

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **31st day March A.D., 2025**, 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	Absent
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, March 31, 2025, 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. March 31, 2025. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, March 31, 2025, at 10:03 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. March 31, 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.

(3-2:43)

3. March 31, 2025. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Michael Vonderau of 2107 N. Ben Jordan voiced his concerns regarding child abuse and elder abuse. Mr. Vonderau thanked the SWAT Team and the Victoria Police Department for their assistance in the trailer park.

Commissioner Shannon Martin thanked everyone that attended his Commissioner's Forum last week.

Commissioner Kenneth Sexton spoke about individuals littering on the county roads in Precinct No. 4.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-6:44)

4. March 31, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on March 24, 2025. Motion adopted.

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

(5-6:58)

5. March 31, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford,

County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	3/31/2025	\$1,307,808.97
Supplemental Accounts	3/21/2025 – 3/27/2025	\$202,435.22

Motion adopted.

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

(6-7:25)

6. March 31, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the County Clerk and Sheriff. Motion adopted.

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

(7-50:39)

7. March 31, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the following release of bond forfeiture judgment from the Court:

a. Cause No. CIV1-21035: The State of Texas vs. Charles Edward Bradley, Jr., Defendant and All Access Bail Bonds, Surety.

Motion adopted.

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

(8-8:09)

8. March 31, 2025. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the CMC interim vendor payments dated March 27, 2025, in the amount of \$57,903.47 and the ACH report dated March 27, 2025, in the amount of \$1,171,451.68. Motion adopted.

9. Hear a proclamation designating April 2025 as County Government Month and take appropriate action.

(9-8:27)

9. March 31, 2025. County Judge Zeller read the Proclamation. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Proclamation designating April 2025 as County Government Month. Motion adopted.

10. Hear a proclamation designating April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month and take appropriate action.

(10-11:26)

10. March 31, 2025. Meagen Gumm, Executive Director of Hope of South Texas Children's Advocacy Center, spoke about the impact of child abuse and the importance of education and outreach to prevent child abuse. Nicole Nguyen of Belong and Golden Crescent Children's Project spoke about the history of the organizations and protection of children. County Judge Zeller read the Proclamation. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Proclamation designating April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month in Victoria County, Texas. Motion adopted.

11. Hear an operational update from the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action.

(11-20:12)

11. March 31, 2025. Public Health Director David Gonzales gave an overview regarding nursing services, Epidemiology, Environmental Services, Public Health Emergency Preparedness program, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), HIV/AIDS Resource Program, Texas Home Visiting, Community Engagement, Public Relations/Media, Community Health Assessment and measles. No action taken.

12. Consider the following items from the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

a. Ryan White Service Delivery grant, Contract No. 5614-565-01 for the service period of April 01, 2025, through March 31, 2026.

(12a-39:03)

12a. March 31, 2025. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Ryan White Service Delivery grant Contract No. 5614-565-01 for the service period of April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

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

b. Services Agreement with Dottie Bitterly to provide sound bath instructor services for the Victoria Be Well Program in connection with the 2021/2026 Hogg Foundation Mental Health Grant (WRC-045i).

(12b-39:03)

12b. March 31, 2025. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Services Agreement with Dottie Bitterly to provide sound bath instructor services for the Victoria Be Well Program in connection with the 2021/2026 Hogg Foundation Mental Health Grant (WRC-045i) for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

13. Consider approval of correction to Edward Byrne Memorial Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY2023 Local Solicitation Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Victoria and take appropriate action.

(13-41:40)

13. March 31, 2025. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the correction to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY2023 Local Solicitation Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Victoria and the City of Victoria. Motion adopted.

14. Consider approval of a Cooperative Agreement with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and take appropriate action.

(14-42:13)

14. March 31, 2025. Donnie Montemayor, District Extension Administrator, spoke about the Cooperative Agreement with the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received the Cooperative Agreement between Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Victoria County. Motion adopted.

- 15. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2025-036 for road donation in Pct. 3 from Michael Kresta at 5994 Coletoville Rd in the amount of \$753.96 for pipe and limestone and take appropriate action.**

(15-47:45)

15. March 31, 2025. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2025-036 for a road donation in the amount of \$753.96 from Michael Kresta at 5994 Coletoville Rd. in Precinct No. 3 for pipe and limestone. Motion adopted.

- 16. Discuss the status of various Victoria County Capital Improvement projects and take appropriate action.**

(16-51:15)

16. March 31, 2025. County Engineer John Johnston discussed the capital improvement projects for Victoria County with the Court. No action taken.

- 17. Receive for the record 2025 Discretionary Fund Budget Amendment, Sheriff's DOJ Federal Forfeiture (372) and take appropriate action.**

(17-48:04)

17. March 31, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received for the record, the 2025 Discretionary Fund Budget Amendment for the Sheriff's DOT Federal Forfeiture (372) as a increase to expenditures. Motion adopted.

- 18. Consider approval of the following 2025 budget amendments and take appropriate action.**

(18-48:28)

18. March 31, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the 2025 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund/Various Departments, Revenues and Expenditures - Increase
- b. Emergency Management, Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

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

(19-48:46)

19. March 31, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. John Johnston, County Engineer - Engineering and Development:
 - 1. Position/other code change for Dana Dobbbs, from Extra Help, at a rate of \$20.00 per hour, Budget Code 100-501-1130 to Grant Specialist, at a rate of \$21.00 per hour, Budget Code 100-501-1112, effective March 24, 2025. Grade 5 Plan General.
- b. Ashley Hernandez, Tax Assessor Collector - County Tax Office:
 - 1. Correction (effective date) and salary change for Rebecca Cano, Clerk III, from a rate of \$19.50 per hour, Budget Code 100-499-1106 to a rate of

\$20.00 per hour, effective March 22, 2025. Grade 4.

c. Ben Zeller, County Judge - County Judge's Office:

1. Employment of Chris Nicholson, Chief of Staff, at a rate of \$37.99 per hour, Budget Codes 100-400-1103 and 100-400-1139; \$41.54 per pay period, effective April 1, 2025. Other Remarks: Expanded cell phone allowance. Grade 16 Plan General.

d. Giani Cantu, Human Resources Director - Human Resources:

1. Correction: Salary change for Farrah Gamez, HR Specialist, from a rate of \$24.39 per hour, Budget Code 100-505-1102 to a rate of \$25.39 per hour, effective March 22, 2025. Grade 11 Plan General.
2. Correction (G/L Code) and salary change for Devin Hawes, HR Generalist, from a rate of \$19.32 per hour, Budget Code 100-505-1103 to a rate of \$20.00 per hour, effective March 22, 2025. Grade 7 Plan General.

e. Pama Hencerling, Juvenile Chief Probation Officer - Juvenile Services:

1. Dismissal of Kenneth Wells, JPO, with 51.3 PTO and 6.32 Compensatory hours due, effective March 31, 2025.

f. Justin Marr, Sheriff - Sheriff's Office:

1. Employment of Robert Ontiveros, Detention Deputy, at a rate of \$27.39 per hour, Budget Code 100-565-1114, effective April 1, 2025. Grade 7 Plan Law Enforcement Tier 5.

Motion adopted.

20. Adjourn.

(20-1:19:10)

20. March 31, 2025. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of March 31, 2025.