

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **29th 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 29, 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. September 29, 2025. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, September 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. September 29, 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.

(3-3:57)

3. September 29, 2025. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

County Judge Zeller stated the Commissioners Court will return today at 2:00 p.m. to finalize agenda items 18 – 22.

Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided a MIT MOD project update.

Commissioner Sexton thanked everyone that attended Inez Volunteer Fire Department fundraiser.

Commissioner Ohrt mentioned the Fordtran Volunteer Fire Department fundraiser will be held this Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-5:19)

4. September 29, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on September 22, 2025. Motion adopted.

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

(5-5:33)

5. September 29, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford, County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	9/29/2025	\$1,834,411.85
Supplemental Accounts	9/16/2025 – 9/22/2025	\$280,020.26

Motion adopted.

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

(6-2:48)

6. September 29, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the monthly report from the County Treasurer. Motion adopted.

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

(7-6:20)

7. September 29, 2025. None. No action taken.

8. Consider approval of the following CMC interim vendor payments and take appropriate action:

a. August 28, 2025.

(8a-6:27)

8a. September 29, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the CMC interim vendor payments dated August 28, 2025, in the amount of \$1,123,698.64 and the ACH report dated August 28, 2025, in the amount of \$2,868,935.10. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following CMC interim vendor payments and take appropriate action:

b. September 18, 2025.

(8b-6:27)

8b. September 29, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the CMC interim vendor payments dated September 18, 2025, in the amount of \$200,789.06 and the ACH report dated September 18, 2025, in the amount of \$3,639,803.25. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following CMC interim vendor payments and take appropriate action:

c. September 25, 2025.

(8c-6:27)

8c. September 29, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the CMC interim vendor payments dated September 25, 2025, in the amount of \$1,360,085.80 and the ACH report dated September 25, 2025, in the amount of \$3,618,987.40. Motion adopted.

9. Award bid for the Annual Supply Contract for Gasoline, Diesel Fuel, and Dyed Diesel Fuel and take appropriate action.

(9-8:25)

9. September 29, 2025. First Assistant County Auditor Becky Smiley provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court awarded the bid for the Annual Supply Contract for Gasoline,

Diesel Fuel, and Dyed Diesel Fuel to New Distributing and rejected all other bids. Motion adopted.

10. Consider approval of the following in relation to the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission Regional Solid Waste Grant Program and take appropriate action:

a. Resolution No. 2025-085 for Precinct 3 application.

(10a-9:21)

10a. September 29, 2025. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2025-085 for the Precinct No. 3 application in relation to the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission Regional Solid Waste Grant Program. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following in relation to the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission Regional Solid Waste Grant Program and take appropriate action:

b. Resolution No. 2025-086 for Precinct 4 application.

(10b-9:21)

10b. September 29, 2025. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided the Court with information. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2025-086 for the Precinct No. 4 application in relation to the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission Regional Solid Waste Grant Program. Motion adopted.

11. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2025-082 for a contract amendment request in connection with Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Contract number CDV23-0328 between the Victoria County and Texas Department of Agriculture and take appropriate action.

(11-12:09)

11. September 29, 2025. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2025-082 for a contract amendment request in connection with Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Contract number CDV23-0328 between Victoria County and Texas Department of Agriculture. Motion adopted.

12. Consider approval of the following request for payment to GrantWorks in the amount of \$6,960.00 in connection to the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Award, Grant no. CDV23-0328 and take appropriate action.

(12-13:10)

12. September 29, 2025. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the request for payment to GrantWorks in the amount of \$6,960.00 in connection to the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Award, Grant No. CDV23-0328. Motion adopted.

13. Consider approval of the following in relation to the Victoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office for the Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG):

a. Statements Supporting Submission of the Application to the Office of the Attorney General.

(13a-14:24)

13a. September 29, 2025. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Statements Supporting Submission of the Application to the Office of the Attorney General in relation to the Victoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office for the Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG). Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following in relation to the Victoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office for the Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG):

b. Resolution No. 2025-084 of the Governing Body.

(13b-14:24)

13b. September 29, 2025. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2025-084 of the Governing Body in relation to the Victoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office for the Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG). Motion adopted.

14. Receive executed copy of SAVNS Maintenance Agreement OAG Contract No. C02767 and take appropriate action.

(14-16:48)

14. September 29, 2025. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided the Court with information. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the executed copy of SAVNS Maintenance Agreement OAG Contract No. C02767. Motion adopted.

15. Consider approval and authorize payment of Quote No. 9.11.25 from Coastal Office Solutions Inc. in the amount of \$92,583.65 regarding the purchase of office furniture for the newly renovated Victoria County Animal Services building and take appropriate action.

(15-17:15)

15. September 29, 2025. Animal Services Director Mark Sloat provided information to the Court and held a discussion regarding the purchase of office furniture for the newly renovated Victoria County Animal Services building. After discussion, the Commissioners Court passed on this agenda item. No action taken.

16. Receive Change Order 002 in connection to the Health Department Spray Truck Building project and take appropriate action.

(16-24:42)

16. September 29, 2025. County Engineer John Johnston provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received Change Order 002 for the amount of \$1,873.00 in connection to the Victoria County Health Department Spray Truck Building project. Motion adopted.

17. Consider approval of request for plat exemption from Ryan Hessler at FM 444 N, located in Precinct 4, Victoria County, Texas, and take appropriate action.

(17-25:16)

17. September 29, 2025. County Engineer John Johnston provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the request for plat exemption from Ryan Hessler at FM 444 N located within Precinct No. 4, Victoria County, Texas, 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 owner(s).
 - ~The developer/property owner(s) 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.

18. Consider approval of Order No. 2025-081 adopting the 2026 Victoria County Budget and take appropriate action.

(18-50:34)

18. September 29, 2025. Judge Zeller spoke about the Victoria County budget and called for record votes. Commissioner Danny Garcia, Commissioner Jason Ohrt, Commissioner Shannon Martin, Commissioner Kenneth Sexton, and County Judge Ben Zeller unanimously voted "aye" in favor to adopt the 2026 Victoria County Annual Budget. Motion adopted.

19. Consider approval of Order No. 2025-080 levying a property tax rate, taking a record vote, and take appropriate action.

(19-53:09)

19. September 29, 2025. County Judge Zeller spoke about the tax rate and called for record votes. Commissioner Danny Garcia, Commissioner Jason Ohrt, Commissioner Shannon Martin, Commissioner Kenneth Sexton, and County Judge Zeller unanimously voted "aye" in favor of Order No. 2025-080 to adopt the levying the tax rate of \$0.3853 for the year 2025. Motion adopted.

20. Consider approval of an Order authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of up to \$15,000,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of "Certificates of Obligation, Series 2025A"; securing the payment thereof by authorizing the levy of an annual ad valorem tax and a pledge of certain surplus revenues of the County's hospital system; approving and authorizing the execution of all instruments and procedures related thereto including a paying agent/registrar agreement and a purchase contract; approving the form of an official statement; and declaring an effective date.

(20-43:07)

20. September 29, 2025. Robert Henderson, Financial Advisor for Victoria County, provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved an Order authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of up to \$15,000,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of "Certificates of Obligation, Series 2025A"; securing the payment thereof by authorizing the levy of an annual ad valorem tax and a pledge of certain surplus revenues of the County's hospital system; approving and authorizing the execution of all instruments and procedures related thereto including a paying agent/registrar agreement and a purchase contract; approving the form of an official statement; and declaring an effective date. Motion adopted.

- 21. Discuss and take action on an Order authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of up to \$20,000,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of "Certificates of Obligation, Series 2025B"; securing the payment thereof by authorizing the levy of an annual ad valorem tax and a pledge of certain surplus revenues of the County's park system; approving and authorizing the execution of all instruments and procedures related thereto including a paying agent/registrar agreement and a purchase contract; approving the form of an official statement; and declaring an effective date.**

(21-48:12)

21. September 29, 2025. Robert Henderson, Financial Advisor for Victoria County, provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved an Order authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of up to \$20,000,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of "Certificates of Obligation, Series 2025B"; securing the payment thereof by authorizing the levy of an annual ad valorem tax and a pledge of certain surplus revenues of the County's park system; approving and authorizing the execution of all instruments and procedures related thereto including a paying agent/registrar agreement and a purchase contract; approving the form of an official statement; and declaring an effective date. Motion adopted.

- 22. Discuss and take action on a Memorandum of Understanding between Victoria County, Texas and the Board of Directors of Citizens Medical Center regarding the County's issuance of certificates of obligation for the purposes of constructing, renovating, expanding, improving and equipping the County owned hospital (Citizens Medical Center), including the intensive care unit, infusion center, and hospital elevators.**

(22-49:03)

22. September 29, 2025. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Memorandum of Understanding between Victoria County, Texas and the Board of Directors of Citizens Medical Center regarding the County's issuance of certificates of obligation for the purposes of constructing, renovating, expanding, improving and equipping the County owned hospital (Citizens Medical Center), including the intensive care unit, infusion center, and hospital elevators. Motion adopted.

- 23. Consider the following in connection with replacement of postage machine in Victoria County Treasurer's Office and take appropriate action:**
a. PitneyBowes MailCenter Purchase Agreement/Equipment and Software Maintenance Agreement.

(23a-26:41)

23a. September 29, 2025. County Treasurer Paige Foster provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court

approved the PitneyBowes MailCenter Purchase Agreement/Equipment and Software Maintenance Agreement in connection with the replacement of the postage machine in the Victoria County Treasurer's Office. Motion adopted.

Consider the following in connection with replacement of postage machine in Victoria County Treasurer's Office and take appropriate action:

b. Authorize the County Judge to execute agreement with PitneyBowes.

(23b-26:41)

23b. September 29, 2025. Paige Foster, County Treasurer, provided the Court with information. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court authorized the County Judge to execute the agreement with PitneyBowes. Motion adopted.

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

a. Gonzales County, Detention and Residential.

(24a-28:42)

24a. September 29, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Gonzales 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. Karnes County, Detention and Residential.

(24b-28:42)

24b. September 29, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Karnes 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. Wilson County, Detention and Residential.

(24c-28:42)

24c. September 29, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Wilson 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. Medina County, Detention and Residential.

(24d-28:42)

24d. September 29, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Medina 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. Hunt County, Detention and Residential.

(24e-28:42)

24e. September 29, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon

Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Residential Contract between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Hunt County. Motion adopted.

- 25. Receive for the record the fully executed Sales Agreement with HOLT Texas LTD. for the purchase of a Caterpillar RM400 Rotary Mixer for use by all Victoria County Road and Bridge Precincts and take appropriate action.**

(25-30:06)

25. September 29, 2025. County Engineer John Johnston provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received for the record the fully executed Sales Agreement with Holt Texas Ltd for the purchase of a Caterpillar RM400 Rotary Mixer for use by all Victoria County Road and Bridge Precincts. Motion adopted.

- 26. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2025-083 of a road donation from Dan Reeves for the installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to conduct drainage improvements in Victoria County right-of-way at Lots 15 & 16, Block 3 of Garcitas Creek Ranch Estates in Precinct 4, Victoria County, Texas, and take appropriate action.**

(26-31:06)

26. September 29, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2025-083 for a road donation in the amount of \$2,800.00 from Dan Reeves for installation of a driveway and pipe culvert to conduct drainage improvements in Victoria County right-of-way at Lots 15 and 16, Block 3 of Garcitas Creek Ranch Estates in Precinct No. 4, Victoria County, Texas. Motion adopted.

- 27. Consider the reclassification of one Shelter Care Tech from part-time to full-time status for Victoria County Animal Services, effective 9/20/2025, authorize necessary adjustments to the budget and staffing plan, and take appropriate action.**

(27-31:48)

27. September 29, 2025. Animal Services Director Mark Sloat provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the salary and position/other code change for Jordan Tate, Shelter Care, at a rate of \$14.91 per hour, Budget Code 100-630-1109 to a rate of \$15.35 per hour, effective September 20, 2025. Other Remarks: This is a position up grade from Part time (1040 hours) to full time (2080). Grade 1 Plan General. Motion adopted.

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

(28-33:21)

28. September 29, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

- a. Ben Zeller/Shannon Martin, County Judge/Commissioner, Precinct No. 3 – County Judge’s Office/Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 3:
 1. Salary and position change for Ross Sarlls, from Road Crew Foreman (Precinct No. 2), at a rate of \$30.40 per hour, Budget Codes 202-612-1109 and 202-612-1139 to Sr. Equipment Operator (Precinct No. 3), at a rate of \$29.00 per hour, Budget Codes 203-613-1109 and 202-613-1139, effective September 29, 2025. Grade 7 Plan General.
- b. Danny Garcia, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1 - Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 1:
 1. Correction: Request to payout compensatory time of 220.14 hours for a total of

\$8,198.01 to Pete Villarreal, to be paid out of 201-611-1131.

Motion adopted.

29. Receive for the record Discretionary Fund budget amendments, if any, and take appropriate action.

(29-34:43)

29. September 29, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received for the record the Discretionary Fund Budget Amendment from the CDA Contraband Forfeiture Fund No. (370) as an increase to expenditures. Motion adopted.

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

(30-35:12)

30. September 29, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the 2025 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund/Various Departments, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- b. County Clerk Archive Fee Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- c. Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- d. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 1, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- e. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 3, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- f. Airport Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- g. Capital Projects Fund, Expenditures – Increase
- h. General Fund/Sheriff's Office, Expenditures – Line item transfer
- i. Health Department, Expenditures – Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

31. 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; §551.0745 to discuss Boards and Commissions.

(31-40:54)

31. September 29, 2025. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 10:41 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.

32. 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.

(32-50:43)

32. September 29, 2025. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 11:59 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, and stood in recess until 2:00 p.m. this afternoon. The Court returned to open meeting at 2:00 p.m. and proceeded with agenda item numbers in this order: 20, 21, 22, 18, and 19. The Court recessed at 2:14 pm until 2:25 p.m.

- 33. 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; §551.0745 to discuss Boards and Commissions.**

(33-51:34)

33. September 29, 2025. The Commissioners Court went into closed session at 2:26 p.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.

- 34. 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.**

(34-56:38)

34. September 29, 2025. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 3:36 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

- 35. Adjourn.**

(35-56:56)

35. September 29, 2025. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of September 29, 2025.