

# VICTORIA ADVOCATE

East motors past Marshall  
for pair of home wins



SPORTS, A5

Thursday, March 5, 2026

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## CITY OF VICTORIA

# Council Delays Stormwater Hearings, OKs Contracts

LINDSEY PLOTKIN

With Mayor Duane Crocker absent, Mayor Pro-Tem Andrew Young presided over Tuesday's Victoria City Council meeting. Councilwoman April Butler was also absent.

Prior to the meeting, the council removed two public hearings related to a proposed stormwater drainage fee from the agenda, citing the need for additional time to review the proposed ordinances. The hearings will be rescheduled, and a town hall meeting is planned to allow residents to ask questions about the proposal.

In recognition of Tex-

as Independence Day on Monday, Young presented a proclamation declaring the week of March 2 as Texas History Week.

The council unanimously approved the consent agenda, which included a \$236,371.12 furniture purchase for the Public Safety Headquarters and amendments to the city's contract with Populous, Inc. for the Community Center expansion and renovation project. The amendments bring the total contract value to \$2,040,873.

In connection with the Community Center expansion, council members approved a contract with CivilCorp, LLC for final surveying and design



Victoria City Council members discuss a proposed stormwater drainage fee during Tuesday's meeting, where public hearings on the ordinance were postponed to allow for additional review and a future town hall discussion. (FILE PHOTO)

work on the reconstruction of North Street from Laurent Street to Ben Jor-

dan Street in front of Patti Welder Middle School. The Phase 3 project contract is

valued at \$844,000. City Manager Jesus Garza said CivilCorp is already under contract for the Community Center project, and assigning the additional work will help streamline the process.

Council members also unanimously approved an extension for the Lone Tree Acres infrastructure project. Grant Administrator Katy Connally requested moving the project's completion date to August 2027, and the extension was granted without opposition.

The council's final action item was approval of a contract amendment with Garver, LLC for Water and Wastewater Supervisory

Control and Data Acquisition design improvements. The amendment increases the contract by \$126,000.

According to the agenda memo, the upgrades are necessary to accommodate growth and will implement an open-architecture SCADA system, allowing interoperability among hardware and software from multiple vendors and reducing vendor lock-in.

Council members also heard a presentation from the Housing Authority Program on its newest affordable housing project.

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. March 17.

## CHURCH HEADLINES

# IN MEMORIAM

## Bishop David Fellhauer, Former Leader of Victoria Diocese, Dies

ADVOCATE STAFF

David Fellhauer, the longtime leader of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria known for his pastoral leadership died Tuesday evening, church officials announced.

In a statement, diocesan leaders asked the faithful to pray for Fellhauer's "merciful reception into the divine embrace" and to remember his surviving family and friends.

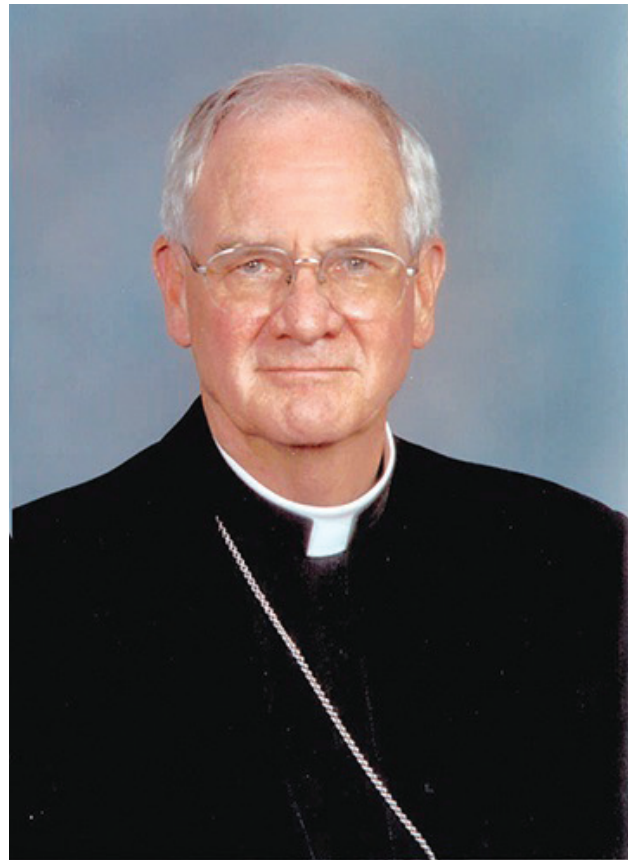
Fellhauer was born Aug. 19, 1939, in Kansas City, Missouri, to the late Harold E. and Helen R. Francis Fellhauer. He attended St. Agnes School in Kansas City, Kansas, and completed his high school, college and seminary training at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio. He later pursued postgraduate studies at St. Paul University in Ottawa, Canada, earning doctorates in canon law and philosophy.

He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Dallas on May 29, 1965. During his priestly ministry, Fellhauer served in parishes across the Dallas area and worked in the diocesan Chancery Office. He also taught as an adjunct professor of canon law at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas.

From 1975 to 1979, he served as assistant judicial vicar for the Dallas Diocese and later as judicial vicar from 1979 to 1990.

On April 19, 1990, Fellhauer was appointed the second bishop of the Diocese of Victoria by Pope John Paul II. He was ordained and installed as bishop May 28, 1990, at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral.

As bishop, Fellhauer served nearly 25 years before his retirement was accepted April 23, 2015,



Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer (COURTESY PHOTO)

by Pope Francis. He was succeeded by Brendan J. Cahill, the third bishop

of the diocese. Fellhauer's predecessor, Charles Grahmann, had left Victo-

ria after being appointed coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Dallas.

Church officials often described Fellhauer as a "doctor of the law," reflecting his deep knowledge of canon law and his commitment to the responsibilities of episcopal leadership as teacher of doctrine, priest of sacred worship and minister of church governance. He served on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Canonical Affairs and Church Governance and received the 1998 Role of Law Award from the Canon Law Society of America.

When appointed a bishop, Fellhauer chose the motto "To witness the charity of Christ," drawn from Canon 383 §4, which appeared on his coat of arms. Clergy members said the motto reflected a leadership style marked by service, humility and prayer, as well as availability and encouragement.

SEE FELLHAUER, A3



Bishop Fellhauer blessed the rectory at Holy Family after it was built. (COURTESY PHOTO)

## TEXAS PRIMARY DIGEST



Nate Sheets, takes the stage next to Sid Miller, during a Texas Republican candidate debate forum at the Civic Center in Canton on Jan. 17, 2026. (Emil T. Lippe/Texas Tribune)

# Sheets defeats incumbent Miller in GOP primary for Texas ag commissioner

ADVOCATE STAFF

Nate Sheets defeated longtime incumbent Sid Miller in the Republican primary for Texas agriculture commissioner, according to the Associated Press, which called the race early Wednesday morning.

Gov. Greg Abbott called to congratulate Sheets on his campaign at his election watch party in Plano on Tuesday night. Abbott told the candidate that he looked forward to working with him.

Sheets said on social media that he was grateful for the support of grassroots conservatives across the state.

"While a few votes remain to be counted, the direction of this race is clear," Sheets posted. "Texans are ready for new leadership and we are ready to get to work."

Sheets, the founder and former CEO of a national raw honey company and a ranch owner, is a first-time candidate for political office. Abbott and Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham were among Texas Republican leaders who threw their support behind Sheets, casting Miller as corrupt

and inept.

"He's been an utter failure in his job as ag commissioner," Abbott said on a conservative radio show in January. "There are character flaws with him that do not reflect positively on the state of Texas."

Despite multiple ethical scandals throughout his three terms as agriculture commissioner, Miller had previously held onto his seat with the help of endorsements from President Donald Trump who backed Miller in 2018 and 2022. This year, Trump waited until the Friday before Election Day to issue his support for Miller.

Sheets will compete against Democrat Clayton Tucker in the fall general election, though no Democrat has won statewide office in three decades.

## Ex-state Sen. Don Huffines wins GOP primary for Texas comptroller

Former state Sen. Don Huffines, an ultraconservative who challenged Gov. Greg Abbott in 2022, won the GOP primary for comptroller Tuesday night, trouncing the governor's chosen candidate

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