

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **24th day November 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, November 24, 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. November 24, 2025. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, November 24, 2025, at 10:01 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. November 24, 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.

(3-2:11)

3. November 24, 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 thanked Victoria County Animal Services Director Mark Sloat and Joe Hernandez for their outstanding job at Victoria County Animal Services and spoke about dog issues in Victoria.

Adam Daughtrey of Turning Point USA thanked everyone that attended the Turning Point USA event that was held last Wednesday at the Texas A&M University-Victoria campus. Mr. Daughtrey expressed his support of the first responders that assisted.

Assistant Fire Marshal Nathan Kelley updated the Court on the recent KBDI numbers.

Jewel Buchanan, Democratic Party Chair, thanked the Commissioner who mentioned looking for experience in filling the Victoria County Elections Administrator position. Ms. Buchanan introduced herself to the Court and spoke about the position.

County Judge Zeller mentioned non-emergency County offices will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holidays and, due to the new agenda posting requirements, the Commissioners Court agenda will be posted today for next week's meeting. Judge Zeller also stated the last Commissioners Court meeting for 2025 will be held on December 15, 2025.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-13:34)

4. November 24, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin,

the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on November 17, 2025. Motion adopted.

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

(5-13:56)

5. November 24, 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	11/24/2025	\$856,840.62
Supplemental Accounts	11/10/2025 – 11/17/2025	\$293,004.27

Motion adopted.

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

(6-14:19)

6. November 24, 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; and Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 1. Motion adopted.

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

(7-14:40)

7. November 24, 2025. None. No action taken.

8. Consider approval of Citizens Medical Center interim vendor payments and take appropriate action.

(8-14:52)

8. November 24, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the CMC interim vendor payments dated November 20, 2025, in the amount of \$342,297.97 and the ACH report dated November 20, 2025, in the amount of \$2,922,281.28. Motion adopted.

9. Ratify Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) Grant No. TR-26-007 Budget Adjustment Request in connection with the Crossroads Defenders Regional Public Defender's Office Temporary Supplemental Funding Program and take appropriate action.

(9-15:29)

9. November 24, 2025. Assistant Chief Public Defender Luis Martinez provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court ratified the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) Grant No. TR-26-007 Budget Adjustment Request in connection with the Crossroads Defenders Regional Public Defender's Office Temporary Supplemental Funding Program. Motion adopted,

10. Receive for the record the executed copy of General Land Office Contract No. 24-065-186-F328 for the Community Block Grant Mitigation Program-Regional Mitigation Program Projects and take appropriate action.

(10-19:23)

10. November 24, 2025. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the

Commissioners Court received for the record the executed copy of the General Land Office Contract No. 24-065-186-F328 for the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program-Regional Mitigation Program (CDBG MITMOD) Projects. Motion adopted.

- 11. Consider approval of FY2026 Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG) 2nd Offering Contract No. C-02899 and take appropriate action.**

(11-23:17)

11. November 24, 2025. Criminal District Attorney Constance Filley Johnson provided information to the Court. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the FY2026 Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG) 2nd Offering Contract No. C-02899. Motion adopted.

- 12. Consider approval of payment request to Lynn Engineering, LLC in the total amount of \$19,500.00 in connection to the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Award, Grant No. CDV23-0328 and take appropriate action.**

(12-25:11)

12. November 24, 2025. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the payment request to Lynn Engineering, LLC in the total amount of \$19,500.00 in connection to the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Award, Grant No. CDV23-0328. Motion adopted.

- 13. Consider approval of Application for Payment No.18 for Forney Construction, LLC in the amount of 1,010,389.38 in connection to the Citizens Medical Center Intensive Care Unit Additions and Renovations Project and take appropriate action.**

(13-26:27)

13. November 24, 2025. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Application for Payment No. 18 for Forney Construction, LLC in the amount of \$1,010,389.38 in connection to the Citizens Medical Center Intensive Care Unit Additions and Renovations Project. Motion adopted.

- 14. Receive for the record TxDOT State Assisted Airport Development Grant, CSJ No.: 2613VICTR, Amendment No. 01 for Design of a New Terminal Building at the Victoria Regional Airport and take appropriate action.**

(14-27:17)

14. November 24, 2025. Victoria Regional Airport Executive Director Lenny Llerena provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received for the record the TxDOT State Assisted Airport Development Grant, CSJ No. 2613VICTR, Amendment No. 01 for Design of a New Terminal Building at the Victoria Regional Airport. Motion adopted.

- 15. Receive fully executed Memorandum of Understanding between the Parents as Teachers National Center and the Victoria County Public Health Department in relation to implementation support and training throughout FY2026, and take appropriate action.**

(15-31:16)

15. November 24, 2025. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed Memorandum of Understanding between the Parents as

Teachers National Center and the Victoria County Public Health Department in relation to implementation support and training throughout FY2026. Motion adopted.

- 16. Discuss upcoming expiration of existing Victoria County Purchasing Card agreement with Citibank and potential vendor change and take appropriate action.**
(16-32:03)

16. November 24, 2025. County Treasurer Paige Foster held a discussion with the Court regarding the upcoming expiration of an existing Victoria County Purchasing Card agreement with Citibank and provided information regarding US Bank and JPMorgan Chase for potential vendor changes. After discussion, the Court asked that County Treasurer Paige Foster reach out to local banks and proceed from there. No action taken.

- 17. Receive for the record FY2026 Liability (Auto & General) Coverage Renewal with Texas Association of Counties for the coverage period of January 1, 2026-January 1, 2027, authorize payment of invoice upon receipt in an amount not to exceed \$452,240.00 and take appropriate action.**
(17-40:56)

17. November 24, 2025. Human Resources Director Giani Cantu provided information to the Court. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received for the record the FY2026 Liability (Auto and General) Coverage Renewal with Texas Association of Counties for the coverage period of January 1, 2026 through January 1, 2027, and authorized payment of invoice upon receipt in an amount not to exceed \$452,240.00. Motion adopted.

- 18. Receive for the record letter of resignation from Mark Sloat, Victoria County Animal Services Director, and take appropriate action.**
(18-44:36)

18. November 24, 2025. Victoria County Animal Services Director thanked the Court for their support. The Court commended Mr. Sloat for his dedication and hard work. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received for the record the letter of resignation from Mark Sloat, Victoria County Animal Services Director. Former Commissioner Gary Burns spoke about the operations of Victoria Animal Services since Mr. Sloat became the Animal Services Director. Motion adopted.

- 19. Consider approval of Detention/Residential Contracts between the Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Yoakum County, and take appropriate action.**
(19-54:44)

19. November 24, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received for the record the fully executed Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Yoakum County. Motion adopted.

- 20. Consider approval of letters of engagement from Harrison, Waldrop & Uherek, LLP for Victoria County and Victoria County Juvenile Probation Department audits and take appropriate action.**
(20-55:06)

20. November 24, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the letters of engagement from Harrison, Waldrop and Uherek, LLP for Victoria County and Victoria County Juvenile Probation Department audits. Motion adopted.

- 21. Consider approval of Psychoeducational/Counseling Contracts between the Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and the following individuals, and take appropriate action:**

a. D. Ross Braune.

(21a-55:38)

21a. November 24, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Psychoeducational/Counseling Contract between the Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and D. Ross Braune. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of Psychoeducational/Counseling Contracts between the Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and the following individuals, and take appropriate action:

b. Brittney Morris.

(21b-55:38)

21b. November 24, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Psychoeducational/Counseling Contract between the Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Brittney Morris. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of Psychoeducational/Counseling Contracts between the Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and the following individuals, and take appropriate action:

c. Allison Besio.

(21c-55:38)

21c. November 24, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Psychoeducational/Counseling Contract between the Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Allison Besio. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of Psychoeducational/Counseling Contracts between the Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and the following individuals, and take appropriate action:

d. Alicia Matthews.

(21d-55:38)

21d. November 24, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Psychoeducational/Counseling Contract between the Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Alicia Matthews. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of Psychoeducational/Counseling Contracts between the Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and the following individuals, and take appropriate action:

e. Hope of South Texas.

(21e-55:38)

21e. November 24, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Psychoeducational/Counseling Contract between the Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Hope of South Texas. Motion adopted.

- 22. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2025-102 for a road donation in the amount of \$587.20 from Michael Hartzfield at 1323 Old Goliad Rd. in Precinct 3, Victoria County, Texas.**

(22-56:38)

22. November 24, 2025. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2025-102 for a road donation valued at \$587.20 from Michael Hartzfield at 1323 Old Goliad Road in Precinct No. 3, Victoria County, Texas to conduct drainage improvements in Victoria County right-of-way. Motion adopted.

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

(23-56:52)

23. November 24, 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. Rick McBrayer, Emergency Management Coordinator - Victoria Office of Emergency Management:

1. Request to payout 74.9 hours of compensatory time earned by Jessica Kalmus, EM Specialist and 18.19 hours earned by Alex Partida, Disaster Recovery Coordinator, with a total of \$3,137.73 to be paid from the current VOEM budget.

Motion adopted.

24. Receive for the record Discretionary Fund Budget Amendments, if any, and take appropriate action.

(24-57:27)

24. November 24, 2025. None. No action taken.

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

(25-57:39)

25. November 24, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the 2025 budget amendment for:

- a. General Fund/Various Departments, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- b. General Fund/Sheriff's Office, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- 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. 2, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- f. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 3, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- g. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 4, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- h. Law Library Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- i. Capital Projects Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- j. Health Department, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

26. Closed meeting pursuant to V.C.T.A. Government Code §551.074 to discuss personnel in various departments, §551.072 to discuss real property, and §551.071 to conduct a private consultation with the County's attorney regarding matters protected by the attorney-client privilege.

(26-58:32)

26. November 24, 2025. The Commissioners' Court went into closed session at 10:59 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.074 to discuss personnel in various departments; §551.072 to discuss real property, and §551.071 to conduct a private consultation with the County's attorney regarding matters protected by the attorney-client privilege. .

27. Pursuant to V.C.T.A. Government Code §551.102, return to an open meeting and take any action deemed necessary based upon discussion in the closed meeting.

(27-59:28)

27. November 24, 2025. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 11:22 a.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

28. Adjourn.

(28-59:35)

28. November 24, 2025. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of November 24, 2025.