

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **8th day September 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
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, September 8, 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. September 8, 2025. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Regular Term for Monday, September 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. September 8, 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.

(3-5:12)

3. September 8, 2025. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Harley Fisk with the Friends of the Library informed the Court that the Friends of the Victoria Public Library will be holding their Book Sale starting September 14, 2025, and stated it's the 50th Anniversary of the building of the Victoria Public Library and there will be a Librarium Nocturne cocktail party and fundraiser on September 25, 2025.

Victoria Animal Services Director Mark Sloat provided an update on the Dogs on DeLeon event held this past weekend.

Victoria Regional Airport Executive Director Lenny Llerena asked the public to please arrive early at the airport for their flights and to check in their bags first, then park.

Fire Marshal Dan Porter discussed the KBDI numbers for Victoria County.

Commissioner Shannon Martin stated the Cologne Road construction will start today.

Commissioner Jason Ohrt mentioned the Northside Road construction will begin today.

Commissioner Kenneth Sexton stated the Old Highway Road Project will begin a week from today.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-19:44)

4. September 8, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on September 2, 2025. Motion adopted.

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

(5-20:27)

5. September 8, 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	9/8/2025	\$149,573.30
Supplemental Accounts	8/28/2025 – 9/2/2025	\$156,785.76

Motion adopted.

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

(6-20:35)

6. September 8, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the County Auditor; Sheriff; Fire Marshal; Justices of the Peace, Precincts Nos. 2 and 4; and Constables, Precincts Nos. 1-4. Motion adopted.

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

(7-20:51)

7. September 8, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the release of the following bond forfeiture judgments from the Court:

- a. Cause No. CIV2-21574: The State of Texas vs. Nicole Marie Wilson, Defendant and A-EZ Out Bail Bonds, Surety.
- b. Cause No. CIV2-21697: The State of Texas vs. Sebastian Lee Vargas, Defendant and Bring Em Home 24/7 Bail Bonds, Surety.
- c. Cause No. CIV1-21709: The State of Texas vs. Jose Angel Madero, Jr., Defendant and A & A Bail Bonds, Surety.
- d. Cause No. CIV2-21887: The State of Texas vs. Roland Jay Faust, III, Defendant and A & A Bail Bonds, Surety.

Motion adopted.

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

(8-21:07)

8. September 8, 2025. The Commissioners Court passed on the CMC interim vendor payments. No action taken.

9. Consider the following in connection with the Terminal Replacement Project at the Victoria Regional Airport (VRA) and take appropriate action:

- a. **Approval of a Contract with Centurion Planning & Design in the amount of \$2,759,990.00 to perform Design Services.**

(9a-21:26)

9a. September 8, 2025. Lenny Llerena, Victoria Regional Airport Executive Director, provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the contract with Centurion Planning and Design in the amount of \$2,759,990.00 to perform Design Services in connection with the Terminal Replacement Project at the Victoria Regional Airport (VRA). Motion adopted.

Consider the following in connection with the Terminal Replacement Project at the Victoria Regional Airport (VRA) and take appropriate action:

b. Authorize an immediate start of the project ahead of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) reimbursable grant, scheduled for Texas Transportation Commission approval on September 25th.

(9b-21:26)

9b. September 8, 2025. Victoria Regional Airport Executive Director Lenny Llerena provided the Court with information. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court authorized an immediate start of the project ahead of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) reimbursable grant, scheduled for Texas Transportation Commission approval on September 25th in connection with the Terminal Replacement Project at the Victoria Regional Airport (VRA). Motion adopted.

- 10. Consider approval of and authorize the County Judge to execute the Annual Routine Airport Maintenance Project (RAMP) Grant Agreement for the Victoria Regional Airport and take appropriate action.**

(10-29:23)

10. September 8, 2025. Lenny Llerena, Victoria Regional Airport Executive Director, provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved and authorized the County Judge to execute the Annual Routine Airport Maintenance Project (RAMP) Grant Agreement for the Victoria Regional Airport. Motion adopted.

- 11. Consider approval of Payment Application No. 1 to Wolen, LLC in the amount of \$217,008.50 for equipment at the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Victoria Regional Airport (VRA) and take appropriate action.**

(11-32:24)

11. September 8, 2025. Victoria Regional Airport Executive Director Lenny Llerena and County Auditor Michelle Samford provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Payment Application No. 1 to Wolen, LLC in the amount of \$217,008.50 for equipment at the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Victoria Regional Airport (VRA). Motion adopted.

- 12. Consider approval of RTK Network CMRx Subscription Agreement between AllTerra Central, Inc. and Victoria County, TX and take appropriate action.**

(12-35:33)

12. September 8, 2025. Assistant County Engineer Avery Flessner provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the RTK Network CMRx Subscription Agreement between AllTerra Central, Inc. and Victoria County, Texas. Motion adopted.

- 13. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section §111.067, hold a public hearing on the 2026 Proposed Victoria County Budget.**

(13-37:09)

13. September 8, 2025. Ben Zeller, County Judge, declared the public hearing open at 10:37 a.m. for the 2026 Proposed Budget. Dale Zuck, a Victoria Resident, questioned the Court on the increase in expenditures and debt rate for the 2026 Proposed Budget. Judge Zeller responded to Mr. Zuck's questions. County Judge Zeller declared the public hearing closed at 11:02 a.m. No action taken.

14. Announce the date, time, and place for consideration of the 2026 Victoria County Budget and 2025 Tax Rate and take appropriate action.

(14-1:02:26)

14. September 8, 2025. County Judge Ben Zeller spoke about the date, time, and place for a vote on the 2026 Victoria County Budget and 2025 tax rate. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved to adopt the 2026 Victoria County Budget and 2025 tax rate on September 29, 2025, at the Victoria County Courthouse, 115 N. Bridge Street, Second Floor, Room 241, Victoria, Texas at 10:00 a.m. Motion adopted.

15. Pursuant to V.T.C.A. Transportation Code §251.151 hold a public hearing on proposed changes to traffic regulations in Victoria County, Precinct 3, and take appropriate action.

(15-1:03:38)

15. September 8, 2025. Commissioner Martin reviewed the traffic regulations changes. Pursuant to V.T.C.A. Transportation Code §251.151, County Judge Zeller opened a public hearing at 11:05 a.m. on the proposed changes to traffic regulations in Victoria County, Precinct No. 3. Hearing no public comments, County Judge Zeller closed the public hearing at 11:05 a.m. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the traffic regulations in Victoria County, Precinct No. 3 as follows:

Precinct No. 3 - Stop Sign Installation at the Following Intersections:

Duck Drive at Bob White Road Intersection, Northbound Traffic

Duck Drive at Turkey Lane Intersection, Southbound Traffic

Owl Drive at Quail Creek Drive Intersection, Westbound Traffic

Josephine Lane at Old Goliad Road Intersection, Southbound Traffic

Precinct No. 3 - Stop Sign Relocation at the Following Intersection:

Existing Turkey Lane at Chukar Drive Intersection stop sign

Relocation to Chukar Drive at Turkey Lane Intersection To Stop
Southbound Traffic

Precinct No. 3 - 40 MPH Diebel Road from Coletoville Road to Old
Goliad Road

Motion adopted.

16. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2025-075 for a donation to Victoria County Animal Services from James Wayne Properties valued at \$150.00 to cover permitting fees associated with the Dogs on DeLeon event and take appropriate action.

(16-1:05:32)

16. September 8, 2025. Victoria Animal Services Director Mark Sloat 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. 2025-075 for a donation valued at \$150.00 from James Wayne Properties to be utilized for and dedicated to Victoria County Animal Services (VCAS) for the sole purpose of covering rental fees connected with the Dogs on DeLeon event held on September 6, 2025. Motion adopted.

- 17. Receive a letter of permission to enter the private property of Bridget Crouch located at 922 Old Goliad Road Victoria, TX for the purpose of conducting drainage improvements in Precinct 3, Victoria County, Texas, and take appropriate action.**

(17-1:06:24)

17. September 8, 2025. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received a letter of permission from Bridget Crouch, authorizing Victoria County, Precinct No. 3 to enter and do the necessary work at the property located at 922 Old Goliad Road, Victoria, Texas for the purpose of improving drainage and help prevent flooding on a County Road and surrounding area during normal weather events. Motion adopted.

- 18. Consider approval of the following Detention and/or Residential Contracts for the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:**
a. Kendall County, Detention and Residential.

(18a-1:06:42)

18a. September 8, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Kendall 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. Comal County, Detention and Residential.

(18b-1:06:42)

18b. September 8, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Comal County. Motion adopted.

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

c. Zapata County, Detention and Residential.

(18c-1:06:42)

18c. September 8, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Zapata County. Motion adopted.

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

d. Caldwell County, Detention and Residential.

(18d-1:06:42)

18d. September 8, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Caldwell County. Motion adopted.

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

e. Crane County, Residential.

(18e-1:06:42)

18e. September 8, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Residential Contract between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Crane County. Motion adopted.

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

f. Rusk County, Residential.

(18f-1:06:42)

18f. September 8, 2025. There was not a Residential Contract between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Rusk County submitted. No action taken.

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

g. DeWitt County, Detention and Residential.

(18g-1:06:42)

18g. September 8, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and DeWitt County. Motion adopted.

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

h. Panola County, Residential.

(18h-1:06:42)

18h. September 8, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Residential Contract between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Panola County. Motion adopted.

19. Discuss CO Bond issue, eligible projects, and dollar amounts and take appropriate action.

(19-1:07:29)

19. September 8, 2025. The Commissioners Court discussed the upcoming CO Bond issue, eligible projects, and dollar amounts with County Engineer John Johnston, Assistant County Engineer Avery Flessner, Chief of Staff Chris Nicholson, Compliance and Development Specialist Sarah Hamman, and Projects and Planning Assistant Maddison Heibel. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved to set the amount at 14.5 million for the county side of the CO Bond. Motion adopted.

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

(20-1:49:59)

20. September 8, 2025. 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. Commissioner's Court:

1. Amended Order Setting Salaries for the County Court at Law Judges and County Judge for the Year 2025, to be paid out of the General Fund of Victoria

- County, Texas, bi-weekly, beginning with the pay date of September 12, 2025.
- b. Ben Zeller, County Judge - County Judge's Office:
1. Request to pay out 103.42 hours of compensatory time to Maddison Heibel due to facilitating the county budget process while simultaneously performing all other functions of her role, as well as covering for the vacant Administrative Assistant position in Commissioners Court.

Motion adopted.

21. Receive for the record Discretionary Fund Budget Amendments and take appropriate action.

(21-1:50:49)

21. September 8, 2025. None. No action taken.

22. Consider approval of 2025 budget amendments and take appropriate action.

(22-1:52:06)

22. September 8, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the 2025 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund/Various Departments, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- b. Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, 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
- f. Capital Projects Fund, Expenditures - Decrease
- g. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 1, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

23. 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, §551.0745 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.

(23-1:52:50)

23. September 8, 2025. The Commissioners' Court went into closed session at 11:53 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; §551.0745 to discuss Boards and Commissions; and §551.071 to conduct a private consultation with the County's attorney regarding matters protected by attorney-client privilege.

24. 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.

(24-1:05:50)

24. September 8, 2025. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 12:42 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, and took action on agenda item no. 19.

25. Adjourn.

(25-1:05:59)

25. September 8, 2025. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of September 8, 2025.