

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 12th day of March, A.D., 2018, 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
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

ABSENT:

Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
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VISITORS: Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, Nellie R. Treviño, Monica Alaniz, J.J. Meza, Daniel D. Arriaga, Roger Miller, Jose Molina, Henry Woltag, Kay Monroe, Ryan Trevino, Jacki Lopez, Laura Palomo, Maria A. Sanchez, Sandra Maldonado, Maribel Chapa, Yvette Valdillez, Magda Pedraza, Diana Salazar, Angelica Perez, Linda Vela, Bertha Galvan, Sandra Moore, Olga L. Serrato, Maria D. Romero, Berta E. Gonzalez, and Tavy Villarreal.

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:10 A.M.
ROLL CALL BY MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN, COUNTY CLERK AND
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell commented on the disturbing conditions of the Nuevo Laredo sewer plant. He added that the United States funded the construction of said sewer plant.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, 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 Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, 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 TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING ITMES

8. Presentation on 2020 US Census and Redistricting of Zapata County as requested by Rolando R. Rios, Rolando R. Rios and Associates, PLLC.

This item will be rescheduled.

10. Presentation by the U.S. Post Office on the logistics of encouraging Zapata County residents to identify their homes with a physical address as requested by Martina Rodriguez, Zapata Postmaster.

Judge Rathmell stated that he was contacted by the post master and urges property owners to identify their homes.

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF DIGITAL BILLBOARD FOR GATEWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the installation of a digital billboard on the corner of U.S. Highway 83 and Rathmell Avenue for Gateway Community Health Center. All required permits / forms will be filed with TxDOT before installation as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1.

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

ORDER APPROVING DEVELOPMENT OF A WIND FARM IN ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS ALONG WITH APPLICATION FOR SUPPORT IN FORM OF A CHAPTER 312 PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the development of a wind farm in Zapata County, Texas. EDP, along with its consulting firm Ryan LLC, will present an application for support in the form of a Chapter 312 property tax abatement as requested by Henry Woltag, EDP Renewables and Joe Molina, Ryan, LLC.

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

ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY ROLANDO R. RIOS CONCERNING REDISTRICTING LEGAL SERVICES RETAINER AGREEMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to table request by Rolando R. Rios, Rolando R. Rios and Associates, PLLC, concerning redistricting legal services retainer agreement between Rolando R. Rios and Associates, PLLC and Zapata County for the purpose of providing redistricting services.

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

ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF WEBROOT ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE FOR COMPUTERS COUNTY WIDE

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the purchase of Webroot antivirus software, three-year license, for computers countywide at a cost of \$3,798.30, to be paid out of Non-Department Computer Hardware as requested by Rene Garcilazo, Computer IT Specialist.

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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line item transfer to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	49th District Court	10-435-402	District Court Criminal	\$3,226.89
TO	49th District Court	10-435-462	Equipment Rental	\$3,226.86

as requested by Noemi Elizondo, 49th District Court.

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 approve the following line item transfer to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata Community Center	10-518-336	Supplies	\$1,291.29
TO	Zapata Community Center	10-518-454	Pavilion/Fairground Repairs	\$1,291.29

as requested by Laura Garza, Zapata County Community Center.

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 approve the following line item transfer to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata Co. Public Library	10-650-427	Workshops Travel Expenses	\$1,000.00
TO	Zapata Co. Public Library	10-650-335	Computer Maintenance	\$1,000.00

as requested by Yanira Salinas, Public Library.

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 approve the following line item transfer to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	General Fund	10-370-925	Shady Haven	\$17,261.13
TO	Non-Department	10-409-730	Consulting and Engineering	\$17,261.13

as requested by Roxana Elizondo, County Judge’s Office.

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

ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION DESIGNATING ZAPATA COUNTY A REINVESTMENT ZONE

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve a resolution designating the area of Zapata County as a reinvestment zone as authorized by the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act, as amended (Texas Property Code 312.001, et seq.) and pursuant to the Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria of Zapata County as requested by Juan Cruz and Fortunato G. Paredes, J. Cruz and Associates LLC.

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

**ORDER APPROVING AUTISM AWARENESS RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING
APRIL AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the Autism Awareness Resolution and recognizing the month of April as Autism Awareness Month as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION FOR
WORLD DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY IN ZAPATA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve a Proclamation for World Down Syndrome Awareness Day in Zapata County as requested by Annette Arambula, Border Region Behavioral Health Center.

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

**PRESENTATION BY BERTHA GALVAN OF
THE LAREDO HOUSING AUTHORITY ON
SECTION 8 VOUCHER PROGRAM**

Ms. Bertha Galvan of the Laredo Housing Authority gave a presentation on Section 8 Voucher Program. She invited the public to visit the new office located next to the DPS Office. The office is open once a week on Monday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The goal is to house 15 families in April. There are 70 vouchers available. Low income families are welcome to apply. The application has to be renewed every year.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES AND PROGRESS REPORT ON
ZAPATA COUNTY SEWER PLANT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve invoice in the amount of \$6,070 payable to Terracon and invoice in the amount of \$20,149.76 payable to Premier Engineering for Zapata County Sewer Plant Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. The progress is coming along well. Some walls are up along with a new system to handle large waste items has also been installed.

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

ORDER APPROVING INVOICE FOR COLORADO ACRES PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$24,130.00 payable to Guzman-Juarez Backhoe Services. The bid was approved in 2016, with the lowest bid in the amount of \$270,108.85 for Colorado Acres Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, 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 GOLF COURSE SEWER LINE
REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoice in the amount, not to exceed \$20,000, for Golf Course Sewer Line Replacement Project and invoice in the amount of \$2,575.00 payable to Premier Engineering, to be paid out of Royalties, as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Roots were in the existing lines and 12" lines will be installed to replace the 8" lines.

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 ELIZONDO,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER APPROVING AMENDMENT OF ANIMAL AND FOWL ORDINANCE
AND ORDER TO TRANSFER EMPLOYEE FROM
ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT TO ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to amend Animal and Fowl Ordinance to increase claim fee from \$60 to \$100 and order to transfer employee from Road and Bridge Department to Animal Control Department, 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 all members of the Court.

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