

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **13th day January A.D., 2025**, 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
Shannon Martin,	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, January 13, 2025, 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. January 13, 2025. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Regular Term for Monday, January 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. January 13, 2025. 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.

(3-2:09)

3. January 13, 2025. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Michael Vonderau, a Victoria Resident, thanked Victoria Animal Services Director Mark Sloat for his service with Animal Services. Mr. Vonderau also spoke about National day of mourning for Jimmy Carter and trailer park issues.

Judge Zeller acknowledged Mark Sloat regarding the newspaper article on adoptions at Victoria Animal Services.

Animal Services Director Mark Sloat thanked the Court for their support and thanked Caleb Shaw for the buying straw for animals during the cold weather. Mr. Sloat spoke about the state law regarding sheltering pets during cold weather.

Commissioner Jason Ohrt thanked Animal Services Director Mark Sloat for attending last week's meeting with Precinct No. 2 officials.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-8:25)

4. January 13, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meetings held on January 1, 2025 and January 6, 2025. Motion adopted.

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

(5-8:40)

5. January 13, 2025. 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	1/13/2025	\$1,680,461.56
Supplemental Accounts	1/3/2025 – 1/9/2025	\$74,140.42

Motion adopted.

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

(6-9:07)

6. January 13, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the County Treasurer; District Clerk; County Clerk; Criminal District Attorney; County Auditor; Sheriff; Justices of the Peace, Precincts Nos. 1 - 4; Constables, Precincts Nos. 1 and 4; and County Extension Agent-Ag/Natural Resources. Motion adopted.

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

(7-9:47)

7. January 13, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the release of the following bond forfeiture judgment from the Court:

- a. Cause No. CIV1-21526: The State of Texas vs. Jose Napoleon Rivera, Defendant and Lauren Alkek dba A & A Bail Bonds, Surety.

Motion adopted.

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

(8-10:02)

8. January 13, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the CMC interim vendor payments dated January 9, 2025, in the amount of \$488,902.79 and the ACH report dated January 9, 2025, in the amount of \$2,366,042.34. Motion adopted.

9. Consider approval of a request for assistance from the Victoria Livestock Show and take appropriate action.

(9-10:41)

9. January 13, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the letter of request for assistance for the "Set Up" and "Knock Down" of the annual Victoria Livestock Show, to begin on Wednesday, February 19, 2025. Motion adopted.

10. Receive for the record the Kroger settlement participation form, in relation to former Resolution No. 2021-0110, to participate and adopt the Texas Opioid Settlement Term Sheet and take appropriate action.

(10-11:40)

10. January 13, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received for the record the Kroger settlement participation form in relation to former Resolution No. 2021-0110, to participate and adopt the Texas Opioid

Settlement Term Sheet. Motion adopted.

11. Consider and take possible action on a Resolution of Intent to establish the Victoria County PACE Program.

(11-15:15)

11. January 13, 2025. Jonas Titas, President of Victoria Economic Development Corporation and Dub Taylor, Chief Operating Officer for PACE provided information to the Court and answered the Courts' questions. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court adopted the Resolution of Intent to establish the Victoria County Property Assessed Clean Energy Act (PACE), Texas Local Government Code Chapter 399 Program and scheduled a Public Hearing for February 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in Commissioners Court. Motion adopted.

12. Consider approval for the 2025 Master Contract for continuing professional services with Rawley McCoy & Associates, PLLC, and take appropriate action.

(12-33:16)

12. January 13, 2025. John Johnston, County Engineer, provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the 2025 Master Contract for continuing professional services with Rawley McCoy & Associates, PLLC. Motion adopted.

13. Receive Letter of Completion from the Texas Historical Commission in reference to the Historic Buildings and Structures Permit No. 1219, Victoria County Courthouse(Old) Courthouse Entry Steps Preservation, Victoria County, Texas, and take appropriate action.

(13-34:06)

13. January 13, 2025. County Engineer John Johnston provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the Letter of Completion from the Texas Historical Commission in reference to the Historic Buildings and Structures Permit No. 1219, Victoria County Courthouse (Old) Courthouse Entry Steps Preservation, Victoria County, Texas. Motion adopted.

14. Consider approval of the Final Plat for BANGL Nursery Pump Station, located in Precinct 2, and take appropriate action.

(14-34:49)

14. January 13, 2025. County Engineer John Johnston provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the Final Plat for BANGL Nursery Pump Station, located in Precinct No. 2. Motion adopted.

15. Consider approval and authorization of the filing into the official records of the County Clerk's Office for the following requests for plat exemptions and take appropriate action:

a. Dwayne & Michelle Klimitchek at 4896 Ragsdale Road, located in Precinct 4.

(15a-36:37)

15a. January 13, 2025. County Engineer John Johnston spoke to the Court about the plat exemption. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the plat exemption request from Dwayne and Michelle Klimitchek at 4896 Ragsdale Road in Victoria, Texas, in Precinct No. 4 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 and authorization of the filing into the official records of the County Clerk's Office for the following requests for plat exemptions and take appropriate action:

b. Timothy Collins at 20 Stoney Lane, located in Precinct 2.

(15b-36:37)

15b. January 13, 2025. County Engineer John Johnston spoke to the Court about the plat exemption. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the plat exemption request from Timothy Collins at 20 Stoney Lane 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.

- 16. Receive Modified FY2025 Crossroads Regional Public Defender's Office (RPDO) Statement of Grant Award for Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) Grant No. SG-25-014 and take appropriate action.**

(16-38:06)

16. January 13, 2025. Chief Public Defender Brian Watson and Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the Modified FY2025 Crossroads Regional Public Defender's Office (RPFO) Statement of Grant Award for Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) Grant No. SG-25-014. Motion adopted.

- 17. Receive for the record Grant VCT-SWG-3-48-0219-028-2025 for control tower radios and equipment at the Victoria Regional Airport.**

(17-45:12)

17. January 13, 2025. Victoria Regional Airport Executive Director Lenny Llerena provided the Court with information. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received for the record Grant VCT-SWG-3-48-0219-028-2025 for control tower radios and equipment at the Victoria Regional Airport. Motion adopted.

- 18. Consider the following for the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action:**

a. Receive executed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Parents as Teachers National Center, Agreement No. 2527, for FY25 implementation support and training.

(18a-49:15)

18a. January 13, 2025. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the executed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Parents as Teachers National Center, Agreement No. 2527, for FY25 implementation support and training for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

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

b. Receive executed Medical Billing Services Statement of Work and services quote with CureMD.com, Inc.

(18b-49:15)

18b. January 13, 2025. David Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided the Court with information. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the executed Medical Billing Services Statement of Work and services quote with CureMD.com, Inc. for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

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

c. Receive executed MOU, Contract No. HHS001472800030, with the Department of State Health Services for data and information distribution regulations.

(18c-49:15)

18c. January 13, 2025. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the executed MOU, Contract No. HHS001472800030, with the Department of State Health Services for data and information distribution regulations for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

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

d. Approval of Family Connects International Program Agreement for FY25.

(18d-49:15)

18d. January 13, 2025. David Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided the Court with information. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Family Connects International Program Agreement for FY25 for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

19. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2025-007 accepting a donation valued at \$2,500.00 from the American Legion Post 166 for the Victoria County Veterans Center and take appropriate action.

(19-53:33)

19. January 13, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, pursuant to Local Government Code §81.032, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2025-007 accepting a donation valued at \$2,500.00 from American Legion Post 166 to be utilized for and dedicated to the Victoria County Veterans Services Office. Motion adopted.

20. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2025-008 accepting a donation of a 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe from Jackson County to the Victoria County Sheriff's Office and take appropriate action.

(20-54:40)

20. January 13, 2025. Sheriff Justin Marr provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, pursuant to Local Government Code §81.032, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2025-008 accepting a donation of a 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe valued at \$17,782.00 from Jackson County to be utilized for and dedicated to the Victoria County Sheriff's Office. Motion adopted.

21. Consider approval of insurance fund reallocation for repairs to Victoria County Sheriff's Office Patrol Unit No. 171 and Patrol Unit No. 206 due to hail damage and take appropriate action.

(21-55:35)

21. January 13, 2025. Sheriff Justin Marr provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the insurance fund reallocation for repairs to Victoria County Sheriff's Office Patrol Unit No. 171 and Patrol Unit No. 206 due to hail damage. Motion adopted.

22. Receive the following in regard to the McFaddin Building and take appropriate action:

a. Executed Consent to Assignment document.

(22a-56:07)

22a. January 13, 2025. County Auditor Michelle Samford provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the executed Consent to Assignment document in regards to the McFaddin Building. Motion adopted.

Receive the following in regard to the McFaddin Building and take appropriate action:

b. Executed Electric Energy Sales Agreement.

(22b-56:07)

22b. January 13, 2025. Michelle Samford, County Auditor, provided the Court with information. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the executed Electric Energy Sales Agreement in regards to the McFaddin Building. Motion adopted.

23. Consider approval of Order No. 2025-0001 authorizing debt services payments for the fiscal year 2025 and take appropriate action.

(23-57:09)

23. January 13, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved Order 2025-0001 authorizing debt services payments for the fiscal year 2025. Motion adopted.

24. Consider approval of Resolution 2025-0005 authorizing substitutions, withdraws, and additions of pledged collateral for the fiscal year 2025 and take appropriate action.

(24-57:54)

24. January 13, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2025-0005 authorizing the substitutions, withdraws, and additions of pledged collateral for the fiscal year 2025. Motion adopted.

25. Receive corrected Resolution No. 2024-0028 authorizing an advanced funding agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for a section 130 railroad crossing safety project in Precinct 1 and take appropriate action.

(25-58:18)

25. January 13, 2025. Commissioner Danny Garcia provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received corrected Resolution No. 2024-0028 authorizing an advanced funding agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for a section 130 railroad crossing safety project in Precinct No. 1. Motion adopted.

26. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2025-0006 adopting the 2025 Victoria County Investment Policy and appointment of an Investment Officer and take appropriate action.

(26-59:14)

26. January 13, 2025. County Treasurer Paige Foster provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2025-0006 adopting the 2025 Victoria County Investment Policy and appointed Victoria County Treasurer Paige Foster as the Victoria County Investment Officer. Motion adopted.

27. Consider approval of the following final budget amendments for 2024 and take appropriate action:

(27-1:00:27)

27. January 13, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the 2024 final budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- b. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 3, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- c. Health Department, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

28. Consider approval of the following 2025 budget amendments and take appropriate action:

(28-1:01:14)

28. January 13, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the 2025 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments, Expenditures - Increase
- b. Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, Expenditures - Increase
- c. Airport Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- d. Capital Projects Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- e. Leose Fund, Expenditures - Increase

Motion adopted.

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

(29-1:05:31)

29. January 13, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. Rick McBrayer, Emergency Management Coordinator - Emergency Management Office:
 - 1. Employment of Lauren Meaux, Public Safety Communications Coordinator, at a rate of \$31.25 per hour, Budget Codes 108-599-1112 50% \$15.63, 100-401-1112 25% \$7.81, and 100-562-1112 25% \$7.81, effective January 21, 2025. Remarks: Grade 12 - General.
- b. Lenny Llerena, Airport Executive Director - Victoria Regional Airport:
 - 1. Correction (G/L Code): Salary change for Aaron Slaughter, Line Attendant, from a rate of \$18.50 per hour, Budget Code 321-606-1110 to a rate of \$18.92 per hour, effective December 28, 2024.
- c. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:
 - 1. Correction (Status): Salary change and position/other code change for Esau Lopez, from Patrol Deputy, at a rate of \$27.39 per hour, Budget Codes 100-563-1109-\$26.36, 288-563-1109-\$1.03, and 100-563-1137-\$23.08-Cert Pay to Extra Help (PRN), at a rate of \$25.31 per hour, Budget Code 100-563-1130-\$25.31, effective January 25, 2025.
 - 2. Position/other code change for Jonathan Houser, from Patrol Deputy, at a rate of \$27.39 per hour, Budget Codes 100-563-1109-\$24.29, 288-563-1109-\$3.10, and 100-563-1137-\$69.23-Cert Pay to SRO, Budget Codes 395-560-1109-\$27.39 and 395-560-1137-\$69.23-Cert Pay, effective December 28, 2024. Grade 7 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 5.
 - 3. Resignation of Ricardo Montemayor, Interdiction Deputy, with 80.0 PTO and

348.42 Compensatory hours due, effective January 20, 2025. Other Due: PTO and Comp paid in accordance with policy.

4. VCSO Salary Adjustment Certification for Brianna Garcia, to be paid Intermediate Certificate Pay of \$23.08 per pay period, effective January 17, 2025. Certification date for Brianna Garcia is December 26, 2024. Budget Coding: Enforcement/CID Certificate Pay 100-563-1137.
- d. Pama Hencerling, Juvenile Chief Probation Officer - Juvenile Detention:
 1. Salary change and other code change for Daisy Marie Vrana, JSO-PT, at a rate of \$20.76 per hour, from Budget Code 100-573-1157 to Budget Codes 100-573-1157 and 231-572-1136 PT @173.08, effective January 11, 2025.
 2. Correction (Salary Amt.): Resignation of Misty Green, at a rate of \$16.84 per hour, Budget Codes 100-573-1174 \$5.61 (33.33%) and 392-573-1174 \$11.23 (66.67%), effective December 29, 2024.
- e. Commissioners Court:
 1. Salary Order corrections for Airport, Extension Service, Sheriff, County Tax Assessor-Collector, Animal Services, Juvenile Detention/Probation, Criminal District Attorney, and 2025 Cell Phone Allowances.

Motion adopted.

- 30. 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; §551.071 to conduct a private consultation with the County's attorney regarding matters protected by the attorney-client privilege.**

(30-1:07:28)

30. January 13, 2025. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 11:12 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.

- 31. Pursuant to V.T.C.A Government Code §551.102 return to open meeting and take any action deemed necessary based upon discussion in closed meeting.**

(31-1:08:09)

31. January 13, 2025. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 1:15 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

- 32. Adjourn.**

(32-1:08:13)

32. January 13, 2025. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of January 13, 2025.