

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 22nd day of June, 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
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

ABSENT:

Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
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VISITORS: Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Trevino, Roger Miller, Joey Solis, Delia Mendoza, Fidencio Mendoza, Federico Lopez, Debbie Esser, Carl Esser, Felix M. Rodriguez, Felix Garcia, Tirso Amesquita, Rolando Garza, Daniel D. Arriaga, Mario A. Benavides, Manuel Gonzalez, and Joyce Currington.

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

Judge Rathmell noted that we had a busy week of COVID-19 testing, National Guard was in town. We had a significant turn out of residents.

Chief Meza stated that the fire department had a busy week of calls; nevertheless, they did well. The county was also busy with COVID-19 testing, the National Guard conducted 157 tests on day 1, 166 on day 2 and 232 on day 3. He will try to get them to come back next week. However, they only test for 4 hours per day because at the beginning they were only testing very few persons. Commissioner Mendoza pointed out that his concern is that people prefer a drive thru testing rather than standing in line for 45 min to an hour in 100-degree weather. Chief Meza responded that it is up to the National Guard, he will make the request and recommend seeing if it goes through. If they stand in line inside, then they must decontaminate the whole building. Chief Meza also stated that they built a decon station to decontaminate the units, he invited the sheriff's department to advise the deputies to come by and decon their units. He is using the chemical he got from Commissioner Elizondo, he is trying to get chemicals used in hospitals.

Judge Rathmell will post test results as soon as they are available.

Judge Rathmell and Commissioner Elizondo thanked the Villarreal Family for the refrigerated truck for the truck used for the distribution of milk. The program was extended and they will be back next Wednesday and will distribute in Zapata, then travel to San Ygnacio Community Center, Falcon Community Center, and Siesta Shores Park, so the people won't have to drive to pick up the milk. USDA funded the program, and they are working with RAM Nutritional Services. He suggested that those picking up should wear face masks to feel safer during the distribution and not be exposed to any virus.

Judge Rathmell also commented on following the lead of Judge Wolfe's Order from Bexar County, in addressing the address surge of cases and trying not to be in conflict with governors orders. He is going to require that businesses require face covering for employees and all customers or face fines. Zapata County also issued the same executive order on Friday allowing time for businesses to prepare. All businesses are on their own making these requirements.

On a different note, storm cleaning is still going on in the entire county. There are trees leaning on electrical lines. A list of addresses was submitted by Commissioner Mendoza to Mr. Camacho of AEP. There is also a trampoline hanging from utility lines somewhere on the highway by the County News.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve invoices in the amount of \$718,783.31 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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$718,783.31, 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 – BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB IS CLOSED

8. Boys and Girls Club Report as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner, Pct. 1. The club is closed, employees are working. They have a grab and go program for kids.

ORDER APPROVING TO RATIFY SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY REQUIRING FACIAL COVERINGS WHEN OBTAINING OR PROVIDING SERVICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve to ratify a supplemental emergency requiring facial coverings when obtaining or providing services, effective June 23, 2020, and allow businesses 3 days to implement, 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.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM

11. to approve measures to address the surge in local COVID-19 cases as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

**ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF JORGE JASSO TO
SLOT 15-011-SLOT#3 LABOR/MAINTENANCE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the transfer of Jorge Jasso, 15-011-slot #5, labor/maintenance at \$9.32 per hour to 15-011-slot #3, labor/maintenance at \$10.50 per hour, effective June 22, 2020, 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 PAYMENT TO SANTOS CASTILLO FOR REPAIRS
MADE AT ZAPATA COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PCT. 1 OFFICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment to Santos Castillo in the amount of \$1,400.00 for repairs made at the Zapata County Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1 Office, as part of COVID-19 expense, and will be submitted for reimbursement, 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 SUBMISSION OF LETTER TO TXDOT REQUESTING
THAT SPEED LIMIT AT NORTH SIDE OF EXIT OF TOWN TO BE
DECREASED TO 35 MPH FOR PUBLIC SAFETY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve the submission of a letter to TXDOT requesting that the speed limit at the North side of exit of town be decreased to 35 mph for public safety 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY CARLOS COLINA-VARGAS
REGARDING PREPARATION OF PARK MASTER PLAN AND
APPOINTMENT OF SIX PERSONS TO AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to table request by Carlos Colina-Vargas regarding the preparation of a Park Master Plan, as recommended by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, by the firm of Carlos Colina-Vargas, AICP & Associates; and to appoint six persons to an Ad Hoc Committee for providing citizen input in the preparation of the Park Master Plan.

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 the installment of a streetlight at the following address:

- a. 475 Falcon Shores Drive (Falcon Shores Unit 1, Block 8, Lots 33-34)
- b. 2169 Park Drive (Lots 215, Area B, Lago Halcon, FLEE)

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Constable Pct. 2	010-42855-550	Workshop/Travel	\$1,685.17
TO	Constable Pct. 2	010-31155.550	Constable Pct. 2 Supplies	\$1,685.17
FROM	Constable Pct. 2	010-45555-550	Constable Pct. 2 Repairs	\$75.62
TO	Constable Pct. 2	010-31155-550	Constable Pct. 2 Supplies	\$75.62

as requested by Daniel Arriaga, Constable Pct. 2.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REPLAT OF LOT 125 BLOCK 25 IN SAN YGNACIO, TEXAS
INTO LOTS 125A AND 125B BLOCK 25**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve replat of Lot 125, Block 25 in San Ygnacio, Texas, into Lots 125A and 125B Block 25 as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Lots will be divided into 2 lots, 1 – 80 X 80 and 60 X 80, the property has utilities and is following model subdivision rules.

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 MARTINEZ,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO START PROCUREMENT PROCESS FOR
CONSULTANT FOR CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to start procurement process for a Consultant/Administrator for the Coronavirus Relief Funding 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 APPOINTMENT OF FELIX GARCIA AS
NEW VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve appointment of Felix Garcia as the new Veterans Service Officer 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.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Martinez, 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