

**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 December 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 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

VISITORS: Roger Miller, Adolfo Gonzalez, Jr., Karran Westerman, Ralph Treviño, Carlos Colina Vargas, Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr., Clint Hammonds, Joe Peña, Patricia A. Gonzalez, Carlos Q. Ramirez, Delia Mendoza, Veronica Alanis, and Manuel Gonzalez, Jr.

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 reported that there was a house fire on the 3000 block of Mercedes in Siesta Shores. A family of 5 lost their home and they are asking for donations. Commissioner Solis thanked Chelsey Martinez for an outstanding job. A GoFundMe page was created for the family and it can be found on Facebook. The Red Cross has been notified of the displacement.

Commissioner Morales announced that the Miraflores playground project has begun. He added that ground work is being done and ATVs are going in the area and messing up the work. If ATVs are seen there, please contact the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Solis stated that lights were installed at the basketball court about 2 weeks ago and they have already been broken. Kids are stuffing toilet paper in the toilets. He asked the Sheriff to get units to patrol the area.

Judge Rathmell stated that the Veterans Mobile Care clinic was out for repairs, but is back in service.

Pope Gonzalez, Veterans Service Officer added that they will be putting up signage with phone numbers; the VA clinic is part of the VA, not the County of Zapata and they are here on Thursdays.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from November 11 – December 7, 2023 in the amount of \$545,149.05 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 Mendoza, 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 Garza, to approve checks issued from November 11 – December 7, 2023 in the amount of \$545,149.05 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 \$6,085.00 for the month of November with a year-to-date total of \$6,085.00. Net collections were \$2,510.676.47 with tax collections at a rate of 56.50%.

Mrs. Mendoza mentioned that on the homeowners assistance program everything has already stopped and what was paid was paid. They are working on some accounts that are having issues or any types of corrections, or if they need to appeal. They collected \$1,000,015.00 in taxes and \$87,000 for utilities.

PRESENTATION ON TXDOT PROJECTS

Francisco Cantu with TXDOT reported on Zapata County projects for the next 5 years. One project will be South of Zapata (Chihuahua) to Tepozan, 3 miles of divided highway for \$35 Million dollars, to be completed by 2026. Another project will be South of San Ygnacio, 6 miles of divided highway for \$63 Million dollars to be completed by 2028. The last project will be South of Lopeño to the County Line, 3.6 miles of divided highway for \$37 Million dollars to be completed by 2029. The purpose of the divided projects is safety and mobility.

They will also be seal coating, for preventive maintenance; that will be a layer of rock with asphalt all the way from the Webb – Zapata County line to one mile south of FM 3169. The last project will be South of the Veleño Bridge to Monterrey Lane. They will do rehabilitation of lanes and adding shoulders and that project is scheduled to be completed October 2029 for \$7.4 Million dollars.

**ORDER APPROVING SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR
HYPER-REACH MASS EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SERVICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve a services agreement for the Hyper-Reach for mass emergency notification services for \$5,450.00 per year for a 3-year contract and change contract to arbitrate in Zapata County, not New York, 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 TO ESSER & COMPANY, LLC
FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS GRANT FROM USDA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to award administrative services to Esser & Company, LLC, for the Sheriff's Office Improvements Grant from USDA, for a fee of \$39,600 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 AWARDING ENGINEERING SERVICES TO PREMIER ENGINEERING
FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IMPROVEMENT GRANT FROM USDA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to award engineering services to Premier Engineering for the Sheriff's Office Improvement Grant from USDA 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 CHANGE DATE OF
REGULAR COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to change the date of the Regular Commissioners Court meeting scheduled for December 26, 2023 to December 21, 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 PURCHASE OF 2024 GMC SIERRA FOR SEWER PLANT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of a 2024 GMC Sierra for the Sewer Plant for \$44,635.35 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 RFP'S FOR ADMINISTRATION FOR FY2023
FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM FROM FEMA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to solicit RFPs for administration for the FY2023 Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program from FEMA 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 AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT
AND IMAGING AGREEMENT TO THAT CERTAIN VANGUARD
RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND IMAGING SYSTEM SOLUTION
PROPOSAL DATED AUGUST 30, 2017**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Amendment No. 1 to Records Management and Imaging Agreement to that certain Vanguard Records Management and Imaging System Solution proposal dated August 30, 2017 – revised July 9, 2018, which proposal incorporates GSA Contract GS-35F-215AA, and is by and between Zapata County Clerk, Zapata County, Texas and GovOS, Inc., and made effective as of January 1, 2024 as requested by Hon. Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, Zapata County Clerk.

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

**ORDER APPROVING IMPLEMENTATION OF
CATALIS PAYMENT SOLUTIONS FOR TAX OFFICE AND
COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the implementation of the Catalis Payment Solution for the Tax Office and County Clerk's Office as requested by Hon. Delia Mendoza, Tax Assessor-Collector.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INMATE TELEPHONE AND VIDEO VISITATION
SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRODIGY SOLUTIONS, INC.
AND ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Inmate Telephone and Video Visitation Service Agreement between Prodigy Solutions Inc. and Zapata County Sheriff's Office to Replace previous agreement with Correctional Telephone as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr., Sheriff's Office.

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

REVIEW STATUS ON MIRAFLORES PARK

Manuel Gonzalez reported that they had a ground breaking ceremony. The location has been staked out. Contractor has cleared the land and started bringing in fillers and doing compaction of existing soil and started grading the field. They are needing to connect the existing 6” line on the North side of Miraflores Street with a new line for additional properties.

**ORDER APPROVING TO HAVE MR. GONZALEZ BRING IN AN
ESTIMATE FOR CONNECTION OF 2” AND 6” LINES AND
REVIEW OF MIRAFLORES STREET IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to have Mr. Gonzalez bring an estimate for connection of 2” and 6” lines on Miraflores Street as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

Manuel Gonzalez reported that they staked the street and the county removed the asphalt. Contractor started working on the millings. They encountered a condition needing court guidance in which there are 2 water lines a 6” line on the North side of the street and a 2” line on the South side of the street. The 2” line still has services, what they encountered is that those lines are old and tend to leak more often. He proposed that they tap into the 2” line and connect it to the 6” that is on the

North side, and all services on that stretch, which is about 600 ft. be reconnected to the 6" and that the 6" line be brought back and reconnect to the 2" on the other side and eliminate the section. There is possibly a 2" line on 10th Street toward Miraflores that they would like to reconnect to the 6" line so that there's circulation and movement, but the other section will be plugged and the old line would be eliminated to 2". They are better off connecting to the 6" line. The estimate for this would be about \$5,000 to \$10,000

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

TO REVIEW STATUS OF LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE

Manuel Gonzalez reported that they submitted a set of plans for review to representatives of Hilcorp, they provided comments that they do have a pipeline easement. They are okay with them paving if they get the minimum 3' of coverage over the pipe. There are sections where they cross the pipeline and other section where the pipeline runs parallel to the paving section. The judge stated that he would rather they move the paving to the edge and not have pipeline directly under the walkway/trail. They are now waiting for Hilcorp's response regarding fence. The trail will have access to the bathrooms. There is some funding still available.

ORDER APPROVING REIMBURSEMENT FOR TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$323,924.00 AND FINAL PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$356,485 FOR TRINITY APPARATUS FOR 2 AMBULANCES FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE SERVICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve reimbursement for Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs in the amount of \$323,924.00 and final payment in the amount of \$356,485 for Trinity Apparatus for two (2) ambulances for Zapata County Fire Department and Ambulance Service and schedule final public hearing January 10, 2024 at 5:05 PM 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.

REVIEW STATUS OF CDBG CFC 22-0086 SAN YGNACIO WATER PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Carl Esser reported that the Texas Department of Agriculture has funded this project in the amount of \$1 Million dollars on November 28 and authorize the use of funds for construction.

This means that the county has met all requirements as far as the National Environmental Policy Act. Since San Ygnacio is in a flood plan, they had to jump through hoops to meet criteria and clear the project. Mr. Gonzalez is having to clear the project with TCEQ. They are on schedule.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that they are looking at improvements/repairs to the clarifiers and upgrade filters at the plant. They are putting in new media, new underdrains, upgrade existing high service pumps, upgrade electrical system, and repaired roofs. Improvements will provide better quality of water and will be going out for bids at the end of the month.

**ORDER APPROVING FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON JANUARY 10, 2024 AT 5:15 P.M.
FOR CDBG CDV 21-0307 CARDINAL & CRANE STREET PAVING PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve final public hearing on January 10, 2024 at 5:15 PM for CDBG CDV 21-0307 Cardinal & Crane Street Paving Project as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting, LLC.

Project is complete; contractor is pending paperwork.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PUBLIC MEETING JANUARY 10, 2024 AT 5:25 PM FOR
USDA FUNDING FOR FIRE STATION PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve public meeting January 10, 2024 at 5:25 PM for USDA Funding for Fire Station Project 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.

**REVIEW STATUS OF PROGRAM YEAR 2024 CDBG COLONIA FUND
CONSTRUCTION APPLICATION OPPORTUNITY FOR
EXPANSION/IMPROVEMENTS FOR COLONIA WATER AND/OR SEWER PROJECTS**

Carl Esser brought to the attention of the court that there will be a new round in 2024 should the county have a colonia construction project. Should Zapata County prioritize a project for 2024, the 2021 Colonia fund construction project will have to be 100% completed and closed out. Pre-ap is in April and the final application would be in November.

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the following street lights:

- a. 310 3rd Street (E. Flores Addition, Block 11, Lot 6)
- b. 201 4th Street (E. Flores Addition, Block 50, Lot 1 & 2)
- c. 801 Elm Street (Zapata Townsite, Block 44, lot 4 & S)
- d. 305 Delmar Street (Zapata Townsite, Block 14, Lots 2 & 3)
- e. 485 Falcon Shores Drive (Flores Unit 1, Block, Lot 27 & 28)
- f. 134 1st Avenue (Zapata Townsite)
- g. 138 1st Avenue (Zapata Townsite)
- h. 4200 S. U.S. Hwy 83
- i. 89 FM 2687 (Lot 10 Chihuahua, Tx)

as requested by Hon. 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the following street lights:

- j. 1614 Villa Ave.
- k. 1312 1st Street
- l. 10th & Zapata Boulevard
- m. 1301 Medina St.
- n. 1214 Roma Avenue

as requested by Hon. Roberto Garza, Pct. 4.

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 MENDOZA,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,
TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**ORDER APPROVING REIMBURSEMENT FOR FOOD AND SUPPLIES TO
CHRISTOPHER HOLT FOR HIS SERVICE AS OFFICER FOR A K-9 DOG**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve reimbursement for \$1,593.41 to Christopher Holt for food and supplies for his service as an officer responsible for a K-9 dog, to be paid out of Sheriff's Office supply budget 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.

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

ADJOURN

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

