

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 14th day of January, A.D., 2019, 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
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
Eddie Martinez	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3

VISITORS: Romeo Salinas, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Trevino, Triunfo Gonzalez, Daniel D. Arriaga, Roger Miller, Severita Sanchez, Claudia Quiroga, Janeth Serna, Edwin Rodriguez, Adriana Figueroa, Anna Juarez, Joanna Garcia, Raul Gonzalez, Jr., Cesario G. Vela, Joyce Currington, Laura Garza, and Manuel Gonzalez.

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

Commissioner Mendoza commented that the IBC Gala was very nice. They celebrated 35 years of being part of the community. Checks were issued to various organizations.

Fire Chief J.J. Meza reported on last year's numbers, they received approximately 2144 EMS calls, 901 walk-ins, and responded to 7-8 structure fires. So far this year, they have responded to 80 calls and have had 31 walk-ins. He also commented that Ike Gutierrez had a beautiful funeral service.

Judge Rathmell reported that lake levels were down, he spoke to the Water Master and Mexico will be releasing their part.

Roger Miller stated that a dinner will be held for Federal Employees and their families to show support during the Federal shutdown. He added that he received a call from Tracy King and was invited to serve as chaplain during the current Legislative Session meeting.

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 TREASURER’S REPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, 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 Garza, 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.

TAX / ASSESSOR COLLECTOR’S REPORT

Tax Assessor/Collector’s office reported Hotel-Motel tax collections in the amount of \$6,400.73 for year-to-date collections in an amount of \$26,424.09 and tax collections at a year-to-date rate of 71.56%.

UPDATE ON CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER SATELLITE OFFICE

Dr. Severita Sanchez, Executive Director of the Children’s Advocacy Center reported on the Children’s Advocacy Center Satellite Office. Eight families have been seen, including 11 individuals of which 10 are children and one mother, all are victims of sexual abuse. They may have to come up to 1-1/2 days per week. There is a back door to the facility, so no one knows who is coming in. Two families have been provided immigration documentation. Gifts are provided to the parents to give to the children.

ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY COUNTY JUDGE REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ZAPATA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to table request by County Judge regarding appointment of members to the Zapata County Historical Commission 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL REGARDING REQUEST TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO AMUSEMENT REDEMPTION MACHINE ORDINANCE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to table request by Judge Rathmell regarding request to approve amendment of the Amusement Redemption Machine (ARM) Ordinance to reflect an increase in the permit fees from the current fee of \$750.00 per machine/per year to \$1,000.00 per machine/per year due June 1, 2019.

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

ORDER APPROVING COST OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 1 OFFICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve cost of improvements for Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 Office 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 COST OF NEW PHONE SYSTEM FOR JUSTICE
OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 1**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve cost of a new phone system for the Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 Office, the amount of 756.50 will be paid out of the Technology Fund, as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Pct. 1.

**ORDER AUTHORIZING COMMISSIONERS COURT TO AWARD CONTRACT
FOR PROFESSIONAL PROJECT ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR PROJECTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to authorize Commissioners Court to award contract for professional project engineering services for projects to Premier Engineering, who received the highest score, (application preparation and project implementation) funded under the 2019/2020 (PY) Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Program 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.

ORDER OFFICIALLY DESIGNATING ANNA JUAREZ AS CHIEF DEPUTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to officially designate Anna Juarez as Chief Deputy to satisfy state requirements and adjust salary to \$15.25. No additional funds amendments to the budget will be required as funds are available and currently unused as requested by Hon. Adriana Figueroa, Tax Assessor/Collector.

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

ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF TASER FOR CONSTABLE PCT. 2

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of a taser for Constable Pct. 2, for the purchase price of \$2,167.00, to be paid out of Security Fund or Maintenance and Operations, as requested by Hon. Danny Arriaga, Constable Pct. 2.

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

ORDER APPROVING HIRING OF JOSE A. JUAREZ IN RECYCLING DEPARTMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve hiring of Jose A. Juarez in slot #3 in the Recycling Department as fulltime employee as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Recycling Manager.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TEMPORARY HIRE OF ROGELIO MARTINEZ,
AND DERLY SANCHEZ, JR. AT DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve temporary hire of Rogelio Martinez and Derly Sanchez, Jr. to be assigned to Distribution Department for a period of 3 months at an hourly rate of \$9.00 per hour as requested by Carlos Treviño, Water Plant Manager.

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

**ORDER APPROVING HIRING OF DAGOBERTO GARZA AS
METER READER/CLERK**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve hiring of Dagoberto Garza in slot #5 as a meter reader/clerk at \$9.50 per hour effective January 7, 2019 as requested by Carlos Trevino, Water Plant Manager.

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

ORDER APPROVING HIRING OF RICARDO GARCIA AS METER READER

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve hiring of Ricardo Garcia in slot #6 as a meter reader at \$9.07 per hour effective January 7, 2019 as requested by Carlos Trevino, Water Plant Manager.

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

**ORDER ADOPTING SAN YGNACIO WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT
CONTINGENCY PLAN AS PER TCEQ REQUIREMENTS AND ORDER APPROVING
PAYMENT OF INVOICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to adopt San Ygnacio Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan as per TCEQ requirements, and order approving payment of invoice in the amount of \$3,000 for consultation fees 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 AND STATUS REVIEW FOR ZAPATA COUNTY
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoice in the amount of \$214,225.00 payable to EJCDC and invoice in the amount of \$14,079.76 payable to Premier Engineering for Zapata County Wastewater Treatment Plant Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Project is almost 100% complete at most items. They are working on flat concrete work and finishing filtering system and transferring water to new plant.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES FOR 3RD, 4TH & 7TH STREET IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT AND STATUS REVIEW**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoice in the amount of \$32,716.62 payable to EJCDC for 3rd, 4th, & 7th Street Improvement Project CDBG #7216511. Project has been completed and pending punch list items for release of retainage in the amount of \$17,414 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 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT IDENTIFYING UTILITY OPERATOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve a community needs assessment identifying utility operator training opportunities. (e.g. discussion at a public hearing of community needs and submission of Resolution in support of Utility Operator Training Opportunities) as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Raul Gonzalez and Lupita Ortegon of Communities Unlimited made a presentation to the Court. They will provide a 12-month operator training at no cost to the county.

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

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHT

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve installation of a street light at the following location:

a. 507 Lopeño First Street, Lopeño, TX (Lopeño townsite (Sanchez) Block 4, Lot 4) 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 INSTALLATION OF SPEED HUMP

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve installation of a speed hump at the following location:

a. 443 Falcon Shores Drive (Falcon Shore Unit 1, Block 7, Lot 35) 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY TRIUNFO GONZALEZ REGARDING DISCUSSION AND REQUEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A 2019/2020 (PY) TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (TXCDBG) AND APPLICATION TO TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (TDA) FOR FUNDING UNDER TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (TXCDBG)

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to table request by Triunfo Gonzalez regarding discussion and request to approve a resolution authorizing the preparation and submission of a 2019/2020 (PY) Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG). Application to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) for funding under the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG).

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

ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION OF COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR UTILITY U FUND

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a resolution of the Commissioners Court Zapata County, Texas, authorizing the

submission of a Texas Community Development block grant program application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the (Utility U Fund) and all matters pertaining to the county's participation in the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program 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.

**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 HIRING OF JESUS ALANIZ FOR ASSISTANT MANAGER
POSITION AT ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve hiring of Jesus Alaniz as Assistant Manager position at the Zapata County Airport as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. Mr. Alaniz was selected out of three applicants.

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 Garza, 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