

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 11th day of April 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
Pedro Morales	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Jose A. Solis	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Roberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

ABSENT:

Paco Mendoza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
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VISITORS: Nellie Treviño, Roger Miller, Rogelio Gonzalez, Gerardo H. Garcia, Rebecca Y. Gutierrez, and Delia Mendoza.

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 COMMISSIONERS COURT

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell stated that many got together for the Easter holiday. He added that Charlie Averitt passed away. He received a call from Congressman Cuellar who will be here on Friday for grant announcement for Sheriff's Office. Grant is for over \$660,000 for renovations. Lake level is steadily creeping up to 257. New management team will begin at the end of the month at the Golf Course.

Commissioner Solis stated that many Easter events took place. He added that a Golf tournament will take place tomorrow for Middle School.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices from March 24 – April 5, 2023 in the amount of \$308,184.85 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 TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve Treasurer's Report 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.

ORDER APPROVING CHECKS ISSUED

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from March 24 – April 5, 2023 in the amount of \$308,184.85 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.

TAX / ASSESSOR COLLECTOR’S REPORT

Tax Assessor/Collector’s office reported Hotel-Motel tax collections in the amount of \$10,138.46 for the month of March with a year-to-date total of \$58,600.99. Net collections were \$343,167.68 with tax collections at a rate of 85.77%. A total of \$892,690.00 was collected through the Home Owners Assistance Program. Utility Program is still ongoing.

PRESENTATION FROM THE OLGA V. FIGUEROA ZAPATA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

A presentation was made by Rebecca Gutierrez on the Olga V. Figueroa Zapata County Public Library 40-year anniversary. (Attached for the record.)

ORDER APPROVING TO COLLABORATE WITH ZCISD AND APPROVE ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER AND REUNIFICATION SITE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve a 5-year agreement to collaborate with ZCISD and approve the Zapata County Community Center as the Reunification site, pending approval by county attorney, as requested by Hon. Jose A. Solis, 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 SELECTION OF WATER STORAGE TANKS AS THE PROJECTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 2024 CDBG COLONIA FUND CONSTRUCTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the selection of the water storage tanks as the projects for submission to the Texas Department of Agriculture 2024 CDBG Colonia Fund Construction 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 RESOLUTION OF ZAPATA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT AUTHORIZING AWARD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES TO PREMIER ENGINEERING FOR 2023 TxCDBG COLONIA FUND CONSTRUCTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve resolution of the Zapata County Commissioners Court authorizing the award of engineering services to Premier Engineering for the 2023 TxCDBG Colonia Fund Construction as per Commissioners Court Meeting held on March 27, 2023 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 REQUEST PROPOSALS FOR INSTALLATION ON VIDEO
CONFERENCING EQUIPMENT IN THE 49TH DISTRICT COURTROOM USING
BUDGETED OPERATION LONE STAR FUNDS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to request proposals for the installation of video conferencing equipment in the 49th District Courtroom using budgeted Operation Lone Star funds 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 SOLICIT REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE
BRINGING ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES TO TEXAS (BOOT) PROGRAM TO SOLICIT
APPLICATIONS FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to solicit requests for proposals for the Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas (BOOT) Program to solicit applications for broadband infrastructure projects in eligible areas 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 DELETE ITEM FROM PROPOSED BIDS FOR THE
NORTHWEST COLONIA GRANT WATER IMPROVEMENTS, PRESENT IT TO
CONTRACTORS AND BRING BACK TO COURT FOR CONSIDERATION AND
APPROVE PAYMENT TO PREMIER ENGINEERING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve to delete an item from proposed bids for the Northwest Colonia Grant Water Improvements, present it to contractors and bring back to court for consideration; and approve to pay \$47,000.00 to Premier Engineering 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 INVOICE AND REVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS ON
CARDINAL AND CRANE CDGB**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment to Mouflon Oilfield Services in the amount of \$36,300.00 (invoice #3) as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that there are leaks in old lines. New lines had not been switched over, they have been flushed out, disinfected, and cleared. They connected to Cardinal Lane on Saturday. They will connect Crane Lane this week. Old line is shallow and brittle, line will be capped on both ends. New service will be available even for empty lots.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO APPLY FOR STREET PAVING GRANT
(SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANT – SS4A)**

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Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve to apply for street paving grant (Safe Streets and Roads for all (SS4A) Grant Program). Applications are open now through July 10 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 TO ALLOW MARTIN SAENZ TO GO OUT FOR BIDS TO PURCHASE DOZER FOR ZAPATA COUNTY LANDFILL

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to allow Martin Saenz to go out for bids to purchase a dozer for the Zapata County Landfill requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING \$2,500 FOR PURCHASE OF FIREWORKS FOR 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve \$2,500.00 to purchase fireworks for the 4th of July fireworks display as requested by Karran Westerman, Zapata County News.

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

ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION FOR CDBG APPLICATION CFC-23-0426 COLONIA FUNDS CONSTRUCTION REQUESTING \$1,000,000 FOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS IN ZAPATA COUNTY COLONIAS

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution for CDBG Application CFC-23-0426 Colonia Funds Construciton requesting \$1,000,000.00 for water improvements in Zapata County Colonias as requested by Carl Esser, Esser and 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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve installation of street light at the following location:

- a. 602 Ramireño 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 to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Non-Department	10-409-42610	Supplies	\$683.00
TO	Non-Department	10-409-42618	Postage	\$683.00

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT			LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Indigent Program	Health	Care	010-640-43580	Travel & Training	\$1,500.00
TO	Indigent Program	Health	Care	010-640-43210	Indigent Medical	\$1,500.00

as requested by Patricia A. Gonzalez, Indigent Care Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION OF ZAPATA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT AUTHORIZING AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO ESSER & COMPANY FOR 2023 TxCDBG COLONIA FUND CONSTRUCTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution of the Zapata County Commissioners Court authorizing the award of professional services to Esser & Company for the 2023 TxCDBG Colonia Fund Construction as per Commissioners Court Meeting held on March 24, 2023 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.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:01 A.M.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MORALES,
TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION AT 11:11 A.M.**

ORDER APPROVING TO AMEND ZAPATA COUNTY BUDGET TO REFLECT SALARY INCREASE FOR EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION LONE STAR

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to amend the Zapata County budget to reflect a salary increase for employees participating in Operation Lone Star 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 Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, 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