

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 23rd 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
Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Celica A. Rodriguez	Chief Deputy 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, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Claudia Mercado, Romeo Mercado, Joyce Currington, Vicki Benavides, Ruby Villarreal, Rolando Garza, Juan B. Galindo III, Alejandro Barrera, Jr., and Raymundo Del Bosque.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell stated that he got together with Judge Tijerina of Laredo and 60 persons have been tested with 40 testing positive and 20 pending cases so far. Zapata and Jim Hogg Counties have no cases yet. The recommendation is to close restaurants across the state. Centers are providing meals. Everything being done in Zapata is in place with other counties.

Chief Meza stated that the closest time to get supplies will be August. He also said that anyone going into the nursing homes needs to stay 6 feet apart. If you have flu like symptoms you must take Tylenol, stay inside and drink plenty of liquids. To be tested you are required to have doctor's orders.

Commissioner Elizondo stated that the same process is being done in other cities including Laredo.

Commissioner Garza commented that people from Laredo are shopping in Zapata, but we cannot do anything about it.

Commissioner Mendoza assured that the water here is safe to drink

Vicki Benavides, Director of Falcon Lake Nursing Home, said they began taking temperatures of everyone coming into the nursing home and are also asking if they have been in contact with anyone testing positive for COVID-19. They are having problems getting PPE's. They also closed one wing for COVID-19, patients if needed. Forty-four of the 59 beds are Medicaid; they would like to get kids to come it to entertain the elderly.

Claudia G. Mercado addressed the court on behalf of business owners, she expressed her concern about their employees. They are trying to keep employees busy and would like to know about stimulus packages for employees. She also asked if stores will be taking in 10 customers at a time. Judge Rathmell believes local business owners will implement their own rules such as 10 at a time. There is currently no local relief. Mrs. Mercado asked to be kept posted to see how they can help. Commissioner Mendoza thanked Mrs. Mercado and all businesses for providing services.

Mr. Mercado stated that he has sufficient space in his restaurant and asked why stores are not required to comply with social distancing.

Restrictions may have to be placed for stores. Stores are opening from 8 a.m.-9 a.m. for elderly.

Judge Rathmell thanked Texas Parks and Wildlife for the distribution of 300 deer carcasses of deer meat to local families.

Chief Ray Del Bosque informed the court that they are limiting inmate visits and attorneys. They need disinfectants and sanitizers. They also need PPE's including 1000 masks which will also be costly. Commissioner Garza stated that if they need assistance to bring in supplies, they will help.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$381,984.79 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 CHECKS ISSUED

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$381,984.79, 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.

NO REPORT WAS PRESENTED – BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB IS CLOSED

8. Boys and Girls Club Report as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner, Pct. 1.

ORDER APPROVING TO AMEND ABATEMENT AGREEMENT WITH RELOJ DEL SOL WIND FARM LLC

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to amend abatement agreement with Reloj Del Sol Wind Farm, LLC to reflect updated parcel list and updated Vicinity and Qualified Property Investment Maps 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 AMEND COMMISSIONERS ORDER REGARDING COVID-19 EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to amend Commissioners Order regarding COVID-19 Emergency Declaration as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. There are issues with employees wanting to leave.

49th District Court was off 1 week. Commissioner Garza believes it is only fair if someone leaves, everyone should do the same. Employees that want to take leave would have to use compensatory time, annual leave or sick leave and will not be paid by the county. Offices should take precautions.

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 TO RESERVE SHOW BARN, ARENA AND FAIRGROUNDS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Jared Gonzalez, regarding request to reserve the show barn, arena and fair grounds for 1 year for windmills.

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 FIRE CHIEF J.J. MEZA REGARDING PURCHASE OF DECON MACHINE

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Fire Chief J.J. Meza regarding purchase of Decon Machine to decontaminate ambulances and patient room at a cost of \$20,000-\$25,000.

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

ORDER APPROVING USE OF COURTHOUSE SECURITY TO PURCHASE A TACTICAL UNIFORM FOR BAILIFF COURTHOUSE SECURITY/CONSTABLE PCT. 3

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the Courthouse Security to purchase a Tactical Uniform for \$489.00 for Bailiff Courthouse Security/Constable, Pct. 3 as requested by Erika Martinez, Constable, Pct. 3.

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

ORDER APPROVING LINE ITEM TRANSFER

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Constable Pct. 4	10-550-333	Fuel and Lubricants	\$273.14
TO	Constable Pct. 4	10-550-205	Uniforms	\$273.14
FROM	Constable Pct. 4	10-550-313	Supplies	\$300.00
TO	Constable Pct. 4	10-550-205	Uniforms	\$300.00
FROM	Constable Pct. 4	10-550-430	Workshops/Travel	\$500.00
TO	Constable Pct. 4	10-550-205	Uniforms	\$500.00
FROM	Constable Pct. 4	10-550-457	Repairs	\$540.13
TO	Constable Pct. 4	10-550-205	Uniforms	\$540.13

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.

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