

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 17th day of March, A.D., 2020, the Commissioners Court of Zapata County, Texas convened in **EMERGENCY 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
Anna G. Molina	Deputy County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

VISITORS: Triunfo Gonzalez, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Gabriella Guevara, Joyce Currington, Amalia Navarro, Lupita Garza, Christopher Williams, Jose G. Alejandro, Joseph Peña, Raymundo Del Bosque, Daniel D. Arriaga, Alejandro Barrera, Jr., Monica Benavidez, Rosa E. Martinez, and Armando Pacheco.

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:00 A.M.
ROLL CALL BY ANNA G. MOLINA, COUNTY CLERK AND
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell addressed the court and stated that this Emergency Meeting is to see how we can deal with the corona virus.

Chief Meza commented that he has checked around town and the nursing home is one of the facilities taking precautions, they are shut down and not accepting visitors, if you do go in they check your temperature. He's also checking adult day care centers to see what their plans are. You cannot have more than 10 people and you have to be 6 feet apart. Another concern is the maquilinas.

Judge stated that once an emergency is ratified the court will be able to deal with it.

Chief Meza added that they are getting a lot of calls by sick patients, Fire Department is locked, not allowing persons in. If someone comes in, they are passed on to the medics to be checked out.

Jose Alejandro, District 19 Emergency Management, unfortunately no one has PPE, what is available is for hospitals, long care facilities, fire and ems. Only testing is via Laredo Health Department. There are private companies for about \$200.

Chief Meza advised that if anyone shows symptoms they need to call their doctor and shelter in place away from other family members for 14-20 days. Things change day by day.

Capt. Ramon Montes, advised the court, that the jail is not accepting any visitors, it is being disinfected, however, there is no more Clorox; supplies are in short hand, along with hand sanitizer. Doctor suggested that we no longer accept inmates, new inmates were isolated from other inmates. 43 inmates were brought in yesterday. Only state employees are allowed to enter, but they are being screened before entering.

Chief Raymundo Del Bosque stated that Texas marshalls are expecting sheriff's office to come up with contingency plan. They are taking steps of things needed, everything is back ordered.

There has been an increase in calls, they are trying to limit contact with people and are handling situations over the telephone.

ORDER RATIFYING DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER TO CONTAIN COVID-19 AND PREVENT ITS SPREAD THROUGHOUT ZAPATA COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to ratify the Declaration of Local Disaster to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout Zapata County as signed by the County Judge 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 CLOSE ALL SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERS RUN BY ZAPATA COUNTY FOR 30 DAYS AND PROVIDE ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS WITH HOME DELIVERED MEALS FOR 30 DAYS AND APPROVE FUNDING OF \$500 PER DAY TO NUTRITION CENTER TO PROVIDE HOME DELIVERED MEALS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to close all Senior Nutrition Centers run by Zapata County for 30 days and provide all eligible participants with home delivered meals for 30 days, and approve funding of \$500 per day to Nutrition Center to provide the home delivered meals for participants that attend the nutrition center, 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 TO CLOSE ALL PUBLIC SPACES RUN BY ZAPATA COUNTY FOR 30 DAYS AND RESCHEDULE EVENTS AS NECESSARY AND REFUND MONIES FOR EVENTS SCHEDULED DURING THIS TIME

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to close all public spaces run by Zapata County for 30 days, including parks, community center, library, baseball parks, and reschedule all events as necessary as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. Deposits will be refunded for events that are scheduled during this time.

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 GARZA,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Mendoza stated that price gouging should be reported to Attorney General.

Commissioner Elizondo stated that people are asking why the County Fair took place. County Judge responded that the County was given the go ahead by the Laredo Health Department because there were no local cases.

Judge Rathmell spoke to the Diocese of Laredo and the Catholic Church will continue with regular mass.

Waterworks is accepting payments via drop off; all utilities are safe.

Recommended head start extend Spring Break for two-weeks.

Courthouse will continue with regular hours of obligation. County Clerk's office has people come in from out of town, it is up to elected official to decide if they are allowed in the records room.

ORDER APPROVING TO CLOSE RESTAURANTS AND ONLY PROVIDE DRIVE-THRU AND TAKE OUT AND CLOSE AMUSEMENT REDEMPTION ESTABLISHMENTS FOR TWO WEEKS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Martinez, to approve to close restaurants with sitting areas and only provide drive thru and take out, close amusement redemption establishments for two-weeks and any facility that provides sitting areas.

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.

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