

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF VICTORIA §

Be it remembered that on this the **17th day August 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
Monday, August 17, 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. August 17, 2026. Ben Zeller, County Judge, called to order the Commissioners Court Special Term for Monday, August 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Invocation and Pledges.

(2-0:00)

2. August 17, 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.

(3-1:21)

3. August 17, 2026. Judge Ben Zeller opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address general County business which was not on the meeting agenda.

Republican Chair Bill Pozzi commended Elections Administrator Karen Cline for her efficiency.

Michael Vonderau of 2107 N. Ben Jordan voiced his complaints about Summerstone Apartments.

Mike Shockley, Victoria resident, spoke about the proposed budget for Victoria County.

Gerald King of 404 Rattan spoke to the Court about abatements.

Joseph Napolitano, 602 W. Goodwin Avenue, spoke against the AI Data Center.

Scott Bauer of U.S. Congressman Michael Cloud's Office stated there will be a new world screwworm expert panel and update event held on August 19th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Victoria College Emerging Technology Complex. Mr. Bauer also mentioned the Freedom 250 Mobile Museum will be in Victoria, from September 1st through September 4th, 2026.

Procurement Specialist Adrienne Willis informed the Court that the solicitation pre-proposal meeting set for August 19th has been rescheduled to August 25th, 2026, still at the Engineering and Development office at 2:00 p.m.

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

4. Consider approval of minutes and take appropriate action.

(4-23:57)

4. August 17, 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the

Commissioners Court approved the minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting held on August 10, 2026. Motion adopted.

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

(5-24:11)

5. August 17, 2026. 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	8/17/2026	\$697,567.54
Supplemental Accounts	8/4/2026 - 8/10/2026	\$261,793.78

Motion adopted.

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

(6-24:36)

6. August 17, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the monthly reports from District Clerk; Criminal District Attorney; Tax Assessor Collector; and Justices of the Peace, Precincts Nos. 1 and 3. Motion adopted.

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

(7-25:27)

7. August 17, 2026. There were no bond forfeiture releases. No action taken.

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

(8-25:37)

8. August 17, 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the interim vendor payments for Citizens Medical Center dated August 13, 2026, in the amount of \$210,294.99 and the ACH report dated August 13, 2026, in the amount of \$2,434,179.41. Motion adopted.

9. Hear a Proclamation in commemoration of Hurricane Remembrance Week and take appropriate action.

(9-26:11)

9. August 17, 2026. County Judge Zeller read the Proclamation. Heritage Director Jeff Wright spoke about Indianola to the Court. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Proclamation proclaiming August 17th-24th, 2026 as Hurricane Remembrance Week in Victoria County. Motion adopted.

10. Hear a presentation from the Victoria Office of Emergency Management on Credentialing and Certification of Emergency Management Program and take appropriate action.

(10-34:50)

10. August 17, 2026. The Commissioners Court passed on hearing a presentation from the Victoria Office of Emergency Management on Credentialing and Certification of Emergency Management Program. No action taken.

11. Consider approval of Order No. 2026-083 ordering the November 3, 2026 General Election and take appropriate action.

(11-34:59)

11. August 17, 2026. Elections Administrator Karen Cline provided information to the Court. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Order No. 2026-083 ordering the November 3, 2026, General Election. Motion adopted.

12. Discuss and consider precinct polling locations for the November 3, 2026 General Election and take appropriate action.

(12-35:56)

12. August 17, 2026. Elections Administrator Karen Cline reviewed the polling location changes with the Court. The Court held a discussion regarding voting poll changes and being located in the Victoria Independent School District (VISD). Assistant Elections Administrator Jared Lucas explained the voting access for Vickers, Rowland, and DeLeon Elementary schools. Sherri Hathaway, VISD Chief Bond Manager; Rebecca Bootzun, Victoria resident; and Mike Shockley, Victoria resident; all spoke supporting voting poll locations on VISD campuses. Republican Chair Bill Pozzi spoke against voting locations at individual's houses and supports voting locations in VISD. Bethany Castro, VISD parent, spoke against closing locations and supports using VISD for poll locations. Democratic Party Chair Jewel Buchanan spoke about patriotism and voting at schools. County Judge's Chief of Staff Chris Nicholson spoke about past voting locations in Victoria County Precinct No. 3. Elections Administrator Karen Cline mentioned in order to be in- compliance with the law, a voting location would need to be closed in Precinct No. 4 or a voting location would need to be added in Precinct No. 3. No action taken.

13. Consider approval of Victoria County Clerk 2027 Archival Plan and take appropriate action.

(13-1:19:44)

13. August 17, 2026. County Clerk Heidi Easley provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Victoria County Clerk 2027 Archival Plan. Motion adopted.

14. Review and discuss no new revenue, de minimis, and voter approval tax rates and take appropriate action.

(14-1:21:51)

14. August 17, 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the no new revenue tax rate of 0.3790, the de minimis rate of 0.3966, and the voter approval tax rate of 0.4456. The Court voted as follows: County Judge Ben Zeller, Commissioner Danny Garcia, Commissioner Jason Ohrt, and Commissioner Kenneth Sexton voted aye. Commissioner Shannon Martin voted nay. Motion adopted.

15. Consider a request from Victoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office for Victoria County Auditor's Office to conduct the FY2026 audit for Article 59.06 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Asset Forfeiture Report and take appropriate action.

(15-1:23:11)

15. August 17, 2026. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the request from the Victoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office for the Victoria County Auditor's Office to conduct the FY2026 audit

for Article 59.06 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Asset Forfeiture Report. Motion adopted.

- 16. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2026-084 for various monetary and material donations made to Victoria County Animal Services, and take appropriate action.**
(16-1:23:38)

16. August 17, 2026. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Jason Ohrt, pursuant to Local Government Code §81.032, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2026-084 for various one-time monetary and material donations to be utilized made to Victoria County Animal Services. Motion adopted.

- 17. Consider the following in connection with the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY2025 Local Formula Award No. 15PBJA-25-GG-02698-JAGX and take appropriate action:**
a. Approval of award.
(17a-1:24:21)

17a. August 17, 2026. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided the Court with information. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court approved the award in connection with the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY2025 Local Formula Award No. 15PBJA-25-GG-02698-JAGX. Motion adopted.

- Consider the following in connection with the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY2025 Local Formula Award No. 15PBJA-25-GG-02698-JAGX and take appropriate action:**
b. Receive CEO Certification.
(17b-1:24:21)

17b. August 17, 2026. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the CEO Certification in connection with the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY2025 Local Formula Award No. 15PBJA-25-GG-02698-JAGX. Motion adopted.

- Consider the following in connection with the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY2025 Local Formula Award No. 15PBJA-25-GG-02698-JAGX and take appropriate action:**
c. Receive executed City of Victoria MOU.
(17c-1:24:21)

17c. August 17, 2026. Robin Knipling, Grant Administrator, provided the Court with information. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court received the executed City of Victoria MOU in connection with the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY2025 Local Formula Award No. 15PBJA-25-GG-02698-JAGX. Motion adopted.

- Consider the following in connection with the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY2025 Local Formula Award No. 15PBJA-25-GG-02698-JAGX and take appropriate action:**
d. Authorize Grant Administrator to accept award in JustGrants.
(17d-1:24:21)

17d. August 17, 2026. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided information to the Court. Moved by Jason Ohrt and seconded by Danny Garcia, the Commissioners Court

authorized the Grant Administrator to accept the award in JustGrants in connection with the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY2025 Local Formula Award No. 15PBJA-25-GG-02698-JAGX. Motion adopted.

- 18. Ratify request for payment to GrantWorks in the amount of \$6,960.00 in connection with the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Award, Grant No. CDV23-0328 and take appropriate action.**

(18-1:25:57)

18. August 17, 2026. Grant Administrator Robin Knipling provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court ratified the request for payment to GrantWorks in the amount of \$6,960.00 in connection with the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Award, Grant No. CDV23-0328. Motion adopted.

- 19. Consider approval of a consolidated Professional Services Agreement with Elite Engineering in connection with the Regional Public Safety Training Center (RPSTC), and take appropriate action.**

(19-1:26:42)

19. August 17, 2026. Avery Flessner, County Engineer, provided information to the Court. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved the consolidated Professional Services Agreement with Elite Engineering in connection with the Regional Public Safety Training Center (RPSTC). Motion adopted.

- 20. Consider approval of request for plat exemption from Tyler Bohan with BRP Blue Topaz 2, LLC located at 1514 Black Bayou Road No. 1 in Precinct 1, Victoria County, Texas and take appropriate action.**

(20-1:28:53)

20. August 17, 2026. County Engineer Avery Flessner provided information to the Court. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the request for plat exemption from Tyler Bohan with BRP Blue Topaz 2, LLC located at 1514 Black Bayou Road No. 1 in Precinct No. 1, Victoria County, Texas with the following conditions:

- * The applicant shall secure and verify the 911 addresses for the tracts with the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission.
- * The tract conveyed must be greater than 10-acres.
- * No future tract created shall be less than 1-acre, excluding easements.
- * For all created or revised tracts, new property deeds and ingress/egress easement(s) must be created and filed in Victoria County Clerk's Public Records
- * Further subdivision of the tract(s) shall comply with the requirements of the effective published version of the VCDSM at the time of subdivision.
- * Each new tract created must have its own water well and Onsite Sanitary Sewer Facility (OSSF) (septic system).
- * All tracts shall have public right of way 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.

- 21. Receive for the record fully executed Temporary Construction Access Agreement from Bradley Stevenson located at 541 Old Bloomington Road North in Precinct 1, Victoria County, Texas in connection with the CR-252 TxDOT Bridge Replacement Project on Old Bloomington Road North, and take appropriate action.**

(21-1:30:36)

21. August 17, 2026. County Engineer Avery Flessner provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court received for the record the fully executed Temporary Construction Access Agreement from Bradley Stevenson located at 541 Old Bloomington Road North in Precinct No. 1, Victoria County, Texas in connection with the CR-252 TxDOT Bridge Replacement Project on Old Bloomington Road North. Motion adopted.

- 22. Consider approval of Payment Application No. 2 to Forney Construction, LLC in the amount of \$196,205.38 in connection with the Citizen's Medical Center Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Parking Lot Project and take appropriate action.**

(22-1:32:30)

22. August 17, 2026. Moved by Shannon Martin and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved Payment Application No. 2 to Forney Construction, LLC in the amount of \$196,205.38 in connection with the Citizen's Medical Center Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Parking Lot Project. Motion adopted.

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

a. HIV Health and Social Services (State Services) Grant Contract No. 5626/26/27/565/01.

(23a-1:33:08)

23a. August 17, 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 HIV Health and Social Services (State Services) Grant Contract No. 5626/26/27/565/01 for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

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

b. Avita Pharmacy Services Agreement Fourth Amendment.

(23b-1:33:08)

23b. August 17, 2026. David Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided the Court with information. Moved by Danny Garcia, and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the Avita Pharmacy Services Agreement Fourth Amendment for the Victoria County Public Health Department. Motion adopted.

- 24. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2026-082 for a road donation from Francis P. Bannon III in the amount of \$1,200.00 for the installation of a pipe culvert located at 179 Sophie Ranch Road in Precinct 4, Victoria County, Texas and take appropriate action.**

(24-1:34:05)

24. August 17, 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved Resolution No. 2026-082 for a road donation in the amount of \$1,200.00 from Francis P. Bannon, III at 179 Sophie Ranch Road in Precinct No. 4, Victoria County, Texas for pipe and material. Motion adopted.

25. Consider approval of the following Detention and Residential Contracts for the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center and take appropriate action:

a. Leon County, Detention and Residential.

(25a-1:34:29)

25a. August 17, 2026. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Leon County. Motion adopted.

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

b. Uvalde and Real County, Detention and Residential.

(25b-1:34:29)

25b. August 17, 2026. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Uvalde and Real County. Motion adopted.

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

c. 36th Judicial District Juvenile Probation Department, San Patricio, Aransas, Bee, Live Oak, and McMullen Counties, Detention and Residential.

(25c-1:34:29)

25c. August 17, 2026. Moved by Danny Garcia and seconded by Kenneth Sexton, the Commissioners Court approved the Detention and Residential Contracts between Victoria County Regional Juvenile Justice Center and 36th Judicial District Juvenile Probation Department, San Patricio, Aransas, Bee, Live Oak, and McMullen Counties. Motion adopted.

26. Consider approval of personnel changes, if any, and take appropriate action.

(26-1:35:03)

26. August 17, 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Shannon Martin, the Commissioners Court approved that payroll be processed in compliance with policy and personnel changes:

a. Crystal Riemenschneider, Animal Services Director - Victoria County Animal Services:

1. Request to payout compensatory time for Jordan Garza of 130.18 hours at a rate of \$16.50 for a total of \$2,147.97, to be paid from 100-630-1109, Shelter Care Tech.

b. Commissioners Court:

1. Recognition of the graduation of Commissioner Kenneth Sexton from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's V.G. Young Institute of County Government Commissioners Court Leadership Academy.
2. Recognition of the graduation of Commissioner Jason Ohrt from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's V.G. Young Institute of County

Government Commissioners Court Leadership Academy.

Motion adopted.

27. Receive for the record discretionary fund budget amendments, if any, and take appropriate action.

(27-1:35:46)

27. August 17, 2026. There were no 2026 Discretionary Funds Budget Amendments. No action taken.

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

(28-1:36:39)

28. August 17, 2026. Moved by Kenneth Sexton and seconded by Jason Ohrt, the Commissioners Court approved the 2026 budget amendments for:

- a. General Fund/Various Departments, Revenues and Expenditures - Line item transfer
- b. Emergency Management, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- c. Rural Prosecutors Office Salary Assistance Fund, Expenditures - Increase
- d. Airport Fund, Expenditures - Line item transfer
- e. Capital Projects Fund - 2025B, Expenditures - Increase

Motion adopted.

29. Closed meeting 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.

(29-1:36:53)

29. August 17, 2026. The Commissioners' Court did not hold 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 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.

(30-1:36:57)

30. August 17, 2026. The Commissioners Court did not return to open meeting, pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code §551.102.

31. Adjourn.

(31-1:37:00)

31. August 17, 2026. The Commissioners Court adjourned the meeting of August 17, 2026.