

**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 March 2023, 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
Pedro Morales	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Jose A. Solis	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Robert Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Celica A. Rodriguez	Chief Deputy County Clerk

ABSENT:

Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court (Attending Co. & Dist. Clerk's Region 8 Spring Conference)
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VISITORS: Severita Sanchez, Edwin Rodriguez, Veronica Valadez, Ella I. Martinez, Christina Salinas, Roger Miller, Leandro Martinez, Ramon E. Montes, Ricardo Guevara, Luis Guevara, Adolfo Gonzalez, and Carlos Q. Ramirez.

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
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER, COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Solis will assist TxDOT on Saturdays to clean highways. Precinct 3 will adopt and also work on FM 496. National Honor Society will also be given credit hours for participating.

Commissioner Morales thanked Rene Solis for contribution of trees.

Judge Rathmell stated that epilepsy was celebrated on purple day, they celebrated at Z-Wings.

Judge Rathmell added that the lake levels are very low and the county is trying to get water from Amistad.

Commissioner Solis stated that Border Region celebrated Down Syndrome Day.

APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from March 14 through March 22, 2023 in the amount of \$532,469.95 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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve checks issued from March 14 through March 22, 2023 in the amount of \$532,469.95 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.

PRESENTATION BY DAVID QUIN, PROGRAM MANAGER OF PUBLIC POWER POOL (“P3”)

David Quin, Program Manager of Public Power Pool (“P3”), gave a presentation regarding P3's 2022 groupwide procurement for the County's new electricity contract with MP2 Energy Shell Energy Solutions for 2023-2025; there is a price increase from .03 cents to .05 cents. Paperwork attached for the record.

PROCLAMATION FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH ADVOCACY CENTER

Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month Advocacy Center was presented. Dr. Severita Sanchez addressed the court and thanked them for assisting with facility. Proclamation was read. No action was taken.

ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT TO RECOGNIZE APRIL AS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve resolution in support to recognize April as National Autism Awareness Month as requested by Nellie Trevino, Personnel Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING EXPANDING TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY DRIVER’S LICENSE DIVISION OFFICE INCLUDING FURNITURE AT ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve expanding the Texas Department of Public Safety Driver's License Division office including office furniture at the Zapata County Community 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 AWARDING ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR 2023 COLONIA FUND CONSTRUCTION FROM TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESSER CONSULTING & COMPANY LLC

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to award administrative services for the 2023 Colonia Fund Construction (CFC) from the Texas Department of Agriculture to Esser Consulting & Company LLC 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 AWARDING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR 2023 COLONIA FUND CONSTRUCTION CFC FROM TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PREMIER ENGINEERING

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to award engineering services for the 2023 Colonia Fund Construction CFC from the Texas Department of Agriculture to Premier Engineering 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 AWARDING ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED SPENDING COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO ESSER & COMPANY LLC

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to award administrative services for the Congressional Directed Spending Community Facilities grant for the Zapata County Fire Department from USDA Rural Development to Esser & Company LLC 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 AWARDING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED SPENDING COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO PREMIER ENGINEERING

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to award engineering services for the Congressional Directed Spending Community Facilities grant for the Zapata County Fire Department from USDA Rural Development to Premier Engineering 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 TEMPORARY PART-TIME POSITION FOR ZAPATA COMMUNITY CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve temporary part time position for the Zapata County Community 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.

ITEM #15 TO AMEND ZAPATA COUNTY BUDGET TO REFLECT SALARY INCREASE FOR EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION LONE STAR

No action taken on this item.

Discussion: Three options were discussed.

- #1 Amend budget with salary increase making salary permanent.
- #2 Employees could be full time OLS employees and only work on OLS cases.
- #3 Pay same salary then reimburse as one time stipend/bonus.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT TO CARLOS COLINA VARGAS & ASSOCIATES
FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION WORK DONE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment to Carlos Colina Vargas & Assoc. for application submission work done for the following projects: Mira Flores Neighborhood Park (\$5,235), Falcon Lake Boat Ramp Site improvements (\$9,000), Emergency Operations Center (\$10,000) as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. Zapata County will be reimbursed for payment.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,800.00
FROM ZAPATA Q.A., INC. FOR REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF 10-TON
CONDENSER FOR ZAPATA MEDICAL CLINIC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of an invoice in the amount of \$10,800.00 from Zapata Q.A. Inc. for the removal and replacement of a 10-ton condenser for the Zapata Medical Clinic. as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. Mr. Triunfo Gonzalez will talk to Mr. Leal for possible help with payment of half this payment.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR GRANT
ADMINISTRATOR SERVICES FOR ZAPATA COUNTY OPERATION LONE STAR
GRANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve request for qualifications for Grant Administrator Services for the Zapata County Operation Lone Star Grant. as requested by 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 OF INVOICES TO MARTINEZ ELECTRICAL
SERVICES FOR WORK DONE AT ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION,
ZAPATA COUNTY SHOW BARN, AND THE GUADALUPE & LILIA MARTINEZ
LEARNING CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoices in the amount of \$3,180.29 to Martinez Electrical Services for work done at the Zapata County Pavilion, Zapata County Show Barn, & the Guadalupe & Lilia Martinez Learning Center as requested by Pedro Morales, Commissioner Pct. 2.

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

**ORDER APPROVING HIRING OF JOSE LUIS GONZALEZ FOR SLOT #5
DEPARTMENT #012 SPECIAL ROAD & BRIDGE PRECINCT 2 AT \$10.00 PER HOUR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve hiring of Jose Luis Gonzalez for slot #5 Department #012 Special Road & Bridge Precinct 2 at \$10.00 per hour as requested by Pedro Morales, Commissioner Pct. 2.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO TRANSFER ANGEL CHAPA, JR. FROM ROAD & BRIDGE
PRECINCT 3, 15-013-SLOT #2 TO NON-DEPARTMENT GOLF COURSE
MAINTENANCE, 010-409-SLOT #7 AT \$10.00 PER HOUR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to transfer Angel Chapa, Jr. from Road & Bridge Precinct 3, 15-013-slot #2 to Non-Department, Golf Course Maintenance, 010-409-slot #7 at \$10.00 per hour as requested by Hon. Jose A. Solis, Commissioner, Pct. 3.

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

**ORDER APPROVING HIRING OF RAMIRO GUERRERO, JR. IN ROAD & BRIDGE
PRECINCT 3 015-013 SLOT #2 AT \$10.00 PER HOUR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve hiring of Ramiro Guerrero, Jr. in the Road & Bridge Precinct 3 015-013-slot #2 at \$10.00 per hour as requested by Jose A. Solis, Commissioner Pct. 3.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY-DUTY
ELECTRIC STOVE FOR AMOUNT OF \$16,968.00 FROM LINE ITEM 010-409-43430**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the purchase and installation of Heavy-Duty Electric Stove for \$16,968.00 from line-item 010-409-43430. as requested by Carlos Q. Ramirez, Sheriff's Office.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TEMPORARY CLOSURE
OF U.S. HWY 83 TO HOST 7th ANNUAL AUTISM AWARENESS 5K RUN/WALK
ON APRIL 1, 2023**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve resolution to approve the temporary closure of US Hwy 83 to host the 7th Annual Autism Awareness 5K Run/Walk on April 1st, 2023 as requested by Nellie Trevino, Personnel Director.

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

**ORDER ACCEPTING RETIREMENT OF ROSARIO V. GARZA FROM ZAPATA
COUNTY NUTRITION CENTER – SAN YGNACIO SITE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to accept the retirement of Rosario V. Garza from Zapata County Nutrition Center-San Ygnacio site effective April 7, 2023. as requested by Berta Lopez, Nutrition Center Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO ADVERTISE TO HIRE FOR ZAPATA COUNTY
NUTRITION CENTER – SAN YGNACIO SITE MANAGER POSITION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to advertise to hire for Zapata County Nutrition Center San Ygnacio site manager position.

as requested by Berta Lopez, Nutrition Center Director. Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director, will advertise in newspaper. Commissioner Garza also mentioned that Carlos Ramirez retired on Friday after 29 years of service.

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

ORDER APPROVING PARTIAL PAYMENT OF \$4,000.00 TO REFUGIO GARCIA FOR WORK DONE AT ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT FENCE PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve partial payment of \$4,000.00 to Refugio Garcia for work done at the Zapata County Airport Fence project. as requested by Ramon Montes, Airport Manager.

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

ORDER AWARDING BID PROPOSAL FOR NEW FUEL FARM AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AT ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT TO DNH UNITED FUELING SOLUTIONS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to award bid proposals for the New Fuel Farm and System Improvements at the Zapata County Airport to DNH United Fueling Solutions, being the lowest bidder with a bid of \$55,000 as requested by Ramon Montes, Airport Manager.

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 ON APRIL 19, 2023 BY WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS OF SOUTH TEXAS FOR A HIRING EVENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Soils, to approve request to use the Zapata County Community Center on April 19, 2023 by Workforce Solutions of South Texas for a hiring event. as requested by Ella Martinez, Workforce Solutions by South Texas.

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

ORDER APPROVING USE OF ROMEO FLORES PRECINCT 1 PARK FOR BENEFIT CAR SHOW AND COOK OFF ON APRIL 1, 2023

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the use of the Romeo Flores Precinct 1 Park for a benefit car show and cook off on April 1, 2023 as requested by Ely Zepeda, Member. 100% of proceeds will go to family of child with cancer.

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

ITEM #31 TO REQUEST THE USE OF THE GOLF COURSE ON MAY 13, 2023 FOR THE BENEFIT FOR MEN'S ACTS RETREAT

No action was taken on this item.

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve installation of the following street light:

a. 1715 Guerrero Avenue

as requested by Hon. Roberto 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 APPROVING LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the following line-item transfers:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	District Clerk’s Office	010-450-42610	Supplies	\$880.00
TO	District Clerk’s Office	010-450-43580	Travel	\$880.00

as requested by Hon. Dora Martinez, District Clerk.

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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the following line-item transfers:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-312	Communications & Programs	\$440.00
TO	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-427	Workshops & Travel Exp.	\$440.00
FROM	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-313	Membership Dues	\$40.00
TO	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-427	Workshops & Travel Exp.	\$40.00
FROM	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-310	Office Supplies	\$400.00
TO	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-427	Workshops & Travel Exp.	\$400.00

as requested by Jesus F. Rodriguez, Agrilife Ext.

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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the following line-item transfers:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Nutrition Center C2	038-42764-648	Travel	\$528.00
TO	Nutrition Center C2	038-648-42616	Supplies	\$528.00

as requested by Dora Martinez, District Clerk.

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 SOLIS,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER AWARDING PROPOSAL FOR DAILY OPERATION OF THE LOS EBANOS
GOLF COURSE TO RENE PIÑA**

Motion was made by Judge Rathmell, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to award proposal for daily operation of the Los Ebanos Golf Course to Rene Piña, with a bid of \$18,000 per year as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INCREASE OF GARBAGE COLLECTION RATES AND
LOWER FRANCHISE TAX RATE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve increase of garbage collection rates from \$20.00 to \$26.00 per month; franchise tax rate will be lowered from 12% to 10%, as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioner Solis, Mendoza, Morales and Garza. Judge Rathmell abstained. Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, 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