

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **13th day July 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, July 13, 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. July 13, 2026. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Regular Term for Monday, July 13, 2026, at 10:01 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. July 13, 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.

(3-2:37)

3. July 13, 2026. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Judge Zeller introduced Ciara Tamez, temporary interim for the County Judges Office. Ms. Tamez provided her background information.

Fire Marshal Dan Porter provided an update on the Fourth of July at Patriot Park. Commissioner Shannon Martin thanked Fire Marshal Porter and his staff, along with the volunteer fire departments, for their work at Patriot Park on the Fourth of July. Fire Marshal Porter gave special recognition to the Quail Creek volunteer fire department for being on stand-by at Patriot Park on July 4th.

Kenneth Schustereit of 275 Baass Lane spoke to the Court about the proposed Data Center and asked that the Court pass a non-binding resolution that no BESS battery energy storage unit be located in Victoria county.

Michael Vonderau of 2107 N. Ben Jordan spoke about the Camp Mystic flood that occurred a year ago and issues at Summerstone Apartments.

Chief Appraiser Keri Wickliffe mentioned that applications for the Appraisal Review Board members are being accepted now through October 1, 2026.

Victoria Economic Development Corporation President Jonas Titas spoke about the Blue Energy Project.

Vee Strauss, VEDC Board chair; Gerald King of 404 Rattan; and John Clegg of Mission Valley; all spoke in support of the Blue Energy Project.

Jewel Buchanan of 201 Creekridge Drive spoke about the upcoming budget and against the Blue Energy Project and Data Center.

Port of Victoria's Executive Director Sean Stibich introduced Eddie Martinez,

Business and Marketing Director. Mr. Martinez provided background information. Mr. Stibich spoke about power generation projects at the Port of Victoria.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-31:43)

4. July 13, 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on June 29, 2026. Motion adopted.

5. Consider the following accounts payable and take appropriate action:

a. Ratify July 6, 2026 Accounts Payable.

(5a-31:59)

5a. July 13, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court ratified the July 6, 2026 accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford, County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	7/6/2026	\$750,477.89
Supplemental Accounts	6/23/2026 - 6/29/2026	\$337,268.16

Motion adopted.

Consider the following accounts payable and take appropriate action:

b. Approval of July 13, 2026 Accounts Payable.

(5b-31:59)

5b. July 13, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the July 13, 2026 accounts payable as presented by Michelle Samford, County Auditor.

Regular Accounts	7/13/2026	\$301,873.85
Supplemental Accounts	6/30/2026 - 7/6/2026	\$660,505.98

Motion adopted.

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

(6-32:57)

6. July 13, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the monthly reports from the County Treasurer; County Clerk; Criminal District Attorney; County Tax Assessor; County Auditor; Sheriff; Fire Marshal; Justices of the Peace, Precincts Nos. 1 - 4; Constables, Precincts Nos. 1 - 4; and Pre-Trial Services. Motion adopted.

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

(7-33:25)

7. July 13, 2026. There were no release of bond forfeiture judgments. No action taken.

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

a. July 2, 2026 Interim Vendor Payments.

(8a-33:36)

8a. July 13, 2026. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the interim vendor payments for Citizens Medical Center dated July 2, 2026, in the amount of \$182,046.43 and the ACH report dated July 2, 2026, in the amount of \$4,820,914.18. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following Citizens Medical Center interim vendor payments and take appropriate action:

b. July 9, 2026 Interim Vendor Payments.

(8b-33:36)

8b. July 13, 2026. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the interim vendor payments for Citizens Medical Center dated July 9, 2026, in the amount of \$99,744.54 and the ACH report dated July 9, 2026, in the amount of \$1,592,391.82. Motion adopted.

9. Consider approval of Order No. 2026-074 for an appropriation to the Victoria County Volunteer Fire Department and take appropriate action.

(9-34:50)

9. July 13, 2026. Fire Marshal Dan Porter provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved Order No. 2026-074 for a 2026 appropriation in the amount of \$5,000.00 to the Victoria County Volunteer Fire Department. Motion adopted.

10. Receive notice of High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Grant Award No. HID0926G0791-00 and take appropriate action.

(10-35:39)

10. July 13, 2026. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received notice of High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Grant Award No. HID0926G0791-00. Motion adopted.

11. Receive notification for Subrecipient Management Costs budget revision/appeal approval for the Victoria County Regional Emergency Operations Community Safe Room Project DR-4485-0005, and take appropriate action.

(11-36:29)

11. July 13, 2026. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, and Avery Flessner, County Engineer, provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received the notification for Subrecipient Management Costs budget revision/appeal approval for the Victoria County Regional Emergency Operations Community Safe Room Project DR-4485-0005. Motion adopted.

12. Consider approval of a Request for Payment to Lynn Engineering, LLC in the amount of \$7,500 in connection with the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Award, Grant No. CDV23-0328, and take appropriate action.

(12-41:03)

12. July 13, 2026. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved a Request for Payment to Lynn Engineering, LLC in the amount of \$7,500.00 in connection with the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Award, Grant No. CDV23-0328. Motion adopted.

- 13. Receive for the record American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Billy T. Cattan Sub-Recipient Agreement Amendment 02 and take appropriate action.**

(13-41:46)

13. July 13, 2026. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided the Court with information. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court received for the record the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Billy T. Cattan Sub-Recipient Agreement Amendment 02. Motion adopted.

- 14. Receive for the record executed settlement documents securing the purchase of 10.01 acres of unimproved property from the Estate of Thomas L. Sterne in connection with the Victoria County Regional Public Safety Training Center Project (VC-RPSTC) and take appropriate action.**

(14-42:09)

14. July 13, 2026. County Engineer Avery Flessner provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioner Court received for the record the executed settlement documents securing the purchase of 10.01 acres of unimproved property from the Estate of Thomas L. Sterne in connection with the Victoria County Regional Public Safety Training Center Project (VC-RPSTC). Motion adopted.

- 15. Ratify amended Iron Mountain Contract in connection with the Victoria County Archive Relocation Project and take appropriate action.**

(15-45:05)

15. July 13, 2026. Procurement Specialist Adrienne Willis provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court ratified the amended Iron Mountain Contract in connection with the Victoria County Archive Relocation Project. Motion adopted.

- 16. Consider approval of Payment Application No. 26 to Forney Construction, LLC in the amount of \$195,019.11 in connection with the Citizen's Medical Center Intensive Care Unit Additions and Renovations project, and take appropriate action.**

(16-48:31)

16. July 13, 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved Payment Application No. 26 to Forney Construction, LLC in the amount of \$195,019.11 in connection with the Citizen's Medical Center Intensive Care Unit Additions and Renovations project. Motion adopted.

- 17. Consider approval of the following in connection with the Citizens Medical Center Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Parking Lot Project and take appropriate action:**
a. Forney Construction Parking Lot Project Contract - Guaranteed Maximum Price Agreement.

(17a-48:51)

17a. July 13, 2026. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Forney Construction Parking Lot Project Contract - Guaranteed Maximum Price Agreement in connection with the Citizen's Medical Center Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Parking Lot project. Motion adopted.

Consider approval of the following in connection with the Citizens Medical Center Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Parking Lot Project and take appropriate action:
b. Payment Application No. 1 to Forney Construction, LLC in the amount of \$50,727.91.

(17b-48:51)

17b. July 13, 2026. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Payment Application No. 1 to Forney Construction, LLC in the amount of \$50,727.91 in connection with the Citizen's Medical Center Intensive Care Unit Parking Lot project. Motion adopted.

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

a. Falls, Milam, Robertson County - Detention and Residential.

(18a-49:21)

18a. July 13, 2026. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Falls, Milam, and Robertson County. Motion adopted.

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

b. Jasper County - Detention and Residential.

(18b-49:21)

18b. July 13, 2026. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Jasper County. Motion adopted.

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

c. Lamb County - Detention and Residential.

(18c-49:21)

18c. July 13, 2026. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Lamb County. Motion adopted.

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

d. Matagorda County - Detention and Residential.

(18d-49:21)

18d. July 13, 2026. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Matagorda County. Motion adopted.

19. Receive for the record a Letter of Permission to enter private property from John and JoAnn Banks for the purpose of improving drainage located at Kendrick Road in Precinct 4, Victoria County, Texas and take appropriate action.

(19-49:45)

19. July 13, 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court received for the record the Letter of Permission from John and JoAnn R. Banks to enter private property located at Kendrick Road in Precinct No. 4, Victoria County, Texas for the purpose of improving drainage related to a County Road. Motion adopted.

- 20. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2026-075 for a road donation from Lee Kucera for the installation of a pipe culvert located at Garcitas Creek Ranch Estates Lot 4, Block 16 in Precinct 4, Victoria County, Texas and take appropriate action.**

(20-50:10)

20. July 13, 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2026-075 for a road donation in the amount of \$900.00 from Lee Kucera at Garcitas Creek Ranch Estates Block 4, Lot 16 in Precinct No. 4, Victoria County, Texas for corrugated pipe. Motion adopted.

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

(21-50:38)

21. July 13, 2026. 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. Karen Cline, Elections Administrator - Elections Office:

1. Correction: Position G/L Code Change for Lauren Ashley Cisneros, from Extra Help, at a rate of \$20.05, Budget Code 100-490-1104 to Administrative Assistant, effective June 27, 2026. Grade 4 Plan General Tier n/a. Remarks: Comm Crt will approve 7/13/26.

Motion adopted.

- 22. Receive for the record discretionary budget amendments, if any, and take appropriate action.**

(22-51:10)

22. July 13, 2026. There were no 2026 Discretionary Funds Budget Amendments. No action taken.

- 23. Consider the following 2026 budget amendments and take appropriate action:
a. Ratify July 6, 2026 Budget Amendments.**

(23a-51:23)

23a. July 13, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court ratified the July 6, 2026 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments - Expenditures - Line item transfer
- b. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 1, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- c. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 2, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- d. Elections Administrators Special, Expenditures - Increase
- e. Capital Projects Fund - 2025B, Expenditures - Increase

Motion adopted.

- Consider the following 2026 budget amendments and take appropriate action:
b. Approval of July 13, 2026 Budget Amendments.**

(23b-51:23)

23b. July 13, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the July 13, 2026 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund, Various Departments - Expenditures - Line item transfer
- b. Emergency Management, Expenditures - Line item transfer

- c. Road and Bridge, Precinct No. 4, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- d. Capital Projects Fund - 2025B - Expenditures - Increase
- e. Health Department, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer

Motion adopted.

- 24. Closed session pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.074 to discuss personnel in various departments, §551.0745 to discuss boards and commissions, §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.**

(24-52:45)

24. July 13, 2026. 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; §551.0745 to discuss boards and commissions; §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.

- 25. 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.**

(25-53:46)

25. July 13, 2026. The Commissioners Court returned to open meeting at 12:34 p.m., pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102, with no action taken.

- 26. Adjourn.**

(26-54:13)

26. July 13, 2026. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of July 13, 2026.