

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 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
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 and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

**VISITORS:** Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Maria I. Gutierrez, Daniel D. Arriaga, Roger Miller, Brice Calahan, Samuel Rodriguez, Charles Ansuaga, Danny Hernandez, Laura Garza, Jose F. Mendoza, Luis Lauro Gonzalez, and Maria Davis.

**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  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Mendoza mentioned that the County Fair was a success. Buyers stepped up and all projects were sold. He thanked Commissioners Court for use of fair grounds and also thanked the crews that worked during the fair.

Commissioner Elizondo stated that she had gotten calls for use of electricity for trailers.

County Treasurer, Romeo Salinas, stated that he received calls regarding the possibility of extending the canopy.

Nellie Ramirez, Personnel Director, advised the Court that the TAC trailer is here for training. It has a simulator for CDL drivers. Drivers are encouraged to try it.

Commissioner Elizondo commented about the trash on the streets and asked Karran Westerman of Zapata County News to post something in the newspaper. Also, contractors are leaving debris on the sides of the streets for the County to pick up. Commissioner Mendoza suggested the placement of a code enforcement officer who is an actual police officer in order to enforce ordinances and can issue citations. Currently, Martin Saenz works with the J.P.'s and citations are issued.

**PRESENTATION BY RICHARD MORALES ON nCOURT FOR PROCESSING OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS**

Mr. Richard Morales made a presentation on the credit card payments process by nCourt. Maroon, the system that is in place, is closing at the end of March 2017. nCourt tries to increase revenues received by accepting credit cards. They provide credit card readers, customizable website, and bilingual operators are available. The system is able to set up payment plans. The company sends texts to remind the client of the upcoming payment. The company makes money out of the service fees. The service fee is 3.5%, website fee is 5% and call center is 7%. The nCourt software is interfaced with the existing Hill Country software.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, 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 TREASURER’S REPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve Treasurer’s Report 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.

**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.

**TAX / ASSESSOR COLLECTOR’S REPORT**

Luis L. Gonzalez, Tax Assessor/Collector, reported collections of Motel-Hotel Tax in an amount of \$14,941.85 for a year to date total of \$60,165.36 and tax collections in an amount of \$624,037.00 for a total of 81.88% total collections.

Presentation by Valley Metro, rescheduled, no one present.

**ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF VEHICLE FOR SEWER DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve purchase of a one ton vehicle for the Sewer Department for the purchase price of \$40,000 to be financed by Zapata National Bank at a 3.75%-4.0% interest rate to be paid in 3 yearly payments of approximately \$14,000 per year with first payment due October 2017 as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR ADDITION OF CURB AND GUTTER TO VALLE VERDE ROAD AS PART OF COUNTY TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUND GRANT PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to go out for bids for the addition of curb and gutter to Valle Verde Road as part of the County Transportation Infrastructure Fund Grant Program as requested by Hon. Olga M. Elizondo, Commissioner Pct. 2.

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

**ORDER APPROVING VERBAL RESIGNATION OF ORLANDO SAENZ AND ALLOWING CHIEF MEZA TO REPLACE WITH PARAMEDIC OR PARAMEDIC/FIREFIGHTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve and accept the verbal resignation of Orlando Saenz, slot #23 and allow Chief Meza to replace with a paramedic or paramedic/firefighter as requested by J.J. Meza, Fire Chief.

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

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF TECHNOLOGY FUND TO PAY NEW COMPUTER AND IPAD FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN PRECINCT #3**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the use of the Technology Fund to pay for a new computer in the amount of \$1,552.63 and and Ipad in the amount of \$1,067.35 for Justice of the Peace, Precinct #3 as requested by Hon. Fernando Muñoz, Justice of the Peace, Pct. #3.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO USE ZAPATA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ROTUNDA FOR ZAPATAN OF THE YEAR RECEPTION HONORING OSWALDO H. AND JUANITA G. RAMIREZ**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve request to use the Zapata County Courthouse rotunda on date to be determined, for the Zapatan of the Year reception honoring Oswaldo H. and Juanita G. Ramirez as requested by Roberto O. Montes, Zapatan of the Year Committee member.

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 MARTINEZ,  
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY NELLIE R. TREVIÑO REGARDING POSSIBLE ACTION ON PERSONNEL MATTERS AT WATER PLANT DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director, regarding possible action to discuss personnel matters at Water Plant Department.

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

*[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney).]*

**REPORT BY RAMIRO HERNANDEZ**

Mr. Ramiro Hernandez reported that he received a letter from USDA approving sites. He will start transferring funds in order to start feeding the kids as soon as possible. Reimbursement will take place within 30 days. Sites are being prepared. Children between the ages of 5 and 18, and 18 or older with disabilities will be fed. Left over meals will go to the elderly after 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, 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