

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023, the Commissioners Court of Zapata County, Texas convened in **SPECIAL 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 M. Morales	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Jose A. Solis	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Roberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	Zapata County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

**ABSENT:**

Paco Mendoza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
--------------	------------------------------

**VISITORS:** Roger Miller, Ralph Treviño, Karran Westerman, Delia Mendoza, Raymundo Del Bosque, Carlos Ramirez, and Manuel Gonzalez.

**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 HON. 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**

Commissioner Solis stated that Bravo Park is being worked on. The water plant is taking care of two leaks that were causing flooding. Water is being diverted and pond will be dredged; it has been 20 years since it was last done.

Commissioner Solis added that the playground in Siesta Shores should be finished this week. He will be getting plaques for donors.

Judge Rathmell stated that there were grass fires during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July; there were no structure damages and no major events.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve invoices from June 16 – to July 16, 2023 in the amount of \$553,549.43 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 Garza, 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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve checks issued from June 16 – to July 16, 2023 in the amount of \$553,549.43 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 \$8,588.78 for the month of June with a year-to-date total of \$84,495.78. Net collections were \$223,749.99 with tax collections at a rate of 88.51%.

Mrs. Mendoza stated that applications are still being accepted for the Texas Home Owner’s Program.

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY EDGAR PEREZ FOR PRESENTATION ON TXDOT HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Edgar Perez for presentation on TxDOT Highway Projects in Zapata County as requested by Edgar Perez, Project Manager.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO ADVERTISE COUNTY SHOP ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve to advertise County Shop Administrative Assistant position at current salary rate of \$10.00 per hour 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 START PROCESS TO ESTABLISH A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS, THE SIESTA SHORES WCID AND FALCON RURAL SUPPLY TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF WATER INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN THE THREE SYSTEMS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to start process to establish a Memorandum of Understanding between Zapata County Waterworks, the Siesta Shores WCID and Falcon Rural Supply to determine the feasibility of water interconnection between the three systems 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 PAY INVOICE TO Q.A. FOR PARTS AND LABOR OF 30-GALLON WATER HEATER AT LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to pay an invoice in the amount of \$1,045 to Zapata Q.A. for parts and labor of a 30-gallon water heater

at the Los Ebanos Golf Course, to be paid out of the golf course line item, 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 ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR FY2024  
OPERATION LONE STAR GRANT PROGRAM TO  
RODRIGUEZ PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to award administration services for the FY 2024 Operation Lone Star Grant Program to Rodriguez Professional Services for a fee of \$81,000 to be paid out of grant 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 PAYMENT OF INVOICE TO RODRIGUEZ PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE TO PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION SERVICES ON  
OPERATION LONE STAR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$32,500 to Rodriguez Professional Services for professional administration services on 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.

**ORDER APPROVING TO REPAIR OF AC UNIT AT ZAPATA COMMUNITY CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to repair the AC unit at the Zapata Community Center, repairs will be made by Quick Air for a fee of \$4,800.00, 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 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN REGIONAL PUBLIC  
DEFENDERS OFFICE AND ZAPATA COUNTY FOR FY2024/2025 BIENNIUM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Interlocal Agreement between the Regional Public Defenders Office and Zapata County for the FY2022/2025 biennium, for the annual fee of \$3,299.00, with auto renewal, pending review by County attorney, 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 DEDICATION OF TRINITY LANE, MARU, AND  
EVERGREEN STREETS FOR USE OF PUBLIC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve dedication of Trinity Lane, Maru, and Evergreen Streets for the use of the public, at no cost to the county 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 PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP DUES TO TEXAS BORDER COALITION FOR FY2023**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of membership dues to the Texas Border Coalition for FY2023 in the amount of \$694.00 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 PAYMENT OF INVOICE TO REPAIR DAMAGE TO GLASS DOOR AT SAY YGNACIO FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of invoice payable to Torres Glass Shop, to repair damage to glass door at the San Ygnacio Fire Department, for \$350.00 to be paid out of non-department repairs and maintenance, 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO BORDER POOLS MAINTENANCE & SUPPLY FOR REPAIRS TO GUADALUPE & LILIA MARTINEZ SWIMMING COMPLEX**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Commissioner Mendoza to approve payment to Border Pools Maintenance & Supply for repairs to the Guadalupe & Lilia Martinez Swimming Complex in the amount \$10,900.00.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF TIGER CAT II 26HP KAWASAKI, TRACTOR CANOPY AND REPLACEMENT ENGINE FROM CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of a Tiger CAT II 26HP Kawasaki for \$12,299, tractor canopy for \$1,452.09 and a replacement engine for \$2,828.95 from the Certificates of Obligation (321-400-49100). Total is \$16,580.04 as requested by Hon. Pedro Morales, Commissioner Pct.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT TO DR. IKE'S HOME CENTER FOR DOOR INSTALLED AT JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PCT. 1 OFFICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment to Dr. Ike's Home Center for a door installed at the Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1 office. as requested by Hon. Anna M. Guerra, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1.

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

**ORDER APPROVING HOLIDAY CALENDAR FOR FY 2023-2024 AS PRESENTED**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Holiday Calendar for FY 2023-2024 as presented by Nellie Trevino, HR Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO ENROLL ZAPATA COUNTY EMPLOYEES IN THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION FO COUNTIES CERTIFIED CYBERSECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM 2023**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve to enroll Zapata County employees in the Texas Association of Counties Certified Cybersecurity Training Program 2023 as requested by Nellie Trevino, HR Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO RELEASE FUNDS FROM FIRST THREE QUARTERS ALLOCATED TO ZAPATA COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve request to release funds in the amount of \$37,500.00 from the first three quarters allocated to the Zapata County Museum of History, money will be released when financials are brought in, as requested by Amparo Montes-Gutierrez, Zapata Co. Museum of History.

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

**ORDER APPROVING AND ACCEPTING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND ZAVALA COUNTY ASSOCIATED WITH OPERATION LONE STAR FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TRANSPORT SERVICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve and accept Memorandum of Understanding between Zapata County and Zavala County, associated with Operation Lone Star for Law Enforcement Transport Services, pending review by County Attorney, as requested by Chief Joe Pena, 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 REQUEST TO USE ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER FOR SUMMER HEALTH AND RESOURCE FAIR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request to use the Zapata Community Center for Summer Health and Resource Fair on Wednesday, August 9th from 10 AM to 1 PM, sponsored by MedTeam and Zapata County Sheriff's Office as requested by Chief Joe Pena, 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 INVOICE #24609 IN PREPARATION OF BACTERIA TESTING ADDRESS MAP**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoice 24609 for \$5,000 in preparation of bacteria testing address map 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY LUIS ORTIZ III, 911 PROGRAM SPECIALIST, TO APPROVE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR E911 PUBLIC ANSWERING POINT SERVICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Luis Ortiz III, 911 Program Specialist, to approve a Interlocal Agreement for E911 Public Answering Point Services.

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**

31. Update on border wall litigation. as requested by Carlos Flores, Attorney.

(Waivers were rescinded and Zapata County was successful in saving the bird sanctuary in San Ygnacio, TX. This has been the only successful lawsuit by any border community in the United States.)

**ORDER APPROVING LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS**

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	County Judge	010-400-4430	Repairs and Maintenance	\$1,080.00
<b>TO</b>	County Judge	010-400-43580	Travel & Training	\$1,080.00

as requested by Roxana Elizondo, County Judge’s Office.

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 Solis, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff’s County Jail	010-560-42660	Prisoner Clothing	\$1,000.00
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff’s Regional Jail	010-560-43580	Travel & Training	\$1,000.00
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff’s Regional Jail	010-560-42660	Prisoner Transportation	\$2,500.00
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff’s Regional Jail	010-560-43580	Travel & Training	\$2,500.00
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff’s Department	010-560-42660	Prisoner Transportation	\$4,000.00
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff’s County Jail	010-560-43580	Travel & Training	\$4,000.00

as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque Jr., Sheriff’s Department.

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 Solis, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Juvenile Probation	010-570-43135	Contract Services	\$9,300.00
<b>TO</b>	Juvenile Probation	010-570-43580	Training	\$9,300.00

as requested by Sandy J. Pippin-Gomez, Juvenile Probation.

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 Solis, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT			LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Texas Extension	A&M	AgriLife	010-665-310	Office Supplies	\$200.00
<b>TO</b>	Texas Extension	A&M	AgriLife	010-665-427	Workshops & Travel	\$200.00

as requested by Jesse Rodriguez, AgriLife Agent.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STRONGLY URGING MEXICO TO COMPLY WITH TERMS OF 1944 TREATY AND RELEASE WATER DUE TO THE UNITED STATES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution in support of strongly urging Mexico to comply with the terms of the 1944 Treaty and release water due to the United States. 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 IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION STONEGARDEN FY-2022**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution in support of Operation Stonegarden FY-2022 as requested by Chief Joe Pena, 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 OF RIFLE-RESISTANT BODY ARMOR GRANT PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution in Support of Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Program (BAGP) FY2024. as requested by Chief Joe Pena, Sheriff's Office.

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 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