

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 22nd day of May, A.D., 2017, 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
Paco Mendoza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Eddie Martinez	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

ABSENT:

Olga M. Elizondo	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
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VISITORS: Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Daniel D. Arriaga, Jose F. Mendoza, Fortunato Paredes, Xavier Villarreal, Amelia Gonzalez, Delia Mendoza, Ramiro Hernandez, Laura Garza, Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., and Ricardo Guevara.

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 AND
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell commented that the pumps at the river intake pump station have been affected by an electrical surge. A diesel pump is being installed. Commissioner Garza added that there is a boil water notice.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that a very nice celebration was held for the Zapatans of the Year Oswaldo H. and Juanita G. Ramirez.

Chief Meza commented that the Fire Department has been very busy, there was a stove fire and an oil field fire with no major consequences.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, 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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve checks issued as requested by Hon. Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer.

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

No one was present for item number 8. Presentation on Primerica as requested by Michelle Galvan, Primerica.

UPDATE ON AT-RISK FOOD PROGRAM AND UPDATE ON SUPER FOOD PROGRAM

Ramiro Hernandez gave an update on the At-Risk Food Program and the Super Food Program. An average of 135 meals are being served. The county has received \$8,321.28 in reimbursements and another \$7,000 are expected. The food programs are at no cost to the County. Mr. Hernandez will be given a key to the food pantry in order to have access to the freezer. (Hand out attached for the record.).

ORDER APPROVING STANDARDS OF CARE FOR NEXT YEAR'S USDA FOOD PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the Standards of Care for next year's USDA Food Program as requested by Ramiro Hernandez, USDA Food Program.

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

ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ANNA GUERRA REGARDING PURCHASE OF PHONES AND DESKTOP COMPUTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to table request by Justice of the Peace Anna Guerra regarding purchase 3 new phones (\$756.50) and new desktop computer \$1,552.63 for Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1.

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

ORDER APPROVING UPDATE ON CERTZ PAVING PROJECT AND INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the status update on CERTZ paving projects as presented and approval of invoices as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

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

ORDER APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE AS-BUILT PLANS AND INVOICES FOR BLUFF SANITARY SEWER PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve and accept the As-Built Plans and invoices for the Bluff Sanitary Sewer Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

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

ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO BID OUT PRECINCT 4 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND APPROVE INVOICES AS REQUESTED

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve request to bid out Precinct 4 Street Improvement project on 3rd, 4th, and 7th and review and approve invoices as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES FOR VELEÑO LIFT STATION
AND PROJECT UPDATE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the invoices for Veleño lift station relocation as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering. The lift station has been relocated and demolished existing lift station. The manhole has been decommissioned and covered.

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 MENDOZA,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION CONDEMNING SEXUAL HARASSMENT
IN THE ZAPATA COUNTY WORKPLACE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve a resolution condemning sexual harassment in the Zapata County workplace in light of the allegation of sexual harassment made against Luis Lauro Gonzalez, Zapata County Tax Assessor – Collector as requested by Juan Cruz and Fortunato G. Paredes, J. Cruz and Associates, LLC. *[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071(A)(B)(Consultation with Attorney) and 551.074 (Personnel Matters).]*

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO
CONDUCT CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION PERTAINING TO ALLEGATION
OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT MADE AGAINST ZAPATA COUNTY TAX
ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR LUIS LAURO GONZALEZ AND ORDER THAT
MR. GONZALEZ WORK FROM HOME UNTIL SAID MATTER IS RESOLVED**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, approving request for a law enforcement agency to conduct a criminal investigation pertaining to allegation of sexual harassment made against the Zapata County Tax Assessor – Collector and order that Mr. Gonzalez work from home until said matter is resolved as requested by Juan Cruz and Fortunato G. Paredes, J. Cruz & Associates, LLC. *Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071(A)(B)(Consultation with Attorney) and 551.074 (Personnel Matters).*

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

ORDER APPROVING LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

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

	Department	Line Item	Fund	Amount
From:	Zapata Co. Regional S.O.	10-567-391	Prisoner Medication	\$500.00
To:	Zapata County S.O.	10-560-405	Psychological	\$500.00
From:	Zapata Co. Regional S.O.	10-567-996	Law Enforcement Supplies	\$2,000.00
To:	Zapata County S.O.	10-560-462	Rental & Misc.	\$2,000.00
From:	Zapata County S.O.	10-560-330	Fuel	10,000.00
To:	Zapata County S.O.	10-560-454	Vehicle Maintenance	10,000.00

as requested by Sheriff Alonso Lopez, Zapata County Sheriff’s Office.

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 Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs.

	Department	Line Item	Fund	Amount
From:	Tax Office	10-499-465	Computer Software	\$1,000.00
To:	Tax Office	10-499-310	Supplies	\$1,000.00

as requested by Hon. Luis L. Gonzalez, Tax Assessor.

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 MENDOZA,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING COMMENCEMENT AND FORMAL
TRANSITION FROM RSL WASTE MANAGEMENT TO BE COMBINED WITH
ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS BILLING EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve and authorize commencement and formal transition from RSL Waste Management to be combined with Zapata County Waterworks billing effective January 1, 2018 as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct .1. *[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney).]*

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioner Mendoza and Commissioner Garza. Commissioner Martinez abstained. Motion carried.

Judge Rathmell advised the Court that there is a conflict with the date for the next Commissioners’ Court meeting and the meeting scheduled for June 12 is rescheduled for June 9, 2017.

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.

JOSEPH RATHMELL, COUNTY JUDGE
OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

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