

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, A.D., 2017, 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
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:** Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Roger Miller, Belia L. Salinas, Blanca S. Lopez, Josefa A. Martinez, Lupita Garza, Jose F. Mendoza, Rosalinda Gonzalez, Dora Mtz Castañon, Xavier Villarreal, Laura Garza, Delia Mendoza, Joe Peña, Ramon R. Benavides, Anselmo Treviño, Jr., Sandy J. Pippin-Gomez, and Manuel Gonzalez, Jr.

**WHEREUPON**, the following Orders and Proceedings were had by said Court, to-wit:

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:00 A.M.  
ROLL CALL BY MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN, COUNTY CLERK AND  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT  
INVOCATION BY ROGER MILLER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Martinez, commented on employees and officials who went to Rockport to assist hurricane victims. J.J. Meza and other volunteers also went to affected areas to drop off donations by locals and Sheriff's Department is going to Houston.

Judge Rathmell commented on the fever tick issue.

Commissioner Elizondo stated that the bird feeders have been placed.

J.J. Meza invited the court to attend a flag raising ceremony by the Woodsmen Organization on September 12 at 9:00 a.m.

J.P. Guerra addressed the court and asked for a \$3,000 raise for her clerk. (Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza to give a \$3,000 raise across the board for all J.P. secretaries/clerks.)

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, 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 Martinez, 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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, 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**

The Tax Office reported collections of Motel-Hotel Tax in an amount of \$20,408.19 YTD \$130,663.01 and tax collections in the amount of \$126,995.40 for 87% total collections.

**ORDER APPROVING AND CERTIFYING ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR COUNTY AUDITOR, ASSISTANT AUDITORS AND COURT REPORTERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve and certify the order for annual compensation for county auditor, assistant auditors, and court reporters as follows:

Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor	\$54,000.00
Roberta Meza-Barrera, Assistant Auditor	\$32,011.00
Dioni Hernandez	\$27,872.00
Court Reporter	\$11,822.00

as requested by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor.

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

**UPDATE ON 2017 CHILD AND ADULT FOOD PROGRAM**

Ramiro Hernandez reported that all requests for food program have been met. He’s having to buy food on a daily basis due to lack of storage, however, he’s required to buy groceries weekly. One of the deficiencies was that the server was not completing documentation at the end of duty.

Summer food program worked very well. A total of \$48,000 was spent at no cost to the county with \$10,000-12,000 in overage. Approximately 180 children were fed throughout the summer.

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS NOT ADDRESSED, REQUESTOR WAS NOT PREPARED**

- 12. Presentation for a community garden as requested by Jaime Garcia.

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

- 18. To approve the SAVNS Maintenance Grant contract between the office of the Attorney General and Zapata County for 2017-2018.

**ORDER APPOINTING TWO MEMBERS OF ZAPATA COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS COURT TO SERVE ON  
SOUTH TEXAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Judge Rathmell, to appoint Judge Rathmell and Commissioner Elizondo as two members of the Zapata County Commissioners Court who will serve on the South Texas Development Board of Directors for 2017-2018 and pay membership dues totaling \$3,854.80 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.

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

20. To consolidate Election Day polling places for Constitutional Amendment Election to be held on November 7, 2017 as follows: Precinct 1A and 1B to be consolidated with Precinct 1 located at Zapata County Courthouse, 200 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Zapata, TX and Precinct 2A to be consolidated with Precinct 2 located at Zapata County Pavilion, 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and Glenn Street, Zapata, TX. Consolidation is for this election only and is requested in an effort to save on election costs as requested by Hon. Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, County Clerk.

**ORDER ACCEPTING MASTER SOFTWARE LICENSE AND SERVICE AGREEMENT  
WITH KNOWINK**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Master Software License and Service Agreement with KNOWinc, which is necessary to operate elections equipment approved on meeting of August 28, 2017 for the purchase price of \$11,850.00 to be financed together with Hart Intercivic equipment as requested by Hon. Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, County Clerk.

**ORDER APPROVING REVIEW AND INVOICE ON PHELPS SEWER  
IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoice in the amount of \$49,024.75 for work on Phelps Sewer Improvement Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. The project is 65% complete, well is in and control panel is complete. Request for power sent to AEP is delayed due to Hurricane Harvey. The project will be completed within time frame.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REVIEW AND INVOICE ON ZAPATA COUNTY  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoice in the amount of \$97,375.00 for work on Zapata County Wastewater Treatment Plant as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Mr. Gonzalez met with USDA and remaining funds have been approved.

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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Sheriff's Regional Jail	10-567-406	Physicians	\$9,800.00
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	10-567-333	Prisoner Meals	\$9,800.00
FROM	Sheriff's Regional Jail	10-567-428	Education	\$3,600.00
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	10-567-333	Prisoner Meals	\$3,600.00
FROM	Sheriff's Regional Jail	10-567-429	Prisoner Transportation	\$2,600.00
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	10-567-333	Prisoner Meals	\$2,600.00
FROM	Sheriff's Regional Jail	10-567-392	Prisoner Medical Care	\$1,500.00
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	10-567-333	Prisoner Meals	\$1,500.00
FROM	Sheriff's County Jail	10-561-205	Uniforms	\$1,500.00
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	10-567-333	Prisoner Meals	\$1,500.00
FROM	Sheriff's County Jail	10-561-391	Prisoner Medication	\$1,000.00
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	10-567-333	Prisoner Meals	\$1,000.00
FROM	Sheriff's County Jail	10-561-429	Prisoner Transportation	\$1,200.00
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	10-567-333	Prisoner Meals	\$1,200.00

as requested by Sheriff Alonso Lopez, 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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	I & A Program	37-645-330	Fuel and Lubricants	\$2,000.00
TO	Nutrition C2	38-648-336	Raw Food	\$2,000.00

as requested by Rosalinda Gonzalez, Nutrition Center.

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata Co. Public Library	10-650-330	Fuel	\$864.00
TO	Zapata Co. Public Library	10-650-335	Computer Maintenance	\$864.00
FROM	Zapata Co. Public Library	10-650-464	Periodicals	\$23.14
TO	Zapata Co. Public Library	10-650-463	Books	\$23.14
FROM	Zapata Co. Public Library	10-650-330	Fuel	\$591.00
TO	Zapata Co. Public Library	10-650-463	Books	\$591.00

as requested by Ms. Salinas, Public Library.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION FOR PROJECT GUARDIAN ANGEL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a Resolution for Project Guardian Angel as requested by Joe Peña.

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 MENDOZA,  
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER ALLOWING EMPLOYEE REQUESTING LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO TAKE  
UNPAID LEAVE AND ALLOW CHIEF MEZA TO HIRE TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE  
AT FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to allow employee requesting leave of absence to take unpaid leave and allow Chief Meza to hire a temporary employee at Fire Department as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director. *Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney.*

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GARZA  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA  
TO RECESS UNTIL 1:00 P.M.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GARZA  
TO RECONVENE**

**ORDER ADOPTING COUNTY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to adopt and approve the County Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 as presented, with recommendations and changes, as approved by majority of vote, including additional funding for Fire Department as requested by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioner Mendoza, Elizondo, Martinez, and Garza. Judge Rathmell, voted against. Motion carried.

**ORDER APPROVING TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to adopt a tax rate of 0.924026/\$100 valuation for Zapata County in accordance with Local Government Code Sections 111.007-111.010 by executing an "Order Setting the Tax Rate for "2017-2018," be approved as follows:

General fund .....	0.624000
Interest and Sinking Fund .....	0.230000
Special Road & Bridge .....	0.070016
<u>F.M./Flood Control .....</u>	<u>0.000010</u>
<b>TOTAL TAX</b>	<b>0.924026</b>

as requested by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor.

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

**ORDER SETTING SALARIES AND NUMBER OF POSITIONS BY APPROVING  
GENERAL ORDER OF PERSONNEL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to set salaries and the number of positions by approving the “General Order of Personnel for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, with recommendations and changes, as approved by the majority of vote, as request by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor.

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

**ORDER APPROVING OPERATION GENERAL ORDER FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve request by County Auditor, Triunfo Gonzalez, to approve the “Operation General Order for Fiscal Year 2017-2018”.

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

**ORDER APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING COUNTY TREASURER AND  
COUNTY AUDITOR TO CLOSE ALL ACCOUNTS AND MAKE ALL  
NECESSARY LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve and authorize the County Treasurer and the County Auditor to close all accounts and make all necessary line item transfers as requested by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor.

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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, 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