

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 27th 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
Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

ABSENT:

Eddie Martinez	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
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VISITORS: Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, Nellie R. Trevino, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Danny Arriaga, Ralph Trevino, Roger Miller, Ramona Martinez, Eric Garza, Jeremy Bambar, Jr., Ashley Hodge, Randy DeYoung, Alonso M. Lopez, Sandra Whitten, Jesse Rodriguez, and Sammy Luera.

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 Tea was held yesterday. He also stated that there were 132 teams participating at the Bass Champs Tournament.

Judge Rathmell stated that 2 additional doors will be installed at the show barn and there was also a request for a 10 x 15 concrete pad to bathe the animals. He added that he communicated with the Water Master concerning the lake levels. Zapata County has been declared a D3 drought conditions.

Commissioner Elizondo advised the court that there will be a meeting on February 4 at 2 p.m. at the San Ygnacio Civic Center to discuss the border wall. The meeting is for property owners.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$868,196, as presented 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 CHECKS ISSUED

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$771,159.61 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.

REPORT ON BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF ZAPATA

Ramona Martinez reported that they held Christmas activities for the children. They are kept busy making slime and figures out of modeling clay. Attendance for December in Zapata was 106 with an average daily attendance of 65; San Ygnacio 24 with an average daily attendance of 17. Kids Café in Zapata served 978 and San Ygnacio 315. USDA also provided snacks. Backpack program took place and approximately 400 backpacks were distributed. Thirteenth annual skeet shoot will take place this weekend. (Report attached for the record.)

PRESENTATION BY ERIC GARZA, TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, ON WHITE TAIL DEER CAPTURE ON INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY WATER COMMISSION LANDS

Eric Garza, Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist, made a presentation regarding white tail deer capture on International Boundary Water Commission Lands. Certain areas of Zapata County are rich in wildlife and escape wild stock. There is a Trap, Transport & Process Permit Program (TTP), this permit provides a mechanism to help reduce deer population densities in areas where white-tailed deer are overpopulated. This permit is available to municipalities, political subdivisions, and certain qualified individuals. Through use of this permit, areas with surplus white-tailed deer can capture surplus deer, process their carcasses, and donate the resulting venison for human consumption. The requirements are that the deer meat must go to Zapata County residents. Freezer trucks will park at the Community Center. The persons picking up the processed meat will be required to present a utility bill for proof of residency. This is expected to take place in March of 2020.

PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT PLAQUE FOR ELIUD GUERRA FOR 26 YEARS OF SERVICE

Presentation of retirement plaque for Eliud Guerra for 26 years of service to Zapata County as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1. Mr. Guerra was not present.

PRESENTATION ON TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION – ZAPATA ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Jesus F. Rodriguez, Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Agent, presented the court with the Texas A & M AgriLife Extension – Zapata Annual Report. (Report attached for the record.)

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM

12. To create an additional Deputy Sheriff position and hire Marlowe Bigler to fill that position at starting salary of \$35,000.00 as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

ORDER APPROVING JOINT PRIMARY ELECTION SERVICE CONTRACT WITH COUNTY ELECTION OFFICER

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve Joint Primary Election Service Contract with the County Election Officer, State of Texas County of Zapata as requested by Hon. Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, Zapata County Clerk.

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

**ORDER APPROVING LEASE/PURCHASE OF 2 – 2019 STOCK PURCHASE
SINGLE CAB TRUCKS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve the lease/purchase of 2 - 2019 stock purchase single cab trucks; one will be paid out of Pct. 1 Discretionary funds and one out of the fund balance at a monthly rate of \$465 for 48 months per truck. The total for the current FY is \$3720.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF ONE TRUCK FOR
WATER PLANT DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of one truck for the Water Plant Department to be paid out of Certificates of Obligation, not to exceed the amount of \$25,000 as requested by Ralph Treviño, Water Plant Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF TECHNOLOGY FUND TO PAY
PRINTER LEASE AND TAX REIMBURSEMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the use of the Technology Fund to pay the printer lease and tax reimbursement for this budget year of \$1,908.19 as requested by Hon. Fernando Muñoz, Justice of the Peace Pct. 3.

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 ESTEBAN GARZA

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a pay increase for Esteban Garza from \$9.98 per hour to \$11.00 per hour (slot #17). Mr. Garza has met all TCEQ educational requirements and has achieved a Class D Water Operator License. Funds are to come from 80-600-227, License Stipends as requested by Ralph Treviño, Water Plant Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING HIRING OF JOHN CISNEROS FOR VACANT ASSISTANT
MANAGER POSITION AT DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the hiring of John Cisneros for the vacant Assistant Manager position (slot #2) in the Department of Aviation as requested by Charlie Avaritt, Airport Manager.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SIGNATORIES
FOR CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTS REQUESTING
FUNDS FOR TXCDBG CONTRACT NO. 7217511**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a resolution authorizing signatories for contractual documents and documents requesting funds for TxCDBG Contract No. 7217511 as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting, LLC.

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

ORDER APPROVING TXCDBG CONTRACT NO. 7217511 AMENDMENT NO. 1

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve TxCDBG Contract No. 7217511 Amendment No. 1 requesting six (6) month extension, new contract end date May 29, 2020 and authorize County Judge to sign as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting, LLC.

**ORDER APPROVING CERTIFICATION OF PRE-CONSTRUCTION APPROVAL
FOR TXCDBG 7217511 AND AUTHORIZE COUNTY TO SIGN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve certification of Pre-Construction approval for TxCDBG 7217511 and authorize County to sign as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting, LLC.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TXCDBG CONTRACT NO. 7217511 DRAW NO. 1
AND AUTHORIZE COUNTY JUDGE AND COUNTY AUDITOR TO SIGN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve TxCDBG Contract No. 7217511 Draw #1 requesting \$29,363.50 for REIM Construction payment no. 1 and \$21,000.00 for reimbursement of Premier Engineering invoices #16152, 15271, 15607 and authorize County Judge and County Auditor to sign as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting, LLC.

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

**ORDE APPROVING SUBMITANCE OF AMENDMENT TO EXISTING
ZAPATA COUNTY WATER RIGHT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve and submit an amendment to the existing Zapata County Water Right (Water Right Number: 2804) requesting an increase of the overall diversion rate to 5000 gpm. as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting, LLC.

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

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHT

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve installation of streetlight at the following address:

- a. 540 W. 20th Ave.

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.

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

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

ORDER APPOINTING ERIKA O. MARTINEZ AS CONSTABLE PCT. 3

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to appoint Erika O. Martinez as Constable Pct. 3, effective January 27, 2020, due to vacancy/retirement of Eloy Martinez as requested by Hon. Eddie Martinez, Commissioner Pct. 3.

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

ORDER APPOINTING ADRIAN LOPEZ AS CONSTABLE PCT. 4

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to appoint Adrian Lopez as Constable Pct. 4 due to vacancy, effective January 27, 2020, as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner Pct. 4.

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

**ORDER AUTHORIZING COUNTY JUDGE AND COUNTY ATTORNEY
TO PROCEED WITH ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL ACREAGE FOR
EXPANSION OF ZAPATA COUNTY LANDFILL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to authorize County Judge and County Attorney to proceed with acquisition of 157 acres in addition to the existing 20 acres for the expansion of the Zapata County Landfill in San Ygnacio as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

Closed Session/Executive is requested pursuant to Texas Gov't Code, Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071, (A)(B) Consultation with Attorney.

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.

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