

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **1st day December 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	Present until 10:25 am
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, December 1, 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. December 1, 2025. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, December 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. December 1, 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.

(3-1:15)

3. December 1, 2025. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Farmers Market Manager Miranda Lester invited the Court to the Victoria Farmer's Market this Saturday.

County Judge Zeller stated the last two Commissioners Court meetings will be held on December 8th and December 15th and mentioned the Christmas Parade is this Saturday.

(5:08) Assistant Fire Marshal Nathan Kelley informed the Court that the burn ban will be lifted.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-3:38)

4. December 1, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on November 24, 2025. Motion adopted.

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

(5-3:56)

5. December 1, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford,

County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	12/1/2025	\$441,919.50
Supplemental Accounts	11/18/2025 – 11/21/2025	\$197,200.47

Motion adopted.

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

(6-4:25)

6. December 1, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the County Judge and County Commissioners, Precincts Nos. 1 - 4. Motion adopted.

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

(7-4:56)

7. December 1, 2025. None. No action taken.

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

(8-6:05)

8. December 1, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the CMC interim vendor payments dated November 26, 2025, in the amount of \$309,032.30 and the ACH report dated November 26, 2025, in the amount of \$2,429,563.61. Motion adopted.

9. Consider an Order creating a promotional reimbursement program for Victoria County residents for air travel from Victoria Regional Airport from December 1, 2025 through January 6, 2026, as authorized in Chapter 381 of the Texas Local Government Code, and take appropriate action.

(9-6:40)

9. December 1, 2025. Victoria Regional Airport Executive Director Lenny Llerena discussed the promotional reimbursement program with the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved an Order creating a promotional reimbursement program for Victoria County residents for round trip air travel between Victoria Regional Airport and IAH-George Bush Intercontinental Airport from December 1, 2025 through January 6, 2026, as authorized in Chapter 381 of the Texas Local Government Code. Motion adopted.

10. Receive for the record a partnership letter from the Gabriel Project of the Crossroads regarding hosting a Giving Tree and Donation Box within the Victoria County Courthouse and take appropriate action.

(10-13:00)

10. December 1, 2025. Executive Director Bridget DeLosSantos with The Gabriel Project explained the Mother/Baby Outreach and Bethlehem Maternity Home programs. Commissioner Sexton asked the public to help out during this season if they are able to. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received for the record a partnership letter from the Gabriel Project of the Crossroads regarding hosting a Giving Tree and Donation Box within the Victoria County Courthouse. Motion adopted.

11. Consider creation of a Paralegal/Intake Coordinator position for the Victoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office and take appropriate action.

(11-17:29)

11. December 1, 2025. Victoria County District Attorney Constance Filley Johnson provided information to the Court on how this position would be an asset to the office and how it will be funded in 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the creation of a Paralegal/Intake Coordinator position for the Victoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office. Motion adopted.

12. Consider approval of a request to pay \$13,250.00 to the Mission Valley Volunteer Fire Department for its portion of a grant from the Texas Forest Service to purchase a new large brush truck, and take appropriate action.

(12-21:43)

12. December 1, 2025. Assistant Fire Marshal Nathan Kelley provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved a request to pay \$13,250.00 to the Mission Valley Volunteer Fire Department for its portion of a grant from the Texas Forest Service to purchase a new large brush truck. Motion adopted.

13. Consider approval of an Interlocal Agreement between TexBuy/Region 16 ESC Statewide Cooperative Purchase Program and Victoria County and take appropriate action.

(13-23:01)

13. December 1, 2025. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved an Interlocal Agreement between TexBuy/Region 16 ESC Statewide Cooperative Purchase Program and Victoria County. Motion adopted.

14. Consider approval of Victoria County ARPA Program Reimbursement Request in the amount of \$21,612.50 in connection to the Victoria County Navigation District-Texas Logistics Center Rail Expansion, and take appropriate action.

(14-24:00)

14. December 1, 2025. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Victoria County ARPA Program Reimbursement Request in the amount of \$21,612.50 in connection to the Victoria County Navigation District-Texas Logistics Center Rail Expansion. Motion adopted.

15. Discuss and consider vendor change for Victoria County purchasing cards and take appropriate action.

(15-25:23)

15. December 1, 2025. County Treasurer Paige Foster informed the Court that the vendor change information for Victoria County purchasing cards has been received, but due to the Thanksgiving holidays will not be ready to present to the Court until next week. No action taken.

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

(16-26:02)

16. December 1, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

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

1. Request for payment of 240.75 compensatory hours in the amount of \$3,406.66 for civilian personnel Kathryn Behrends, to be paid from the current salary float (340-560-1115) in the 2025 Budget.

Motion adopted.

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

(17-26:28)

17. December 1, 2025. None. No action taken.

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

(18-26:49)

18. December 1, 2025. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the 2025 budget amendment for:

- a. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 1, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- b. General Fund/Various Departments, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- c. Emergency Management, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- d. Court Initiated Guardians Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- e. Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- f. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 3, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- g. Rural Prosecutors Office Salary Assistance Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- h. Airport Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- i. Capital Projects Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- j. Health Department, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- k. General Fund/Sheriff's Office, Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

19. Adjourn.

(19-27:07)

19. December 1, 2025. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of December 1, 2025