

**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 June, A.D., 2016, 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
Jose Emilio Vela	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: Romeo Salinas, Said Figueroa, Triunfo Gonzalez, Jr., Nellie R. Treviño, Monica Alanis, Brian Martinez, Juan J. Meza, Maria I. Gutierrez, Paco Mendoza, Lee Ann Zapata, Anna G. Molina, Ramiro Hernandez, Rene Garcilazo, Anselmo Treviño, Jr., James Ornelas, Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Enrique Valdez, Juana Maria Gutierrez, Delia Mendoza, Betty M. Lopez, Jorge Oyervides, and Daniel Arriaga.

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
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Vela commended the River Pierce Foundation for the restoration project in San Ygnacio.

Commissioner Elizondo commented that Villarreal Elementary visited A.L. Benavides.

Commissioner Elizondo also stated that there had been a watermelon distribution. Items come from Laredo Food Bank.

Commissioner Vela commended the Little League for hosting a tournament.

Ramiro Hernandez stated that several teams from Laredo, Rio Grande and Zapata participated.

Mr. Hernandez also gave an update on the Boys and Girls Club. Approximately 100 kids are participating every day. There is a back pack program in progress. The club applied for the USDA grant. They are serving 100 meals a day.

He further stated that he runs the club like a military operation. He is looking into expanding to include meals for all age groups instead of just school age. A contractor will be doing the kitchen renovation and one of the air conditioners will be replaced.

He also informed the Court that a pump went out in the swimming pool, it was not cycling the water. He will make a phone call today about having it repaired.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices 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 Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve checks issued 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.

REPORT BY LNV REPRESENTATIVES TO INFORM THE COURT ON POSSIBLE PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES AVAILABLE

Enrique Valdez and James Ornelas, PE, representatives of LNV informed the court on possible professional consulting services available for those counties meeting eligibility for federal and state grants. LNV headquarters is located in Corpus Christi, they provide presentations and work with the Texas Department of Agriculture. They look for Texas Water Development Board Loans at 6.5% interest rate and work with the Department of Energy. They do free audits and advise on how to conserve energy. They will look into Texas Water Development Board grants to replace water meters. Commissioner Vela will place Mr. Ornelas on the agenda to give a presentation at the Tax Appraisal District.

ORDER TO PROCEED WITH PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A CALL MANAGER SYSTEM FOR ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ZAPATA COUNTY REGIONAL JAIL AND ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to proceed with the purchase and installation of a Call Manager System for the Zapata Co. Sheriff's Office, Zapata Co. Regional Jail, and Zapata Co. Waterworks. Existing lines will be merged and changed to fiber optic with Time Warner at a cost of \$24,000 from new budget and will take from 90 to 120 days to occur. Phone numbers will remain the same as requested by Honorable Joseph 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 PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION'S CALCULATED ACCESS LINE RATES AS APPROVED IN PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve the Public Utility Commission's calculated access line rates as approved in previous meeting as requested by Honorable Joseph 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 USE \$12,000 FROM HOTEL/MOTEL FUND TO MEET ZAPATA COUNTY MUSEUM BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve to use \$12,000 from the Hotel/Motel Fund to meet Zapata County Museum Budget requirements as requested by Dr. Hildegardo Flores, Zapata County Museum.

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

ORDER APPROVING \$10 FEE FOR NON-HOUSEHOLD TRASH COLLECTIONS

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a \$10.00 fee for non-household trash collected on 2nd/4th Friday of month collection dates as requested by Honorable 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 APPROVING USE OF \$570.80 FROM TECHNOLOGY FUND TO COVER FOUR MONTHS OF COPIER RENTAL EXPENSES

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of \$570.80 from the Technology Fund to cover four months of copier rental expenses for the Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 Office as requested by Honorable Judge Anna 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 PAYMENT FOR INVOICES FROM JUSTICE OF THE PEACE TECHNOLOGY FUND

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve payment for invoices from the Justice of the Peace Technology Fund for the following; Business Ink Co for official Criminal/Civil docket books in the amount of \$710.00 Matthew Bender & Co, Inc. for 2015-2016 Texas Criminal & Traffic Law books in the amount of \$123.83 as requested by Honorable Judge Fernando Muñoz, Justice of the Peace, Pct.3.

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

ORDER APPROVING USE OF \$675.12 FROM TECHNOLOGY FUND TO PURCHASE AN IPAD FOR S.H.I GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve the use of \$675.12 from the Technology Fund to purchase an Ipad for S.H.I Ggovernment Solution (62-582-392) as requested by Honorable Judge Juana M. Gutierrez, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2.

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

ORDER APPROVING USE OF \$1,250.76 FROM TECHNOLOGY FUND FOR TRAVEL TO SAN ANTONIO FOR TEXAS JUSTICE COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of \$1,250.76 from the Technology Fund for travel to San Antonio for the Texas

Justice Court Judges Association on July 12-16, 2016. (62-582-392) as requested by Honorable Judge Juana M. Gutierrez, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2.

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

ORDER APPROVING USE OF \$3,581.67 FROM COURTHOUSE SECURITY FUND TO PURCHASE SECURITY SYSTEM FOR SAN YGNACIO PRECINCT 2 OFFICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of \$3,581.67 from the Courthouse Security Fund, to purchase a Security System for San Ygnacio Pct. 2 Office (61-581-392) as requested by Honorable Judge Juana M. Gutierrez, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2.

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

ORDER APPROVING AND ACCEPTING RETIREMENT OF MR. JOSE A. LARA FROM WATER PLANT DEPARTMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to accept the retirement of Mr. Jose A. Lara from the Water Plant Department effective June 16, 2016. 80-600-Slot #16 as requested by Nellie 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 HIRING OF JOSHUA LEE VALADEZ AS WASTEWATER OPERATING TRAINEE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the hiring of Joshua Lee Valadez as a Waste Water Operating Trainee. Mr. Valadez will fill slot #9 with a starting salary of \$10.25 per hour, effective June 13, 2016 as requested by Carlos 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 APPROVING HIRING OF RICARDO DE LOS SANTOS AS METER READER

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the hiring of Ricardo De Los Santos as a meter reader. Mr. De Los Santos will fill Slot#17 @ a starting salary of \$10.09 per hour. Effective date June 20, 2016 as requested by Carlos Treviño, Water Plant Manager.

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

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

21. Consultation with attorney and possible action to address the delinquent water account at Four Seasons/Shady Haven as requested by Said A. Figueroa, County Attorney.

22. Consultation with attorney to discuss and take possible action regarding employee matters at the Zapata Fire Department as requested by Nellie Treviño, Personnel Director.

ORDER APPROVING LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

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

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	Non-Department	10-409-465	Co. Property Repairs	\$5,000.00
TO	County Judge	10-400-400	Indigent Defense	\$5,000.00

as requested by Roxanna 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 Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line item transfer to meet departmental needs:

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	County Clerk	10-403-484	Elections	\$400.00
TO	County Clerk	10-403-427	Travel Expenses	\$400.00

as requested by Honorable Mary Jane Villarreal Bonoan, County 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 Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line item transfer to meet departmental needs:

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	10-455-331	Pct. 3	\$1,200.00
TO	Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	10-455-312	Supplies	\$1,200.00

as requested by Honorable Judge Fernando Muñoz, Justice of the Peace Pct. 3.

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 transfer to meet departmental needs:

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	Zapata Co. Waterworks	80-600-481	State Fees	\$1,089.61
TO	Zapata Co. Waterworks	80-600-0171	Water Plant Employees	\$1,089.61

as requested by Carlos 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 GARZA,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER AUTHORIZING COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COLLECT DELINQUENT
WATER ACCOUNT AT FOUR SEASONS/SHADY HAVEN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to authorize County Attorney to collect the delinquent water account at Four Seasons/Shady Haven as requested by Said A. Figueroa, County Attorney. *[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 AUTHORIZING FIRE CHIEF MEZA TO TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION
REGARDING EMPLOYEE MATTERS AT ZAPATA FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve and authorize Fire Chief Meza to take disciplinary action regarding employee matters at the Zapata Fire Department as requested by Nellie Treviño, Personnel Director.

[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.

Commissioner Vela asked for a moment of silence for the young child that is missing.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, 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