

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 9th day of April, A.D., 2018, 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, Said A. Figueroa, Triunfo Gonzalez, Monica Alaniz, J.J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Roger Miller, Severita Sanchez, Letty Vallejo, and Delia Mendoza.

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

Judge Rathmell attended a video conference with Congressman Cuellar regarding various grants including additional funding for fever tick and CDBG grants. He also spoke with personnel of the sewage treatment plant in Nuevo Laredo, he was told that more pumps are now operational and they are working on repairing more. Judge Rathmell also stated that school officials are seeking funding for security. He also commented on the fundraiser for Ike Gutierrez held by the Fire Department. It was a very successful event raising close to \$10,000 in revenues.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, 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 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 Martinez, 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

Tax Assessor/Collector's Office reported Motel-Hotel Tax collections in an amount of \$9,363.45 for a year-to-date total of \$46,124.43; tax collections in the amount of \$345,225.28 for a total of 83.91%.

PRESENTATION ON CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Dr. Severita Sanchez, Executive Director - Children's Advocacy Center of Laredo, gave a presentation on Child Abuse Prevention Month for April 2018. Child Abuse affects children of all ages, races, and gender. The mission is to break the cycle of child abuse through community education, training and prevention and to allow the child a chance to heal through intervention in a child-sensitive environment. They are locally, increasing work hours on Fridays. Services are free. There will be a conference/workshop on April 25-27.

PRESENTATION BY ROLANDO RIOS ON 2020 U.S. CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING OF ZAPATA COUNTY

Mr. Rolando R. Rios of Rolando R. Rios and Associates, PLLC, made a presentation on 2020 U.S. Census and Redistricting of Zapata County. The census is picked up every 10 years. He emphasized the importance of completing and filling out the census form. Funds are lost for every person that is not counted.

ORDER APPROVING PROPOSAL FROM HERNANDEZ PEST CONTROL FOR REMOVAL OF BATS AND SEALING ENTRANCES AT ZAPATA COUNTY MUSEUM

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the proposal from Hernandez Pest Control in the amount of \$4,090.00 for three buildings, for the removal of bats and sealing of entrances at the Zapata County Museum, to be paid out of line item 10-409-465, Non-Department, Maintenance and Repair 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 \$495 OUT OF COURTHOUSE SECURITY TO PAY FOR SECURITY CAMERAS FOR PRECINCT 4 OFFICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment of \$495 out of Courthouse Security Fund to pay for security cameras for Precinct 4 office as requested by Hon. Ramon Benavides, Justice of the Peace Pct. 4.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF \$15,000 FROM TOBACCO FUND TO
MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve transfer of \$15,000 from the Tobacco Fund to Medical Supplies (10-543-460) as requested by Chief J.J. Meza, Fire Department.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REDISTRICTING LEGAL SERVICE
RETAINER AGREEMENT BETWEEN ROLANDO R. RIOS
AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC AND ZAPATA COUNTY FOR
PROVIDING REDISTRICTING SERVICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a redistricting legal service retainer agreement between Rolando R. Rios and Associates, PLLC and Zapata County for the purpose of providing redistricting services, to be paid out of consulting fees, as requested by Rolando R. Rios, Rolando R. Rios and Associates, PLLC.

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 PAVILION
FOR ZUMBATHON BENEFITING AUTISM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve request to use the Zapata County Pavilion on Friday, April 20, for a Zumbathon benefiting autism as requested by Minerva Cortes, Zumba Instructor.

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

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF SPEED HUMP

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the installation of a speed hump at the following address:

- a. 354 Gonzalez Street

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 RESOLUTION FOR GRANT
OPERATION STONE GARDEN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve resolution for the grant Operation Stone Garden (OPSG) as requested by Joe Peña, 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 FOR GRANT LOCAL BORDER
SECURITY PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution for grant Local Border Security Program (LBSP) as requested by Joe Peña, Sheriff'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 MENDOZA,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER AUTHORIZING TXDOT AVIATION TO NEGOTIATE
ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL ACREAGE FOR ZAPATA COUNTY
AIRPORT EXPANSION PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to authorize TxDOT Aviation to negotiate the acquisition of additional acreage for the Zapata County Airport expansion project, in an amount up to \$100,000.00, as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Chapter D, Section 551.072, Real Property.

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 DISCUSSED IN
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

18./26. to discuss and take possible action on personnel matters at the Zapata County Water Plant as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner Pct. 4.

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

**ORDER AUTHORIZING COUNTY ATTORNEY TO CONTACT
PROPERTY OWNERS AND MAKE COUNTER OFFER FOR
ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR A COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to authorize County Attorney to contact property owners and make counter offer for the acquisition of real property for a county right of way as requested by Said 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.

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

20./25. to discuss options for courthouse security 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.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mendoza, 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