

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **12th day January A.D., 2026**, the Commissioners Court convened in **Regular 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, January 12, 2026, 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. January 12, 2026. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Regular Term for Monday, January 12, 2026 at 10:01 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. January 12, 2026. 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.

(3-1:51)

3. January 12, 2026. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Fire Marshal Dan Porter spoke to the Court about the winter and dry conditions and burning in Victoria County.

County Judge Zeller reminded everyone that the last day to register to vote for the upcoming election is February 2, 2026. Judge Zeller provided an updated status on the recruitment for a new Elections Administrator and stated the position for the Animal Services Director will be posted this week.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-5:18)

4. January 12, 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the amended minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on December 15, 2025, and the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on January 5, 2026. Motion adopted.

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

(5-5:35)

5. January 12, 2026. 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	1/12/2026	\$521,151.17
Supplemental Accounts	12/30/2025 – 1/5/2026	\$33,609.62

Motion adopted.

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

(6-6:00)

6. January 12, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the County Judge; County Commissioners, Precincts Nos. 1 - 4; County Treasurer; District Clerk; County Auditor; Sheriff; Fire Marshal; Justices of the Peace, Precincts Nos. 1, 2 and 3; and Constable, Precinct No. 1. Motion adopted.

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

(7-6:30)

7. January 12, 2026. There were no bond forfeiture releases. No action taken.

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

(8-6:39)

8. January 12, 2026. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the interim vendor payments for Citizens Medical Center dated January 8, 2026 in the amount of \$160,928.97 and the ACH report dated January 8, 2026 in the amount of \$3,013,241.01. Motion adopted.

9. Receive executed copy of FY2026 Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG) 2nd Offering Contract No. C-02899 for the Victoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office, and take appropriate action.

(9-7:16)

9. January 12, 2026. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the executed copy of FY2026 Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG) 2nd Offering Contract No. C-02899 for the Victoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office. Motion adopted.

10. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2026-016 for the Bullet-Resistant Components for Law Enforcement Vehicles Project, Grant No. 5640801, for the Victoria County Sheriff's Office (VCSO) and take appropriate action.

(10-7:54)

10. January 12, 2026. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2026-016 for the Bullet-Resistant Components for Law Enforcement Vehicles Project, Grant No. 5640801, for the Victoria County Sheriff's Office (VCSO). Motion adopted.

11. Consider approval of High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HITDA) Grant No. G24HN0020A Modification No. 2 for the Victoria County Sheriff's Office (VCSO) and take appropriate action.

(11-8:40)

11. January 12, 2026. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Grant No. G24HN0020A Modification No. 2 for the Victoria County Sheriff's Office (VCSO). Motion adopted.

- 12. Consider approval of Lynn Engineering Contract for Professional Engineering Services for CDBG-MIT Project No. 24-065-186-F328 and take appropriate action.**
(12-9:34)

12. January 12, 2026. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided the Court with information. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the contract between Victoria County and Lynn Engineering for Professional Engineering Services for CDBG-MIT Project No. 24-065-186-F328. Motion adopted.

- 13. Consider approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) for Texas Emergency Management Assistance Teams (TEMAT), and take appropriate action.**
(13-12:44)

13. January 12, 2026. Emergency Management Coordinator Rick McBrayer provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Texas Emergency Management Assistance Teams (TEMAT) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and Victoria County. Motion adopted.

- 14. Receive for the record the following applications for a tax abatement at the Victoria County Navigation District and take appropriate action:**
a. First Ammonia, Phase I.

(14a-14:26)

14a. January 12, 2026. Victoria Economic Development Corporation President Jonas Titas provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received for the record the First Ammonia Victoria, Phase I Tax Abatement Application for the Victoria County Navigation District. Motion adopted.

Receive for the record the following applications for a tax abatement at the Victoria County Navigation District and take appropriate action:

b. First Ammonia, Phase II.

(14b-14:26)

14b. January 12, 2026. Jonas Titas, President of Victoria Economic Development Corporation, provided the Court with information. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received for the record the First Ammonia Victoria, Phase II Tax Abatement Application for the Victoria County Navigation District. Motion adopted.

- 15. Consider approval of the following Resolutions for Donations made to the Victoria County Sheriff's Office, and take appropriate action:**
a. Resolution No. 2026-018 valued at \$500.00 from Linda Barnett for Deputy Appreciation.

(15a-20:44)

15a. January 12, 2026. Sheriff Justin Marr 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. 2026-018 for a one-time donation with a total value of \$500.00 from Linda Barnett to be utilized for and dedicated to Victoria County Sheriff's Office to be contributed towards their identified purposes. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following Resolutions for Donations made to the Victoria County Sheriff's Office, and take appropriate action:

b. Resolution No. 2026-017 valued at \$1,267.58 from the Emmanuel Lutheran Church for use by the Victoria County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit.

(15b-20:44)

15b. January 12, 2026. Justin Marr, Sheriff, provided the Court with information. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, pursuant to Local Government Code §81.032, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2026-017 for one-time donations with a value of \$1,267.58 from Emmanuel Lutheran Church to be utilized for and dedicated to Victoria County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit to be contributed towards their identified purposes. Motion adopted.

- 16. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2026-019 for various donations made to Victoria County Animal Services in the total amount of \$2,700.58, and take appropriate action.**

(16-22:13)

16. January 12, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, pursuant to Local Government Code §81.032, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2026-019 for one-time donations with a total value of \$2,700.58 from various donors to be utilized for and dedicated to Victoria County Animal Services (VCAS) to be contributed towards their identified purposes. Motion adopted.

- 17. Receive for the record an executed Warranty Deed for JD Schovajsa for the purchase Right of Way on Tipton Road in the amount of \$1,700.00 in Precinct 4, in connection with the TxDOT Tipton Road Bridge Replacement Project, and take appropriate action.**

(17-23:08)

17. January 12, 2026. Commissioner Kenneth Sexton provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received for the record an executed Warranty Deed for JD Schovajsa for the purchase of a Right of Way on Tipton Road in the amount of \$1,700.00 in Precinct No. 4, in connection with the TxDOT Tipton Road Bridge Replacement Project. Motion adopted.

- 18. Consider approval of personnel changes, if any, and take appropriate action.**

(18-23:55)

18. January 12, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

a. Ben Zeller, County Judge - County Judge's Office:

1. Tuition Reimbursement for Victoria Caldera, Case Worker for the Victoria County Regional Public Defender's Office (Crossroads Defenders) for eligible hours completed at Texas A&M University-Victoria for the Fall

Motion adopted.

19. Consider approval of Discretionary Fund budget amendments, if any, and take appropriate action.

(19-24:24)

19. January 12, 2026. There were no discretionary fund budget amendments. No action taken.

20. Consider approval of 2026 budget amendments and take appropriate action.

(20-24:43)

20. January 12, 2026. There were no 2026 budget amendments. No action taken.

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

(21-25:05)

21. January 12, 2026. The Commissioners' Court went into closed session at 10:27 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 attorney-client privilege.

22. 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.

(22-25:46)

22. January 12, 2026. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 12:15 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

23. Adjourn.

(23-25:50)

23. January 12, 2026. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of January 12, 2026.