41:33)

15. December 16, 2024. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved overtime and authorized expenses agreement for the FY2025 Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). Motion adopted.

- 16. Consider approval of the following for the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action:**
a. Personal Services Agreement with James Omecinski, D.D.S. to provide Oral Health Care Services to HARP clients

(16a-42:26)

16a. December 16, 2024. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the Personal Services Agreement with James Omecinski D.D.S to provide Oral Health Care Services to HARP clients for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following for the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

- b. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Housing Authority of Victoria to provide housing services/information to HARP clients**

(16b-42:26)

16b. December 16, 2024. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Housing Authority of Victoria to provide housing services/information to HARP clients for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following for the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

- c. Amendment to Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Grant Contract No. 5613/2-565-02**

(16c-42:26)

16c. December 16, 2024. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the Amendment to Housing Opportunities for persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Grant Contract No. 5613/2-565-02 for the Victoria County Public Health

Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following for the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

d. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to establish roles and responsibilities regarding electronic health data access

(16d-42:26)

16d. December 16, 2024. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to establish roles and responsibilities regarding electronic health data access for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following for the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

e. Long-Term Limited Scope Food, Feed and Cosmetics Information Sharing Agreement with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

(16e-42:26)

16e. December 16, 2024. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved Long Term Limited Scope Food, Feed and Cosmetics Information Sharing Agreement with the Food and Drug Administration for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following for the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

f. Request to furnish Victoria County Health Department/Veteran Services Boardroom Addition.

(16f-42:26)

16f. December 16, 2024. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Veteran Services Director John Williams provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the request to furnish Victoria County Health Department/Veteran Services boardroom addition. Motion adopted.

17. Consider approval of Order 2024-0096 affixing the 2025 Victoria County officials and employee salaries and take appropriate action.

(17-56:03)

17. December 16, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Order 2024-0096 affixing the 2025 Victoria County officials and employee salaries. Motion adopted.

18. Consider authorization to realign benefit payroll deductions for supplemental voluntary ancillary coverages and cafeteria plan and take appropriate action.

(18-46:55)

18. December 16, 2024. Human Resources Director Giani Cantu spoke. Walker & Associates Laura Gwaltney spoke. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court authorized to realign benefit payroll deductions for supplemental voluntary ancillary coverages and cafeteria plan. Motion adopted.

19. Consider approval of Order No. 2024-0097 authorizing Victoria County, including Citizens Medical Center, to issue payments for payroll, withholding, social security, retirement, insurance, unemployment compensation, Credit Union, United Way, CMC Health Plex, out-of-county fines, fees, cash bonds, postage, utilities, bond fees, and jury services payment and take appropriate action.

(19-50:30)

19. December 16, 2024. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Order No. 2024-0097 authorizing Victoria County, including Citizens Medical Center, to issue payments for payroll withholding, social security, retirement, insurance, unemployment compensation, Credit Union, United Way, CMC Health Plex, out-of-county fines, fees, cash bonds, postage, utilities, bond fees, and jury services payment. Motion adopted.

20. Consider approval of the Bi-Annual Food Bid/Annual Coffee Bid for the Victoria County Sheriff's Office and take appropriate action.

(20-51:14)

20. December 16, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Bi-Annual Food Bid/Annual Coffee Bid for the Victoria County Sheriff's Office.

Dairy, Eggs & Meat	Ben K. Keith Co.
Fruit & Vegetables	Ben K. Keith Co
Staple Items	Ben K. Keith Co
Miscellaneous Food Items	Ben K. Keith Co
Milk/Juice	Hill Country Dairies
Bread	Performance Food Service (PFG)
Coffee	Ben K. Keith

for the period of January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, as recommended by the Victoria County Sheriff's Office. Motion adopted. All per bids as filed in the minutes of this Court.

21. Receive for the record a Financial Statement for the 24th Judicial District Community Supervision and Corrections Department for Fiscal Year 2024 and take appropriate action

(21-51:59)

21. December 16, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received for the record a Financial Statement for the 24th Judicial District Community Supervision and Corrections Department for Fiscal Year 2024. Motion adopted.

22. Consider approval of Citizens Medical Center ICU Additions and Renovations AIA Document G702 for Payment No. 7 and take appropriate action.

(22-52:26)

22. December 16, 2024. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Citizens Medical Center ICU Additions and Renovations AIA Document G702 for Payment No. 7. Motion adopted.

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

(23-53:05)

23. December 16, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the 2024 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund/Various Departments, Revenues & Expenditures
- b. Emergency Management, Expenditures
- c. County Clerk, Clerk of the Court, Expenditures
- d. Patriot Park Donations Fund, Revenues & Expenditures
- e. Road & Bridge Precinct 2, Expenditures
- f. Road & Bridge Precinct 3, Expenditures
- g. Road & Bridge Precinct 4, Expenditures
- h. Airport Operating Fund, Revenues & Expenditures
- i. National School Lunch Program, Expenditures
- j. Health Department, Revenues & Expenditures
- k. General Fund/Sheriff's Office, Expenditures

Motion adopted.

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

(24-54:47)

24. December 16, 2024. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. Brian Watson, - Chief Public Defender - Public Defenders Office:
 - 1. Employment of Miranda Baker, Defense Investigator, at a rate of \$28.54 per hour, Budget Code 525-401-1108, effective January 7, 2025. Grade 14 Plan General Tier n/a.
 - 2. Resignation of Kathleen Neilson, Assistant Public Defender I, 525-401-1105 effective December 09, 2024. Other due: Not eligible for payment of PTO.

Remarks: less than 1 year of service

- b. Daniel F. Gilliam, County Court Judge- County Court at Law No. 2:
 - 1. Employment of Michael T. Raven, Court Reporter CCL#2, at a rate of \$41.39 per hour, Budget Code 100-425-1103, effective January 2, 2025. Grade 13 Plan General.
- c. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
 - 1. Resignation of Tonette Meade, Clerk III, effective December 31, 2024. Other Due: PAYOUT PTO AND COMP IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY
 - 2. Salary change and position/other code change for Jordan Trevino, from Corporal, at a rate of \$27.94 per hour, Budget Codes 100-565-1109-\$26.60 and 288-565-1109-\$1.34 to Deputy, at a rate of \$25.31 per hour, Budget Codes 100-565-1114-\$24.29 and 288-565-1114-\$1.02, effective November 30, 2024. Grade 7 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 1.
- d. Pamela Hencerling, Chief Probation Officer - Juvenile Detention:
 - 1. Employment of Nicolas Joseph Bennett, JSO, at a rate of \$20.76 per hour, Budget Codes 100-573-1156 and 231-572-1136 FT @ \$230.77, effective December 17, 2024. Grade 5 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 1.
 - 2. Dismissal of Marcus Rhodes Garcia, JSO, effective December 10, 2024. Other Due: payout PTO and Comp in accordance with policy.
 - 3. Resignation of Steven Gill Shunk Jr., JSO-PT, effective December 10, 2024. Other Due: PAYOUT PTO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY

Motion adopted.

- 25. 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.**
(25-55:23)

25. December 16, 2024. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 10:28 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.

- 26. 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**
(26-56:24)

26. December 16, 2024. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 2:19 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with action taken on agenda item 17.

- 27. Adjourn.**
(27-57:31)

27. December 16, 2024. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of December 16, 2024.