

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 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
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
----------------	------------------------------

**VISITORS:** Romeo Salinas, Said A. Figueroa, Triunfo Gonzalez, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Trevino, Daniel D. Arriaga, Roger Miller, M.P. Laisure, Susan Reissig, Robert Reissig, Leonard Diggles, Kathleen Hentschel, Richard Hentschel, Gary Shoffner, John Hentschel, Bonnie Hentschel, Linda Merritt, Michael Dotson, Adriana Figueroa, Noraliza Sanchez, Laura Garza, Joyce Currington, Shirley J. Bell, Judy Diggles, Marylyn Ferguson, Ramiro Hernandez, Raul Gonzalez, Jr., Cesario Vela, Lupita Ortega 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 County Fair is fast approaching, and necessary preparations are being made.

Commissioner Mendoza added that Senior Citizen Appreciation Day would be celebrated with a social event on February 20 at the Community Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Commissioner Elizondo commented that she is working on a bird path. Thirty bird watchers were at the roadside park last week.

Judge Rathmell commented that the county needs to be firm on hours of operation at Community Center; it should close Friday at 12 a.m. and Saturday at 1 a.m.

**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 TREASURER’S REPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, 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 Elizondo, 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 \$13,443.21 for year-to-date collections in an amount of \$39,867.30 and tax collections at a year-to-date rate of 78.38% with \$1,303,136.65 collected.

**UPDATE ON THE USDA FOOD PROGRAM BY RAMIRO HERNANDEZ OF USDA  
CHILD AND ADULT FOOD PROGRAM**

Ramiro Hernandez reported that the program is running at 100%, although it was affected by the Government shut down. The next funding will be March 2019. Approximately 2,000 meals are served per month in all Zapata County. All employees are still employed. Some programs are on hold; however, Meals on Wheels is still active. Office located upstairs is still open for payroll purposes only.

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

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

**ORDER AUTHORIZING SURVEY AND HIRE ENGINEERING  
FIRM TO DETERMINE BOUNDARIES OF LAKE SHORE DRIVE  
ADJACENT TO IBWC LANDS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to authorize survey and hire engineering firm to determine boundaries of Lake Shore Drive adjacent to IBWC lands and to take appropriate action.

*Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.072 Real Property and 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.

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to table request by Judge Rathmell, 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 APPROVING PURCHASE OF DESKTOP COMPUTER  
FOR ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve the purchase of a desktop computer, price not to exceed \$1,600, for the Zapata County Airport from 10-409-335 Computer Hardware 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 TEMPORARY HIRE OF ALYSSA BRISEÑO  
AT ZAPATA COUNTY LIBRARY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to temporarily hire Alyssa Briseño at the Zapata County Library for 90 days at \$8.50 per hour for 20 hours per week 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 ALLOW ZAPATA COUNTY TO SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR SOUTH TEXAS  
CHILDREN'S FAMILY SERVICES HEAD START/HEAD START PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to table request by Judge Rathmell regarding request to allow Zapata County to submit an application for the South Texas Children's Family Services Head Start/Head Start Program as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. Discussion: Noralisa Sanchez addressed the court, the application is for an \$8,000,000 5-year grant which would employ 160 employees with 45-50 being in Zapata County. Program would include Zapata and Starr Counties and there would be no cost to the county. Mr. Figueroa suggested an interlocal agreement between Zapata and Starr County.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF MONIES FROM ROYALTY FUND  
TO COUNTY PROPERTY REPAIRS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the transfer of monies from the Royalty Fund to the County Property Repairs line item 10-409-465 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 ADDITIONAL REPAIRS TO ROOF AT  
SAN YGNACIO COMMUNITY CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve additional repairs to the roof at the San Ygnacio Community Center for the amount of \$24,920, to be paid out of Repairs and Maintenance Fund, 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 ALLOWING UTILITY OPERATOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITES  
FOR ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS EMPLOYEES BY  
COMMUNITIES UNLIMITED, INC.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to allow utility operator training opportunities for Zapata County Waterworks employees by Communities Unlimited, Inc., and approve agreement with new terms, 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 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND BORDER REGION BEHAVIORAL CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to table request by Judge Rathmell regarding request to approve an Interlocal Agreement for Mental Health Services between Zapata County and Border Region Behavioral Center.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF GRAPPLE TRUCK FOR SPECIAL  
ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve the purchase of Grapple Truck for the Special Road and Bridge Department, for the purchase price of \$158,804.05, 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 COST OF REPAIRS TO HIDALGO BLVD TO  
IMPROVE STAGNANT WATER ISSUES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the cost of repairs to Hidalgo Blvd. to improve current stagnant water issues as follows: Hidalgo Blvd. and 10<sup>th</sup> at IBC Bank intersection. Repairs will be done by using concrete for the cost of \$12,000; and intersection of Hidalgo Blvd. and 8<sup>th</sup>. Repairs will be done by adding valley gutter for the cost of \$3,000, both to be paid out of the Royalty Fund, as requested by 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 PURCHASE OF LAPTOP**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve the purchase of a laptop as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING CHANGE ORDER, INVOICES AND REVIEW STATUS FOR ZAPATA COUNTY WASTEWATER PLANT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve change order in the amount of \$9,009.02, invoice from ACP in the amount of \$54,683.43 and invoice from Premier Engineering in the amount of \$32,224.76, which includes payment to Geotech for Zapata County Wastewater Plant Project, as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. They are in the process of adding railing and grates to chlorine contact chamber.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICE AND STATUS REVIEW FOR GOLF COURSE SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve invoice in the amount of \$3,542.50 payable to Guzman Backhoe Services for Golf Course Sewer Line Replacement Project out of Waterworks as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Sewer line has been connected.

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

**ORDER APPROVING AS-BUILT DRAWING FOR 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, DEDUCTIVE CHANGE ORDER AND INVOICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve AS-BUILT drawings for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> Street Improvement Project; \$1,562 deductive change order and invoice in the amount of \$15,852.80 payable to RapidHaul, LLC 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 USE OF FRONT STEPS OF ZAPATA COUNTY COURTHOUSE FOR ZAPATA'S 5K ADVOCACY FOR PRIDE AND EQUALITY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the use of the front steps of the Zapata County Courthouse on March 30, 2019 from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the Zapata's 5K Advocacy for Pride and Equality as requested by Sara Flores, School Counseling Intern.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF UNFUNDED MANDATES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve a resolution in opposition of unfunded mandates 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.

**ADJOURN**

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