

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **21st day July 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	
Jason Ohrt,	Commissioner Precinct No. 2	
Shannon Martin,	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, July 21, 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. July 21, 2025. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, July 21, 2025, at 10:01 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. July 21, 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. July 21, 2025. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Gary Smejkal, Victoria County 4-H Shotgun coach, recognized 4-H Shotgun Project members and their accomplishments at the 4-H State Games this past week.

Victoria Regional Airport Executive Director Lenny Llerena informed the Court about the Community Development Grant for the Victoria Regional Airport and thanked Congressman Cloud for his assistance.

Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information on the MIT MOD status with the General Land Office.

Victoria Animal Services Director Mark Sloat stated that today starts National Adoption Week at PetsMart.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-13:42)

4. July 21, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on July 14, 2025. Motion adopted.

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

(5-13:57)

5. July 21, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the

Commissioners Court approved the accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford, County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	7/21/2025	\$334,755.35
Supplemental Accounts	7/11/2025 – 7/17/2025	\$344,516.16

Motion adopted.

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

(6-14:19)

6. July 21, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the County Treasurer and Constable, Precinct No. 4. Motion adopted.

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

(7-14:39)

7. July 21, 2025. None. No action taken.

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

(8-14:47)

8. July 21, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the CMC interim vendor payments dated July 17, 2025, in the amount of \$116,435.81 and the ACH report dated July 17, 2025, in the amount of \$3,227,673.13. Motion adopted.

9. Recognize 2025 second quarter employee anniversaries and take appropriate action.

(9-15:25)

9. July 21, 2025. County Judge Zeller recognized the Victoria County employees' anniversaries for the second quarter of 2025. Judge Zeller presented each of the following employees with a certificate for their years of service:

1 YEAR
Lucinda Sandoval
Jessica A Shawver-Savino
Carolyn Hernandez
Devin W Immenhauser
Yvonne Vargas
Brian S Watson
Vonjre J Barefield
Elsa L Prado
Jeffrey G Herring
Alfredo L Castillo
Beth A Sedlar
Gabriel A Guajardo
Wyatt J Patterson
Carol L Shaw
Alexander R Halepaska
Oscar L Garcia

5 YEARS

Jadah D Ruiz

Ashley F Cano

Lacey E Padier

Hunter G Nichols

Leathia J Clark

Rochelle Lawrence Jr

Shalee L John

10 YEARS

Aaron R Schoenherr

Sylvia Valdez

Senae N Davidson

Misty D Hahn

Priscilla Madrigal

Debra R Stevenson

Jeffrey D Oliver

Robin E Knipling

15 YEARS

David J Berger

Eduardo Ramirez

30 YEARS

Richard K Townsend

Kelly G Arnecke

No action taken.

10. Consider appointments/reappointments to the Citizens Medical Center Board of Managers and take appropriate action.

(10-27:22)

10. July 21, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the reappointments of Russell Marshall, Ben Galvan, Paul B. Holm, Fariborz Gorouhi, MD, and Ashlie A. Thomas to the Citizens Medical Center Board of Managers. Motion adopted.

11. Consider approval of Order No. 2025-0002 for an appropriation to the Victoria County 4-H Archery Club and take appropriate action.

(11-28:47)

11. July 21, 2025. Commissioner Kenneth Sexton and Commissioner Jason Ohrt provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Order No. 2025-0002 for a budget year 2025 appropriation in the amount of \$6,000.00 to the Victoria County 4-H Archery Club. Motion adopted.

12. Receive the following fully executed Best Friends Animal Society grant agreements and take appropriate action:
a. Partner Up Challenge.

(12a-31:26)

12a. July 21, 2025. Mark Sloat, Animal Services Director, and Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided the Court with information. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed Best Friends Animal Society Grant Agreement, Partner Up Challenge Program, for the Victoria County Animal Services. Motion adopted.

Receive the following fully executed Best Friends Animal Society grant agreements and take appropriate action:

b. Network Neighborhood Kits.

(12b-31:26)

12b. July 21, 2025. Animal Services Director Mark Sloat and Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed Best Friends Animal Society Grant Agreement, Network Neighborhood Kits Grant, for the Victoria County Animal Services. Motion adopted.

Receive the following fully executed Best Friends Animal Society grant agreements and take appropriate action:

c. Paws in the Field Challenge

(12c-31:26)

12c. July 21, 2025. Mark Sloat, Animal Services Director, and Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed Best Friends Animal Society Grant Agreement, Paws in the Field Challenge, for the Victoria County Animal Services. Motion adopted.

- 13. Receive fully executed Department of State Health Services Grant Agreement for the Zoonosis Control Animal Facility Spay and Neuter Grant Program Contract No. HHS001521400008 and take appropriate action.**

(13-35:14)

13. July 21, 2025. Mark Sloat, Animal Services Director, provided the Court with information. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed Department of State Health Services Grant Agreement for the Zoonosis Control Animal Facility Spay and Neuter Grant Program, Contract No. HHS001521400008 for Victoria County. Motion adopted.

- 14. Receive for the record fully executed University of North Texas Memorandum of Understanding related to buyout open space property research for the record and take appropriate action.**

(14-37:55)

14. July 21, 2025. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received for the record the fully executed University of North Texas Memorandum of Understanding related to buyout open space property research for the record. Motion adopted.

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

a. Receive fully executed Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Combined - State and Federal (TB/PC) Contract No. HHS001437400027.

(15a-39:08)

15a. July 21, 2025. David Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Combined-State and Federal (TB/PC) Contract No. HHS001437400027 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 fully executed agreement with Pro Playgrounds Fitness Station.

(15b-39:08)

15b. July 21, 2025. David Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided the Court with information. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed agreement with Pro Playgrounds Fitness Station for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

- 16. Receive for the record notice of expiration and termination of the appointment bond for Robby Burdge, appointed member of the Victoria County Navigation District Board, and take appropriate action.**

(16-39:53)

16. July 21, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received for the record the notice of expiration and termination of the appointment bond for Robby Burdge, appointed member of the Victoria County Navigation District Board. Motion adopted.

- 17. Consider appointing the Victoria County Tax Assessor-Collector to calculate no new revenue and voter approval rates and take appropriate action.**

(17-40:41)

17. July 21, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved appointing the Victoria County Tax Assessor-Collector to calculate no new revenue and voter approval rates. Motion adopted.

- 18. Hear a presentation from Victoria County Treasurer regarding IRS Form 1095 options following recent legislative changes and take appropriate action.**

(18-41:17)

18. July 21, 2025. Victoria County Treasurer Paige Foster informed the Court on the recent legislative changes regarding the IRS Form 1095-C. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved to opt out of having the IRS Form 1095-C distributed to Victoria County employees and make details and instructions for employees to request the IRS Form 1095-C available on the Victoria County website. Motion adopted.

- 19. Consider approval of the following Detention and Residential Contracts for the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:**

a. Brooks County.

(19a-45:08)

19a. July 21, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Brooks County. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following Detention and Residential Contracts for the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:

b. Kleberg-Kenedy Counties.

(19b-45:08)

19b. July 21, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Kleberg-Kenedy Counties. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following Detention and Residential Contracts for the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:

c. Erath County.

(19c-45:08)

19c. July 21, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Erath County. Motion adopted.

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

(20-45:31) (49:21)

20. July 21, 2025. The Commissioners' Court came out of closed session at 11:44 a.m. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes for only the following:

a. Matthew Schneider, IT Director - IT Department:

1. Employment of William Charvat, Extra Help, at a rate of \$23.00 per hour, Budget Code 100-503-1130, effective July 21, 2025.

Motion adopted.

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

(21-47:03)

21. July 21, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the 2025 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund/Sheriff's Office, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- b. Health Department, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- c. General Fund/Various Departments, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- d. Emergency Management, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- e. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 1, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- f. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 3, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- g. Capital Credits Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- h. Victoria County Care Court, Expenditures - Increase
- i. National School Lunch Program, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

22. Enter into a closed meeting pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.074 to discuss personnel in various departments; §551.0745 to discuss Boards and

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

(22-48:13)

22. July 21, 2025. The Commissioners' Court went into closed session at 10:49 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.074 to discuss personnel in various departments; §551.0745 to discuss Boards and Commissions; §551.071 to conduct a private consultation with the County's attorney regarding matters protected by attorney-client privilege.

23. 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.

(23-49:08)

23. July 21, 2025. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 11:44 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

24. Adjourn.

(24-49:56)

24. July 21, 2025. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of July 21, 2025.