

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.D., 2020, 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
Celica A. Rodriguez	Chief Deputy County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

**VISITORS:** Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Daniel Arriaga, Roger Miller, Aaron Cruz, Roberto Campos, Jared Gonzalez, Ron DeSean, Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Monica L. Benavidez, and Alejandro Barrera, Jr.

**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 CELICA A. RODRIGUEZ, COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Elizondo congratulated all the candidates that won their elections last week.

Joyce Currington complained about the primary election stating that at 3:30 in the morning only absentee and early voting totals had been posted. She added that candidates were paying for the votes. Judge Rathmell stated that those were very strong allegations; he added that there is a time consuming process that takes place before totals are posted. Celica A. Rodriguez explained that the lengthy process that takes place, includes accountability for all ballots in order for accurate totals to be announced.

Joyce Currington also commented that they are trying to get a group of people together to come up with kids activities for the summer.

Chief Meza informed the court that the new fire truck is here and he would like for all court members of the Court to take a picture in front of the truck after commissioners court.

Commissioner Mendoza announced that the county fair will start this week, very good weather is expected. All hotel rooms are full. The trail ride took place last weekend. The PeeWee Goat show also took place yesterday.

Judge Rathmell announced that Eric Garza, Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist, communicated that 300 doe carcasses will be distributed on March 20, 21, and 22; 1 carcass per family. They will be located at the county fairgrounds.

### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$990,683.23 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 Elizondo, 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 Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$2,455,041.68 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 \$25,928.49 for the month of February for year to date total of \$52,760.15. Tax collections at a rate of 78.12% for a total base tax collected of \$5,101.005.26.

### **UPDATE ON HYDRO PRO WATER METER INSTALLATIONS**

Ralph Treviño reported that the water meter installation is going very well. Approximately 3400 meters have been replaced. About 204 were not replaced due to issues including broken valves. Another 100 are pending to be replaced.

### **REPORT FROM CITY OF LAREDO HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGARDING COVID-19 CASES**

Dr. Hector F. Gonzalez and Richard A. Chamberlain of the Laredo Health Department provided the court with information regarding the Corona Virus (COVID-19). They reported that there are currently 105,000 confirmed cases worldwide with the 89,000 cases in China, mostly in the Wuhan Province and 3,048 deaths. The United States has reported 91 confirmed cases that are mostly travel related or from the Diamond Princess Cruise Ship; 5 deaths from Washington State all from a nursing home and all elderly and/or patients with underlying medical conditions. No cases in the Laredo/Region (Jim Hogg, Duval and Zapata Counties) or in Texas at this time. COVID-19 will likely become the new strain, worldwide, over 80% have minimal symptoms. Will need to protect the vulnerable as for flu, particularly, elderly, those with underlying health conditions, pregnant women, those immunocompromised, children under 5 and those with special needs. For more information contact the Laredo Health Department at (956)795-4954.

### **ORDER APPROVING RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN FIRST FINANCIAL AND ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve renewal of the agreement between First Financial and Zapata County 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 ISSUANCE OF REFUND CHECK TO TDA FOR TXCDBG  
CONTRACT NO. 7214095 PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the issuance of a refund check to TDA in the amount of \$34,000 for the TxCDBG Contract No. 7214095 project 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 TRANSFER \$15,000 FROM TOBACCO FUND TO MEDICAL FUND**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to transfer \$15,000 from the Tobacco Fund (67-800-352) to Medical Fund (10-543-460) 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 PAY INCREASE FOR LUIS C. GARZA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a pay increase for Luis C. Garza from \$11.98 per hour to \$13.78 per hour (slot # 21). Mr. Garza has met all TCEQ educational requirements and has achieved a Class C Water Operator License. Funds to come from 80-600-227 (License Stipends) as requested by Ralph Treviño, Water Plant Manager. For the record, Commissioner Garza is not related to Luis C. Garza, and Commissioner Mendoza encourages that all employees get the required TCEQ education.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS FOR CONSTABLE ADRIAN  
LOPEZ, PCT. 4**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to purchase uniforms for Adrian Lopez, Constable Pct. 4, for the amount of \$3,125.35, to be paid out of Constable Lopez' budget, except weapon, holster and magazine, as requested by Hon. Adrian Lopez, Constable Pct. 4.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICE FROM RO-GER CAR CARE FOR  
CAR REPAIRS TO CONSTABLE PCT. 4 VEHICLE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of invoice from RO-GER Car Care in the amount of \$4,136.69 for repairs to Constable Pct. 4 vehicle, to be paid out of General Fund, as requested by Adrian Lopez, Constable Pct. 4.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICES AS PRESENTED AND STATUS  
REVIEW FOR FALCON MESA PAVING PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment of invoices as presented (REIM Construction \$183,7283.48, Terracon \$1,039 for testing and Premier Engineering \$2,250.00 to be paid out of Pct. 3 budget) for the Falcon Mesa Paving as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Contractor has paved streets, done clean up, and installed a valley gutter. A punch line has been prepared. Contractor also installed a 4" water line on Pelican and Raven Streets and has done connections.

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 JARED GONZALEZ REGARDING  
RESERVATION/RENT OF SHOW BARN, ARENA AND FAIR GROUNDS FOR ONE  
YEAR FOR WINDMILL PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to table request by Jared Gonzalez, regarding reservation/rent of show barn, arena and fairgrounds for one year for windmill project.

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 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.

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JOSEPH RATHMELL, COUNTY JUDGE  
OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

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