

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, A.D., 2017, 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
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, Triunfo Gonzalez, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Roxana Elizondo, Gary Mielke, Beverly Mielke, Nancy Shain, Gary Wehrer, Myron Harriman, Ruth Mandery, Ramona Bperk, Corinne Reynolds, Gene Rowe, Vicki Anderson, Carlene and Harold Dickerson, Delbert and Eleonor Anderson, Leslie Davila, Pat Zimmerman, Marie Lubbers, Frances Vandehey, Mary Reinhardt, Donald J. Reinhardt, William R. Grogan, Wilrena Kay Price, Jerome Bass, Regina Bass, Duane Nelson, Carol M. Case Nelson, Robert Jaremba, Minerva Cortes, Candice Wilson, Vicki Enfield, Doyle Enfield, Zaragoza Rodriguez III, Delia Mendoza, Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr., Manuel Gonzalez, Laura Moncivais, and Robert Brownwell.

**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  
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Mendoza commented on the Veteran's Day Appreciation celebration at the courthouse.

Commissioner Elizondo also commented on the Veteran's Day event at the American Legion. Romeo Salinas was a speaker. She also invited the public for a ribbon cutting celebration for the completion of Hwy 83 on Thursday morning at the J.P.s Office in San Ygnacio

Judge Rathmell commented on a letter to the editor regarding county equipment on private property. There is an agreement with the landowner to dispose of bio degradable debris on said private property.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, 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 TREASURER'S REPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, 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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, 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.

### **TAX / ASSESSOR COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

Luis L. Gonzalez, Tax Assessor/Collector, reported collections of Motel-Hotel Tax in an amount of \$4,755.28 for a year to date total of \$148,133.93 and tax collections in an amount of \$4,387,438.66 for a total of 43% total collections.

### **PRESENTATION BY TOM LOGAN OF VALLEY METRO**

Mr. Tom Logan of Valley Metro gave a brief presentation outlining the proposed service changes to implement Route 70, also known as the Zapata Route. Mr. Logan stated that the program has had minimal demand, therefore, they are working on a flex route.

### **ORDER APPROVING PROJECTS TO UTILIZE BALANCE FROM TXDOT COUNTY TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUND GRANT PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the selection of a project to utilize the remaining \$58,760.05 balance from the TxDot County Transportation Infrastructure Fund Grant Program. The areas selected are Pct 1: Lozano Street at Nicholson Subdivision and Pct. 3: 11<sup>th</sup> Street – Hwy 83 – Jackson Street.

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

### **ORDER APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR FY 2018 – 2019 BETWEEN LUBBOCK COUNTY AND ZAPATA COUNTY FOR REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR CAPITAL CASES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve an Interlocal Agreement for FY 2018-2019 between Lubbock County, Texas and Zapata County, Texas for the Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases, Zapata County's contribution will be \$5,488 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 FROM PREMIER ENGINEERING FOR SERVICES RELATING TO RAMIREÑO WATER LINE EXTENSION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the payment of an invoice totaling \$4,400 to Premier Engineering for services relating to the Ramireño water line extension 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 HIRE TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE AT  
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 3 OFFICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to hire a temporary employee for the Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 Office as requested by Hon. 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 TOBACCO FUND FOR AMBULANCE  
REMOUNT OF UNIT 109**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of \$35,956 from the Tobacco Fund for the ambulance remount of Unit 109. Department currently has \$55,000 of the quoted \$90,956.00 as requested by Chief J.J. Meza, Zapata County Fire Department.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF TWO CARDIAC MONITORS  
WITH FUNDS FROM TOBACCO FUND**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of two cardiac monitors with funds from the Tobacco Fund for \$36,000 as requested by Chief J.J. Meza, Zapata County Fire Department.

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

**ORDER APPROVING AN INCREASE IN MILEAGE RATE  
FOR AMBULANCE RUNS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve an increase in mileage rate for ambulance runs to \$13 per mile as requested by Chief J.J. Meza, Zapata County Fire Department.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF NEW COMPUTER FOR  
ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of a new computer for the Zapata County Fire Department, for the price of \$1,105.82, to be paid out of Computer Hardware (10-409-335) as requested by Chief J.J. Meza, Zapata County Fire Department.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF A THREE-YEAR FIREWALL SECURITY LICENSE FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve the purchase of a three-year firewall security license for the Zapata County Fire Department from Computer Hardware (10-409-335) as requested by Chief J.J. Meza, Zapata County Fire Department.

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

**ORDER APPROVING ADDITION OF ORTHO DENTAL PROPOSAL TO AMERITAS DENTAL PLAN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the addition of the Ortho Dental proposal to the Ameritas dental plan as requested by Nellie R. 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 JESUS RODRIGUEZ AS RECOMMENDED THE COURT FOR CANDIDATE TO FILL COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT-AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES POSITION SERVING ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve Jesus Rodriguez as recommended by the court for candidate to fill the County Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources position serving Zapata County effective January 1, 2018 and to confirm the county’s continuing support of \$18,373.00 for the county’s part of the agent’s salary as requested by Dr. Ruben Saldaña, Texas A & M AgriLife Extension.

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 FOR ZAPATA COUNTY WATER TREATMENT PROJECT AND PROGRESS REPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoice in the amount of \$111,625 payable to EJCDC and an invoice in the amount of \$14,079.76 payable to Premier Engineering for the Zapata County Wastewater Treatment Plant Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Project is on schedule in spite of six days of rain. Foundation for clarifiers in underway along with excavation.

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 FOR ZAPATA COUNTY TRUMAN PHELPS SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND PROGRESS REPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoice in the amount of \$10,141.25 payable to EJCDC Zapata County Truman Phelps Sewer Improvement Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. A total of 10 homes have been connected and four are pending connections. The project must be completed by November 19.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RENTAL FEE WAIVER FOR USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION FOR MARIACHI HALCON FUNDRAISER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve request for rental fee waiver for the use of the Zapata County Pavilion for a Zapata Mariachi Halcon Fundraiser, they will do clean-up after the event, as requested by Mariachi Halcon Booster Club.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RENTAL FEE WAIVER FOR USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION FOR ZAPATA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2018 FUNDRAISER – ZUMBA FIT CAMP FOR KIDS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request for rental fee waiver for the use of the Zapata County Pavilion on November 20, 2017 for the Zapata High School Class of 2018 fundraiser – Zumba Fit Camp for Kids as requested by Minerva Cortes, Zapata High School Class of 2018.

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**

28. To oppose the renaming of streets within the Four Seasons subdivision as requested by Four Seasons Homeowners Association.

*Vicky Anderson addressed the Court asking that street names not be changed. Changes to street names will cause undue burden on over 200 residents. They would have to update addresses for correspondence and, more importantly, 911 services could also be affected or interrupted and be life threatening for residents.*

**ORDER DENYING STREET NAME CHANGES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to deny request by Carol Case-Nelson, Member-Manager of Shady Haven, regarding permission for name changes on private roads in the Four Seasons Subdivision to simplify and clarify existing roads and order for Carol Case-Nelson to re-install original street signs on streets.

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

**REPORT FOR DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTIONS**

Mr. Michael G. Cano, Partner-Linebarger Goggan Blair Sampson, LLP, presented the Court with a report for delinquent tax collections for the period of September 1, 2016 thru August 31, 2017, report attached for the record.

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY JOHN ALBERT, AGENT – CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS TO USE ZAPATA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to table request by John Albert, Agent – Carson & Barnes Circus, regarding request to use the Zapata County Fairgrounds by the Carson & Barnes Circus on February 28, 2018 for a tented circus performance. A fee of \$500 to be paid to Zapata County and circus will perform clean up after performance.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF SECURITY LIGHT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the installation of a security light at the following location:

- a. 398 Gonzalez Street (Falcon Shores Unit 1, Block 8, Lot 21)  
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.

**ORDER APPROVING LINE ITEM TRANSFER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line item transfer for the purchase of computer software:

	DEPARTMENT			LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Zapata County Public Library			10-650-427	Workshop & Travel	\$1,000.00
<b>TO</b>	Zapata County Public Library			10-650-335	Computer Maintenance	\$1,000.00

as requested by Yanira Salinas, Library Director.

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 ELIZONDO,  
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM DISCUSSED IN  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

30./33. To review pay rate for slot #17 – Meter Reader and slot #23 Distribution at the Zapata County Waterworks and slot #3 at the Zapata County Wastewater and make changes as necessary as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

*Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters.*

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, 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.

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JOSEPH RATHMELL, COUNTY JUDGE  
OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

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MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN,  
COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS