

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **20th day January A.D., 2026**, 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

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 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. January 20, 2026. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. January 20, 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.

(3-1:31)

3. January 20, 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 drought conditions and the KBDI numbers for Victoria County.

County Judge Zeller spoke about the colder weather conditions that are expected for Victoria County this weekend.

Commissioner Kenneth Sexton stated the position of the Victoria County Animal Services Director has been posted.

County Judge Zeller reminded everyone that the last day to register to vote for the upcoming election is February 2, 2026.

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

4. Consider approval of the following minutes and take appropriate action:

a. December 15, 2025 corrected Commissioners Court minutes.

(4a-4:32)

4a. January 20, 2026. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the

Commissioners Court approved the corrected minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on December 15, 2025. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following minutes and take appropriate action:

b. January 12, 2026 Commissioners Court minutes.

(4b-4:32)

4b. January 20, 2026. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on January 12, 2026. Motion adopted.

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

(5-4:49)

5. January 20, 2026. 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	1/20/2026	\$589,716.17
Supplemental Accounts	1/6/2026 – 1/12/2026	\$191,277.91

Motion adopted.

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

(6-5:03)

6. January 20, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received the monthly reports from the County Treasurer; County Clerk; Criminal District Attorney; Tax Assessor Collector; Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 4; and Constable, Precinct No. 4. Motion adopted.

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

(7-5:32)

7. January 20, 2026. There were no bond forfeiture releases. No action taken.

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

(8-5:40)

8. January 20, 2026. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the interim vendor payments for Citizens Medical Center dated January 15, 2026 in the amount of \$46,569.32 and the ACH report dated January 15, 2026 in the amount of \$1,891,954.61. Motion adopted.

9. Recognize 2025 fourth quarter employee anniversaries and take appropriate action.

(9-6:24)

9. January 20, 2026. County Judge Zeller recognized the Victoria County employees' anniversaries for the fourth quarter of 2025. Judge Zeller presented each of the following

employees with a certificate for their years of service:

1 Year

Dana Dobbs
Emmitt Phillips
Mariah Tinney
Benjamin Ramos
Charles Lobstein
Kimberly Green
Isaiah Crowley
Shelby Fletcher
Veronica Briseno
Richard Ramirez
Katy Williams
Shawna George
Antonio Rodriguez
Diana Espinosa
Graciela Garcia

5 Years

Marilyn Davis
Blake Eschenburg
Harbour Holliday
Jose Sanchez
Omar Garcia
Michael Porter

10 Years

Linda Fury
Jennifer Wheelen .
Bryant Zandonatti
Onelia Trevino
Maria Conley

15 Years

Ronnie Orsak

20 Years

Jeremy Bateman
Shirley West
Mary Tanguma

25 Years

Cynthia Salinas

No action taken

10. Authorize Victoria County Precincts 3 & 4 Road & Bridge to provide assistance to the Victoria Livestock Show and take appropriate action.

(10-16:38)

10. January 20, 2026. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court authorized Victoria County Precincts Nos. 3 and 4 Road and Bridge to provide assistance for the "Set Up" and the "Knock Down" of the annual

Victoria Livestock Show, with the setup to begin on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.
Motion adopted.

11. Consider the following in connection to the Victoria County Mental Health Behavioral Facility and take appropriate action:

a. Authorize SpawGlass to initiate early mobilization for construction.

(11a-17:29)

11a. January 20, 2026. Assistant County Engineer Avery Flessner provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court authorized SpawGlass to initiate early mobilization for construction in connection to the Victoria County Mental Health Behavioral Facility. Motion adopted.

Consider the following in connection to the Victoria County Mental Health Behavioral Facility and take appropriate action:

b. Authorize the County Auditor to process payments to SpawGlass during the early mobilization period, with funding from the Victoria County General Fund.

(11b-17:29)

11b. January 20, 2026. Avery Flessner, Assistant County Engineer, provided the Court with information. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court authorized the County Auditor to process payments to SpawGlass during the early mobilization period, with funding from the Victoria County General Fund, in connection to the Victoria County Mental Health Behavioral Facility. Motion adopted.

12. Authorize the County Judge to execute contract amendment with Square One to expand scope of services to include materials testing, pending legal review, in connection to the Victoria County Mental & Behavioral Health Facility Project and take appropriate action.

(12-20:03)

12. January 20, 2026. Avery Flessner, Assistant County Engineer, provided the Court with information. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court authorized the County Judge to execute a contract amendment with Square One to expand the scope of services to include materials testing, pending legal review, in connection to the Victoria County Mental and Behavioral Health Facility Project. Motion adopted.

13. Consider approval of funding to replace expiring PetSmart grant for Victoria County Animal Services (VCAS) Adoption Coordinator position, and take appropriate action.

(13-21:31)

13. January 20, 2026. Interim Animal Services Director Joe Hernandez provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved funding to replace the expiring PetSmart grant for Victoria County Animal Services (VCAS) Adoption Coordinator position. Motion adopted.

- 14. Consider approval of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Draw Request No. 9 in the amount of \$393,828.20 for the Victoria County Navigation District and take appropriate action.**

(14-25:28)

14. January 20, 2026. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Draw Request No. 9 in the amount of \$393,828.20 for the Victoria County Navigation District. Motion adopted.

- 15. Consider the following for the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action:**

a. Approval of the Ryan White Service Delivery Grant.

(15a-25:57)

15a. January 20, 2026. Public Health Director David Gonzales provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the contract amendment for the Ryan White Service Delivery Grant for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

Consider the following for the Victoria County Public Health Department and take appropriate action:

b. Receive fully executed Contract Amendment No. 4 for the CPS/PHEP Grant (CPS/Hazards).

(15b-25:57)

15b. January 20, 2026. David Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the fully executed Contract No. HHS001439500032 Amendment No. 4 for the CPS/PHEP Grant (CPS/Hazards) for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

- 16. Consider approval of Victoria County Constable, Precinct 2 2025 Racial Profiling Report and take appropriate action.**

(16-27:28)

16. January 20, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received the 2025 Racial Profiling Report for Victoria County Constable, Precinct No. 2. Motion adopted.

- 17. Consider approval of Application for Payment No. 20 for Forney Construction, LLC in the amount of \$690,512.81 in connection to the Citizens Medical Center Intensive Care Unit Additions and Renovations Project, and take appropriate action.**

(17-28:13)

17. January 20, 2026. Mike Olson, CEO of Citizens Medical Center, gave an update on the status of the additions and renovations project for Citizen Medical Center Intensive Care Unit. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Application for Payment No. 20 for Forney Construction, LLC in the amount of \$690,512.81 in connection to the Citizens Medical Center Intensive Care Unit Additions and Renovations Project. Motion adopted.

18. Consider approval of listing agreement amendments for the following Victoria County properties and take appropriate action:

a. 8410 FM 236, Victoria, Texas 77905.

(18a-30:35)

18a. January 20, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the listing agreement for Victoria County property located at 8410 FM 236, Victoria, Texas, 77905. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of listing agreement amendments for the following Victoria County properties and take appropriate action:

b. 2604 Mockingbird Ln., Suite A, Victoria, Texas 77904.

(18b-30:35)

18b. January 20, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the listing agreement for Victoria County property located at 2604 Mockingbird Lane, Suite A, Victoria, Texas 77904. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of listing agreement amendments for the following Victoria County properties and take appropriate action:

c. 311 E. Constitution St., Suite 100, Victoria, Texas 77901.

(18c-30:35)

18c. January 20, 2026. County Engineer John Johnston recommended the Court to pause on the 311 E. Constitution Street Agreement due to needing additional information. The Commissioners Court passed on the listing agreement for Victoria County property located at 311 E. Constitution Street, Suite 100, Victoria, Texas, 77901. No action taken.

19. Consider approval of the following requests for plat exemption and take appropriate action:

a. Lance C. Easley at 1828 FM 237, located in Precinct 2, Victoria County, Texas.

(19a-32:27)

19a. January 20, 2026. Assistant County Engineer Avery Flessner provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the request for plat exemption from Lance C. Easley at 1828 FM 237 located within Precinct No. 2, Victoria County, Texas 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 away 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.

Consider approval of the following requests for plat exemption and take appropriate action:

b. Blake Staff at 194 & 136 Panorama, located in Precinct 2, Victoria County, Texas. (19b-32:27)

19b. January 20, 2026. Assistant County Engineer Avery Flessner provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the request for plat exemption from Blake Staff at 194 and 136 Panorama located within Precinct No. 2, Victoria County, Texas 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 away frontage or have 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.

- 20. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2026-020 for a road donation valued at \$800.00 from Michael John at 430 Wischkaemper Rd. in Precinct 4, Victoria County, Texas and take appropriate action.**

(20-33:39)

20. January 20, 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2026-020 for a road donation in the amount of \$800.00 from Michael John at 430 Wischkaemper Road in Precinct No. 4, Victoria County, Texas for the installation of driveway and pipe culvert. Motion adopted.

- 21. Receive for the record a letter of permission to enter private property of G.A. Kupfernagel at 13407 N.W. Zac Lentz Parkway in Precinct 3, Victoria County, Texas and take appropriate action.**

(21-34:29)

21. January 20, 2026. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received for the record the letter of permission to enter private property of G.A. Kupfernagel at 13407 N.W. Zac Lentz Parkway in Precinct No. 3, Victoria County, Texas with the purpose of improving drainage related to a County Road. Motion adopted.

- 22. Receive for the record the following updated policies and take appropriate action:
a. Personnel Policy.**

(22a-34:50)

22a. January 20, 2026. Human Resources Director Giani Cantu provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Personnel Policy for Victoria County. Motion adopted.

- Receive for the record the following updated policies and take appropriate action:
b. Drug-free Workplace Policy.**

(22b-34:50)

22b. January 20, 2026. Human Resources Director Giani Cantu provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the Drug-free Workplace Policy for Victoria County. Motion adopted.

- Receive for the record the following updated policies and take appropriate action:
c. Disaster Pay Policy.**

(22c-34:50)

22c. January 20, 2026. Human Resources Director Giani Cantu provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the

Commissioners Court approved the Disaster Pay Policy for Victoria County. Motion adopted.

23. Consider approval of revisions to Section 2A-14 Travel and Subsistence and 2B-13 Paid Quarantine Leave of the Personnel Policy and take appropriate action.

(23-35:37)

23. January 20, 2026. Human Resources Director Giani Cantu provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the revisions to Section 2A-14 Travel and Subsistence and 2B-13 Paid Quarantine Leave of the Personnel Policy. Motion adopted.

24. Consider reclassification of current part-time Clerk II position to a full-time Assistant Veteran Services Director and take appropriate action.

(24-36:58)

24. January 20, 2026. Veterans Services Director John Williams provided information to the Court. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the reclassification of the current part-time Clerk II vacant position to a full-time Assistant Veteran Services Director. Motion adopted.

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

(25-44:21)

25. January 20, 2026. There were no personnel changes. No action taken.

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

(26-44:35)

26. January 20, 2026. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the 2025 budget amendments for:

- a. Health Department, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- b. General Fund/Various Departments, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- c. Emergency Management, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- d. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 1, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- e. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 3, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- f. Rural Sheriff's Office Salary Assistance Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- g. Airport Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- h. Health Insurance Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- i. Child Welfare Board, Revenues - Decrease

Motion adopted.

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

(27-44:53)

27. January 20, 2025. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received for the record the 2026 Discretionary Fund Budget

Amendment from the CDA Contraband Forfeiture Fund No. 370 as an increase to expenditures, the 2025 Discretionary Fund Budget Amendments from the Sheriff's Forfeiture Fund No. 360 as a line item transfer to expenditures, the Sheriff's DOT Federal Forfeiture Fund No. 372 as a line item transfer to expenditures, and the Sheriff Commissary Fund No. 380 as a line item transfer to expenditures. Motion adopted.

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

(28-46:01)

28. January 20, 2026. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the 2026 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund/Various Departments, Expenditures - Increase
- b. Rural Prosecutors Office Salary Assistance Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- c. Airport Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- d. Capital Projects Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- e. General Fund/Various Departments, Expenditures - Increase

Motion adopted.

29. 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.
(29-46:39)

29. January 20, 2026. The Commissioners' Court went into closed session at 10:46 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.

30. 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.
(30-47:31)

30. January 20, 2026. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 1:28 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

31. Adjourn.
(31-47:44)

31. January 20, 2026. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of January 20, 2026.