

**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 January, 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
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

**VISITORS:** Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Ralph Trevino, Roger Miller, Severita Sanchez, Edwin Rodriguez, Letty Vallejo, Manuel Gonzalez, David Gonzalez, Victor Salinas, and Laura Garza.

**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  
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Judge Rathmell commented that he met with Border Patrol regarding the border wall. South Laredo to San Ygnacio wall construction will be going up soon. No alignment has been determined. Monies have been appropriated and were included in the 2020 budget.

Joyce Currington voiced her concern regarding the lack of guard rails at the back side of the museum.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$561,797.69 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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, 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 Garza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$1,019,424.19 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 \$7,796.89 for the month of December with year to date collections in the amount of \$125,652.89. Tax collections at a rate of 67.86% for a total base tax collected of \$4,446,333.84.

**UPDATE ON THE CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER SATELLITE OFFICE IN ZAPATA**

Dr. Severita Sanchez, Executive Director of the Children’s Advocacy Center, thanked the court for its cooperation. The satellite office has been open here for two years. They have seen 14 clients locally and are currently seeing six clients per week. Clients suffer from physical abuse, sexual abuse and human trafficking. Webb County received a grant that will provide funding for the local office. The yearly conference will take place on April 22, 2020 at TAMIU.

**ORDER APPROVING RENEWAL OF 2 YEAR LEASE EXTENSION WITH REAP F/M/A TIMBERLAND MEDICAL GROUP FOR ZAPATA HEALTH CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza to approve renewal of two-year lease extension with REAP f/m/a Timberland Medical Group for the Zapata Health 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 ACCEPTING TITLE INSURANCE ON LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to accept title insurance on Los Ebanos Golf Course and approve the initial payment to Los Ebanos Golf Course Inc. with a closing date in a minimum of 120 days 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 FUND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ZAPATA COUNTY CENSUS COMMITTEE FOR 2020**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to fund the proposed budget for the Zapata County Census Committee for 2020 in an amount of \$4,695 to be paid out of Consulting Fees-Non-Department 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 REQUEST TO USE ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER FOR HEADSTART STAFF MEETING ON JANUARY 28, 2020**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve request to use the Zapata County Community Center for a Headstart staff meeting on January 28, 2020 from 1 – 5 p.m. as requested by Hon. Olga M. Elizondo, Commissioner Pct. 2.

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

**ORDER ACCEPTING RETIREMENT OF FIREFIGHTER/EMT FERMIN ORTA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to accept the retirement of Firefighter/EMT Fermin Orta, with 18 years of service, as requested by Fire Chief J.J. Meza, Fire Department.

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

**ORDER TO ALLOW FIRE CHIEF MEZA TO HIRE A FIREFIGHTER/EMT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to allow the fire chief to hire a Firefighter/EMT as requested by Fire Chief J.J. Meza, Fire Department.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF JOSE LUIS MARTINEZ, LABOR/MAINTENANCE TO PARKS, BUILDING, AND CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve transfer of Jose Luis Martinez, Labor/Maintenance, 15-011- slot #6 at \$9.00 per hour to Parks, Building, and Construction Department 10-001- slot #1, Labor/Maintenance at \$10.90 per hour, effective January 12, 2020 as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TERMINATION OF ATILANO FLORES, JR. FROM SPECIAL ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve termination of Atilano Flores, Jr., from Special Road and Bridge Pct. #3; 15-013- slot #6, effective December 13, 2019 as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director.

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

**ORDER TO APPROVE HIRING OF SIXTO HINOJOSA AS MAINTENANCE/LABOR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve hiring of Sixto Hinojosa as Maintenance/Labor at \$11.24 per hour in 15-013- slot #6 effective December 18, 2019 as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director.

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 RALPH TREVINO REGARDING REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE ON TWO 110,000 GALLON WATER STORAGE TANKS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to table request by Ralph Trevino regarding repair and maintenance on two 110,000 gallon water storage tanks as requested by Ralph 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 TO VACATE PLAT OF LOTS 20-26 FALCON SHORES UNIT 1, VOL. 3 PAGE 72 INTO 3.70 ACRES BLOCK 1 FALCON SHORES UNIT 1**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to vacate plat of lots 20-26 Falcon Shores Unit 1, Vol. 3 Page 72 into 3.70 acres Block 1 Falcon Shores Unit 1 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 REVIEW STATUS FOR ZAPATA COUNTY WASTEWATER PLANT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve payment #27 to EJCDC in the amount of \$34,245.76 for Zapata County Wastewater Plant project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Change order equipment has been provided to the plant which is about 16% of the change order (\$220,655. 71).

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

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES AND REVIEW STATUS FOR FALCON MESA 7217511 PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment to REIM Construction in the amount of \$56,380, to be paid out of Royalties fund balance for change order only; payment to Premier Engineering in the amount of \$3,000; payment to REIM Construction in the amount of \$29,362.50 for the Falcon Mesa 7217511 project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Change order is for relocation of lines in Falcon Mesa Subdivision on Raven and Pelican Streets.

**ORDER APPROVING CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve installation of streetlights at the following addresses:

- a. 2043 Retama Drive (Area B, Lago Halcon, Sect 3, Lot 332)
- b. 1209 Fresno Street
- c. 89 FM 2687 (Y. Benavides Sanchez Addition) Lot 10 Abstract 7, Porcion 24

as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line item transfer to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Sheriff's Department	10-560-0429	Prisoner Transportation	\$1,000.00
TO	Sheriff County Jail	10-561-0429	Prisoner Transportation	\$1,000.00

as requested by Hon. Alonso Lopez, Zapata County Sheriff.

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**

**ORDER CLARIFYING TIME CLOCK POLICY FOR ALL COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to order all employees to use county time clock system, law enforcement personnel is exempt, as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director. Employees punching elsewhere will not be paid, law enforcement may, at a later time, be required to use remote system.

*Executive Session: Note 3, Gov't Code Ann 551.074, Personnel Matters.*

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