

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 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
Eddie Martinez	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
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
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**VISITORS:** Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Jose A. Solis, Joyce Currington, Ralph Treviño, Daniel D. Arriaga, and Manuel Gonzalez, 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 MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN, COUNTY CLERK AND  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Judge Rathmell reported that county employees were tested for COVID-19. Seventeen employees had to do the additional swab after testing positive for the COVID-19 antibody. Some offices are operating with closed doors. Current COVID-19 numbers are as follows: tests conducted 2,743, negative results 1,385, pending test results: 1,277, positive test results: 81, released for isolation: 42, and 1 death.

Nellie R. Trevino reported that 204 employees tested, there is 1 test pending results and everyone else was negative. She added that the courthouse was decontaminated over the weekend.

Chief Meza stated that there are 15 new positive cases. He will ask for 600 additional tests. COVID-19 testing will be done on July 25-26, 2020.

Commissioner Martinez asked if the court has authority to delay the start of school; Judge Rathmell stated that the school board will recommend, but the court also has authority.

Commissioner Garza stated that he tested positive for COVID-19 and remained isolated for several weeks. He had no symptoms and is now recovered.

Joyce Currington pointed out that the Texas Tribune shows zero deaths for Zapata County.

### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$1,023,543.41 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 TO TABLE TREASURER'S REPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table the Treasurer's Report.

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 in the amount of \$1,023,543.41 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 \$5,250.64 for the month of June with a year-to-date total of \$73,803.72. Tax collections at a rate of 85.07% for a total base tax collected of \$5,529,862.47.

### **ORDER APPROVING MEASURES TO ADDRESS SURGE IN LOCAL COVID-19 CASES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve measures to address surge in local COVID-19 cases. Curfew is now indefinite, effective immediately, except for election night; close 8-liners and extend sign up period, there will be no refunds, however, the time they are closed will be added to the end of the renewal date, 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 FOR ABATEMENT NO. 2 ZAPATA COUNTY-RELOJ DEL SOL WIND FARM, LLC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to table request for Abatement Amendment No. 2 Zapata County-Reloj Del Sol Wind Farm, LLC to reflect a shift in the construction completion date 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 AWARDING ADMINISTRATION SERVICES TO ESSER AND COMPANY CONSULTING LLC FOR THE 2020 COLONIA FUND CONSTRUCTION ROUND 2 OF TXCDBG PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to award Administration Services to Esser and Company Consulting LLC, for the 2020 Colonia Fund

Construction Round 2 of the TxCDBG Program of the Texas Department of Agriculture 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 AWARDING ADMINISTRATION SERVICE TO ESSER AND COMPANY CONSULTING LLC FOR TXCDBG GRANT APPLICATION FOR FAST FUNDS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to award Administration Service to Esser and Company Consulting LLC, for a TxCDBG grant application for FAST Funds 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 AWARDING AN ADMINISTRATOR TO OVERSEE ZAPATA COUNTY'S CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDING TO ESSER AND COMPANY CONSULTING LLC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to award an administrator to oversee Zapata County's Coronavirus Relief Funding to Esser and Company Consulting LLC, with a 5% consultant fee, 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 AWARDING ENGINEERING SERVICES TO PREMIER ENGINEERING FOR THE 2020 FUND CONSTRUCTION ROUND 2 OF THE TXCDBG PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to award engineering services to Premier Engineering for the 2020 Colonia Fund Construction Round 2 of the TxCDBG Program of the Texas Department of Agriculture 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 ADOPTING MINIMUM STANDARDS TO TAX SALE BIDDERS AS SET FORTH BY TEXAS STATUTE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to adopt minimum standards for Tax Sale Bidders as set Forth by Texas Statute. Minimum requirements are codified in Sec.34.011 of the Texas Property Tax Code as requested by Hon. Adriana Figueroa, Tax Assessor.

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

**ORDER APPROVING EQUIPMENT AGREEMENT WITH ARGUINDEGUI OIL COMPANIES FOR ZAPATA COUNTY SHOP**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Equipment Agreement with Arguindegui Oil Companies for Zapata County Shop 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 APPROVING SALARY INCREASE FOR JUAN MANUEL IMARTINEZ III**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve a salary increase for Juan Manuel Martinez III, from \$11.35 per hour to \$13.21 per hour to be paid from (10-543-107 - Slot #29 Incentives). He has achieved the Paramedic License 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 PURCHASE OF 27 PHONE RADIOS FROM FIRST NET**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve purchase of 27 phone radios from First Net, at a monthly rate of \$26.00 each per month for a total of \$702 per month (\$8,427 annually), to be paid out of the Tobacco Fund 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 TO AMEND ASSIGNMENT FOR GROUND LEASE BETWEEN COUNTY OF ZAPATA AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE HEAD START (CDIHS)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to amend Assignment Agreement for ground lease between the County of Zapata and Community Development Institute Head Start (CDIHS) to reflect new operations by AVANCE, Inc. as requested by Dr. M. Teresa Granillo, AVANCE Chief Executor Director.

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 AND STATUS REVIEW FOR ZAPATA COUNTY JAIL REPAIRS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve payment of invoice payable to Deep South Haulers in the amount of \$6,028.37 and invoice payable to Premier Engineering in the amount of \$2,500.00, for staking; to be paid out of the Fund Balance account for the Zapata County Jail Repairs as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Valley gutters have been installed and grading for offset drainage has been done.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF RETAINAGE FEE TO ACP AND STATUS REVIEW FOR ZAPATA COUNTY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment of retainage fee to ACP, in the amount of \$311,428.52 for the Zapata County Wastewater treatment plant, as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. The project has been completed; it has a one year warranty after they receive acceptance letter from Zapata County.

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

**ORDER APPROVING CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve consent items as follows:

To approve the following line item transfer to meet department al needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	10-455-319	Drug Testing	\$500.00
TO	Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	10-455-312	Supplies	\$500.00
FROM	Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	10-455-463	Equipment Rental	\$1,000.00
TO	Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	10-455-312	Supplies	\$1,000.00
FROM	Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	10-455-322	Dues Pct. 3	\$350.00
TO	Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	19-455-312	Supplies	\$350.00

as requested by Fernando Munoz, Justice of the Peace Pct. 3.

To approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata I & A	037-33064-645	Fuel & Lubricants	\$5,000.00
TO	Zapata Nutrition Center	038-33664-647	Raw Food	\$5,000.00

as requested by Rosalinda S. Gonzalez, Nutrition Center.

To approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Safety & Risk	10-525-330	Fuel	\$2,500.00
TO	Environmental	10-595-456	Maintenance	\$2,500.00

as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Department.

To approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata County Water Plant	80-600-462	Equipment Rental	\$5,000.00
TO	Zapata County Water Plant	80-600-342	Water Sampling	\$5,000.00
FROM	Zapata County Water Plant	80-600-427	Workshop Travel Expense	\$158.42
TO	Zapata County Water Plant	80-600-310	Office Supplies	\$158.42
FROM	Zapata County Water Plant	80-600-550	Digital Meters	\$19,664.82
TO	Zapata County Water Plant	80-600-336	Repair & Maintenance Supplies	\$19,664.82

as requested by Ralph Trevino, Water Plant Director.

To approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata County Sewer Plant	80-602-311	Postage	\$650.00
TO	Zapata County Sewer Plant	80-602-205	Uniform	\$650.00
FROM	Zapata County Sewer Plant	80-602-341	Chlorine & Chemicals	\$6,800.00
TO	Zapata County Sewer Plant	80-602-336	Repairs & Maint. Supplies	\$6,800.00
FROM	Zapata County Sewer Plant	80-602-488	Inspection Fees	\$4,000.00
TO	Zapata County Sewer Plant	80-602-336	Repairs & Maint. Supplies	\$4,000.00

as requested by Eloy Chapa, Sewer Plant Director.

To approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	District Clerk's Office	10-450-311	Postage	\$500.00
TO	District Clerk's Office	10-450-310	Office Supplies	\$500.00
FROM	District Clerk's Office	10-450-427	Workshops/Travel	\$1,500.00
TO	District Clerk's Office	10-450-310	Office Supplies	\$1,500.00

as requested by Dora Mtz. Castañon, District Clerk.

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.

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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