

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

**IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS**

Be it remembered, that on this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of September A. D., 2015, the Commissioners Court of Zapata County, Texas, convened in **REGULAR SESSION** of said Court, at the regular meeting place thereof, in the Courthouse of Zapata, Texas, with the following members of said Court, to-wit:

**PRESENT:**

Hon. Joseph Rathmell	County Judge
Jose Emilio Vela	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Olga M. Elizondo	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Eddie Martinez	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk

**VISITORS:** Triunfo Gonzalez, Romeo Salinas, Nellie R. Treviño, Brian Martinez, Maria I. Gutierrez, Roger Miller, Juan J. Meza, Betty M. Lopez, Jose F. Mendoza, Gerson Guzman, Lydia Guzman, Luis L. Gonzalez, and Paco Mendoza.

**WHEREUPON**, the following Orders and Proceedings were had by said Court, to-wit:

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M.  
ROLL CALL BY MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN, COUNTY CLERK  
INVOCATION BY OLGA ELIZONDO  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Brian Martinez advised the Court that a total of \$891,938.22 has been collected in ARM fees between May 1 and August 31. There are 1,189 machines for this enrollment period. There are 1155 machines in operation; one business closed and there are 5 less machines in one establishment.

Mr. Martinez also reminded the Court that the Border Coalition meeting will take place September 30 and October 1 at La Posada in Laredo.

Commissioner Vela attended the annual Medina Electric Cooperative Meeting. Grants are available through the Community Empowerment Program, which provides grants for projects that support community and economic development within counties served by Medina Electric Cooperative. Grants are awarded to local governments and non-profit groups.

Commissioner Elizondo commented that the Sheriff's Office hosted a Health Clinic and drug disposal. She did not attend.

She also stated that there had been trash dumped on Laredo Street.

Commissioner Martinez advised the Court that 2 posts and some sprinklers had been knocked down at the park.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices as presented by Triunfo Gonzalez.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**ORDER APPROVING CHECKS ISSUED**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve checks issued as requested by Hon. Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer. Commissioner Vela asked about an item on pg. 19 referring to a check payable to DHS. The amount is for the 6% which is charged on a monthly basis.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**ORDER APPROVING INCREASE TO NUTRITION CENTER SLOT #7, FROM 60 HOURS TO 80 HOURS BI-WEEKLY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve an increase to the Nutrition Center slot #7 from 60 hours to 80 hours bi-weekly, for an annual total of \$5,284.66, as requested by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioner Martinez, Elizondo and Judge Rathmell, Commissioner Vela and Garza voted against. Motion carried.

**ORDER APPROVING INCREASE TO NUTRITION CENTER SLOT #1, FROM 60 HOURS TO 80 HOURS BI-WEEKLY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve an increase to the Nutrition Center slot #1 from 60 hours to 80 hours bi-weekly, for an annual total of \$5,858.71, as requested by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioner Martinez, Elizondo and Judge Rathmell, Commissioner Vela and Garza voted against. Motion carried.

**ORDER APPROVING RENTAL OFFICE SPACE TO TEXAS WORKFORCE SOLUTION AT ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a rental office space to Texas Workforce Solutions at the Zapata County Community Center, free of charge, as requested by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**NO ACTION TAKEN ON REQUEST BY COMMISSIONER ELIZONDO  
REGARDING PAYMENT OF INVOICE FOR WORK DONE AT  
SAN YGNACIO BIRD SANCTUARY**

No action taken on request by Commissioner Elizondo regarding the payment of invoice for work done at the San Ygnacio. Bird Sanctuary as requested by Hon. Olga Elizondo, Commissioner Pct. 2.

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO CONSOLIDATE ALL ELECTION DAY  
POLLING PLACES FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION  
TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 3, 2015 TO ONE POLLING PLACE LOCATED  
AT ZAPATA COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to consolidate all Election Day polling places for Constitutional Amendment Election to be held November 3, 2015 to one polling place located at the Zapata County Courthouse 200 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Building "B" Zapata, Texas as requested by Hon. Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, County Clerk.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**ORDER APPROVING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ZAPATA COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FROM HOTEL MOTEL TAX FUND IN AN  
AMOUNT OF \$10,000 FROM FY 2014-2015 BUDGET FOR  
2016 BASS CHAMPS FISHING TOURNAMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve additional funding for the Zapata County Chamber of Commerce from the Hotel Motel Tax Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00 (TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS) from FY Budget 2014-2015 for the 2016 Bass Champs fishing tournaments. Events are scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2016 and Saturday, April 23, 2016 as requested by Paco Mendoza, President & CEO Zapata County Chamber of Commerce.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**ORDER APPROVING \$12,000 FROM HOTEL MOTEL TAX FUND TO ZAPATA  
COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY TO HIRE A CUSTODIAN AT 4 HOURS PER DAY  
PENDING REVIEW BY COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve \$12,000.00 from the Hotel Motel Tax Fund to the Zapata County Museum of History to hire a custodian at 4 hrs. per day, pending review by County Attorney, as requested by Dr. Hildegarde E. Flores, ZC. Museum of History Director.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioner Vela, Martinez, and Elizondo. Commissioner Garza, voted against, Motion carried.

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET CORNER AT HWY 16 FOR  
“CASA DE DIOS PARTE DEL CIELO”  
HALLELUJAH FESTIVAL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve the use of the 12<sup>th</sup> Street corner at Hwy 16 for “CASA DE DIOS PARTE DEL CIELO” Hallelujah Festival on October 31, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the county will provide street barricades, as requested by Gerson Guzman.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**ORDER APPROVING MEDIGAP INSURANCE OPTION FOR  
INTERESTED ZAPATA COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Medigap Insurance option for all interested Zapata County Employees for FY 2015-2016 as requested by Gilberto Gonzalez, First Financial.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**THE FOLLOWING WERE DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

17. Personnel matters at the Zapata County Indigent Department as requested by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

18. To discuss damage to property at 132 North Jab as requested by Hon. Eddie Martinez, Commissioner Pct. 3.

**ORDER APPROVING CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following street lights

1. 5421 Cuellar Lane
2. 5419 South Siesta Lane
3. 305 Raven
4. 5414 South Siesta Lane
5. 5304 Rio Lane
6. 404 Water Street
7. 197 Olmos Street

as requested by Hon. Eddie Martinez, Commissioner Pct. 3.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following street lights

1. 1902 Roma
2. between 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Ramireño
3. 410 Medina
4. 1605 Guerrero
5. 1808 Bravo Street
6. 709 Roma
7. 1312 4<sup>th</sup> Street

as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner Pct. 4.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following speed humps

1. 1010 Falcon Street

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

### **ORDER APPROVING LINEITEM TRANSFERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet budget requirements.

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	NON-DEPARTMENT	10-409-756	LAW BOOKS & PERIODICALS	\$4,200.00
TO	NON-DEPARTMENT	10-409-465	CO. PROPERTY/REPAIRS	\$4,200.00
FROM	NON-DEPARTMENT	10-409-444	ELECTRICITY	\$4,000.00
TO	NON-DEPARTMENT	10-409-420	TELEPHONE	\$4,000.00
FROM	NON-DEPARTMENT	10-409-444	ELECTRICITY	\$5,000.00
TO	NON-DEPARTMENT	10-409-445	WATER	\$5,000.00
FROM	NON-DEPARTMENT	10-409-444	ELECTRICITY	\$500.00
TO	NON-DEPARTMENT	10-409-446	GARBAGE	\$500.00

as requested by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	COUNTY CLERK'S	10-403-484	ELECTIONS	\$1,330.96
TO	COUNTY CLERK'S	10-403-427	TRAVEL	\$1,330.96

as requested by Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, County Clerk.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	DISTRICT CLERK'S	10-450-469	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$2,000.00
TO	DISTRICT CLERK'S	10-450-310	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$2,000.00
FROM	DISTRICT CLERK'S	10-450-457	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$140.00
TO	DISTRICT CLERK'S	10-450-427	WORKSHOPS/TRAVEL	\$140.00

as requested by Dora Mtz.-Castañon, District Clerk.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet budget requirements.

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	ZAPATA CONSTABLE PCT.2	10-550-455	REPAIRS	\$405.76
TO	ZAPATA CONSTABLE PCT.2	10-550-311	SUPPLIES	\$405.76

as requested by Julian J. Gutierrez, Constable Pct. 2.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet budget requirements.

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	CO.ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	10-475-311	POSTAGE	\$462.56
TO	CO.ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	10-475-392	MISC. MAINT. EXP	\$462.56
FROM	CO.ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	10-475-427	TRAVEL	\$163.70
TO	CO.ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	10-475-392	MISC. MAINT. EXPO.	\$163.70
FROM	CO.ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	10-475-454	VEHICLE EXPENSE	\$400.00
TO	CO.ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	10-475-392	MISC. MAINT.	\$400.00

as requested by Said A. Figueroa, County Attorney

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ,  
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ,  
TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON DISCUSSION REGARDING PERSONNEL  
MATTERS AT ZAPATA COUNTY INDIGENT DEPARTMENT**

No action was taken on discussion regarding personnel matters at the Zapata County Indigent Department as requested by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge. *[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]*

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON DISCUSSION REGARDING DAMAGE  
TO PROPERTY ON 132 NORTH JAB**

No action was taken on discussion regarding damage to property at 132 North Jab as requested by Hon. Eddie Martinez, Commissioner Pct. 3. *[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]*.

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, and being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

There being no further business for disposition at this term, the Court adjourned.

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JOSEPH RATHMELL, COUNTY JUDGE  
ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

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MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN  
COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK  
OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF  
ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS