

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 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:** Nellie Treviño, Bobbie Meza-Barrera, Juan J. Meza, Joyce Currington, Rosalinda Gonzalez, Jose F. Mendoza, Guillermo Saenz, Raymundo del Bosque, Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, and Monica Alanis.

**WHEREUPON**, the following Orders and Proceedings were had by said Court, to-wit:

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:30 P.M.  
ROLL CALL BY MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN, COUNTY CLERK AND  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA,  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,  
TO ENTER INTO REGULAR COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING  
AFTER RECESS FROM BUDGET HEARING**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Chief Meza communicated that COVID-19 testing has been rescheduled for August 31, September 1, and 2.

Judge Rathmell reported on COVID-19, as follows:

<b>Total Tests</b>	4604	<b>Positive cases</b>	243
<b>Negative</b>	4327	<b>Pending</b>	34
<b>Released from isolation</b>	176	<b>Deaths</b>	3

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$2,183,219.38 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 in the amount of \$2,183,219.38 as presented and 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 CERTIFYING ORDER FOR ANNUAL COMPENSATION**

Motion was made to certify the order for annual compensation for County Auditor, Assistant Auditors, and Court Reporters as follows:

Employee/Position	Salary
Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor	\$64,000
Roberta Meza-Barrera, Deputy Auditor	\$35,011
Dioni Hernandez, Deputy Auditor	\$30,872
Court Reporter	\$12,322

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.

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON REQUEST TO APPROVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS SURGE IN LOCAL COVID-19 CASES**

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF \$24,000 TO NETDATA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment of \$24,000 to NETDATA, \$12,800 will be paid from Non-Department Line Item: 10-409-777 and \$11,200 will be paid from Technology Fund Line Item: 62-582-392 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 PURCHASE OF TWO DISINFECTING TUNNELS FOR ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of two disinfecting tunnels for the Zapata County Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$20,000, to be paid from COVID-19 funds 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 REPAIRS FOR RAW WATER INTAKE PUMP**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the repairs for the Raw Water Intake Pump in the amount of \$89,300.00, to be paid from the storm damages insurance claim 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 REPAIRS AT ROMEO FLORES PARK**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the repairs at the Romeo Flores Park, in the amount of \$17,020.00, to be paid from the storm damages insurance claim 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.

**ITEM #14 WAS RECALLED**

**ORDER APPROVING CURFEW FOR ZCISD STUDENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve curfew for ZCISD students as follows: 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; they are exempt from curfew during lunch hour 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., request was made by Mr. Gonzalez, ZCISD Superintendent.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REOPENING OF EIGHT-LINERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to open eight-liners at 50% capacity; hours of operation are to comply with curfew as requested by Hon. Olga Elizondo, Commissioner Pct. 2.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioner Elizondo, Martinez, and Garza. Judge Rathmell, and Commissioner Mendoza voted against. Motion carried.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICE FOR ZAPATA COUNTY JAIL PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoice in the amount of \$6,991.42; payable to Deep South Haulers, LLC for Zapata County Jail Project 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 PLAT AND SURVEY FOR LAS LOMAS WIND PROJECT  
ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve plat and survey for the Las Lomas wind project electrical substation as requested by Keith Kurtz, Senior Project Developer-ENGIE N. America.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PLAT AND SURVEY FOR LAS LOMAS WIND PROJECT  
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve plat and survey for the Las Lomas wind project operation and maintenance facility (O & M) as requested by Keith Kurtz, Senior Project Developer-ENGIE N. America.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF TXCDBG FAST FUND GRANT APPLICATION FOR AMBULANCE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve resolution to authorize submission of TxCDBG FAST Fund Grant Application for an ambulance 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 RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF TXCDBG 2020 ROUND II COLONIA CONSTRUCTION FUND GRANT APPLICATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution to authorize submission of TxCDBG 2020 Round II Colonia Construction Fund Grant Application 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 LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata County Water Plant	80-34160-600	Chlorine & Chemicals	\$15,000.00
TO	Zapata County Water Plant	80-33660-600	Repair & Maintenance Supplies	\$15,000.00
FROM	Zapata County Water Plant	80-42860-600	Conference/Seminar Expense	\$1,000.00
TO	Zapata County Water Plant	80-34260-600	Water Sampling	\$1,000.00

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.

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata County Sewer Plant	008-56960-20	Improvements	\$5,000.00
TO	Zapata County Sewer Plant	008-44360-602	Electricity	\$5,000.00
FROM	Zapata County Sewer Plant	008-46260-602	Equipment Rental	\$2,500.00
TO	Zapata County Sewer Plant	008-44360-602	Electricity	\$2,500.00
FROM	Zapata County Sewer Plant	008-42760-602	Mileage travel expenses	\$3,500.00
TO	Zapata County Sewer Plant	008-44360-602	Electricity	\$3,500.00
FROM	Zapata County Sewer Plant	008-42860-602	Conference/Seminar	\$1,700.00
TO	Zapata County Sewer Plant	008-20560-602	Electricity	\$1,700.00
FROM	Zapata County Sewer Plant	008-34160-602	Chlorine & chemicals	\$7,000.00
TO	Zapata County Sewer Plant	008-33660-602	Electricity	\$7,000.00

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 ADOPTING COUNTY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to adopt County Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, including all proposed changes, as presented by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor. (*SEE ATTACHMENT A FOR DETAILS*)

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

**ORDER APPROVING TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to adopt a tax rate of 0.924026/\$100 valuation for Zapata County in accordance with Local Government Code Sections 111.007-111.010 by executing an “Order Setting the Tax Rate for “2020-2021, ” to be approved as follows:

General fund .....	0.639000
Interest and Sinking Fund .....	0.215000
Special Road & Bridge .....	0.070016
<u>F.M./Flood Control .....</u>	<u>0.000010</u>
<b>TOTAL TAX</b>	<b>0.924026</b>

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 SETTING SALARIES AND NUMBER OF POSITIONS BY APPROVING GENERAL ORDER OF PERSONNEL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve order setting salaries and the number of positions by approving the “General Order of Personnel for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, with recommendations and changes, as approved by the majority of vote, as request 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 OPERATION GENERAL ORDER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve request by County Auditor, Triunfo Gonzalez, to approve the “Operation General Order for Fiscal Year 2020-2021”.

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

**ORDER APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING COUNTY TREASURER AND COUNTY AUDITOR TO CLOSE ALL ACCOUNTS AND MAKE ALL NECESSARY LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve and authorize the County Treasurer and the County Auditor to close all accounts and make all necessary line item transfers 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.

**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 APPROVING COVID-19 GUIDELINES AS RECOMMENDED BY CDC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to set guidelines for COVID-19 as recommended by CDC. *Closed Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.074 (B) (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 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