

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, A.D., 2019, 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<br>Commissioners Court |

**VISITORS:** Romeo Salinas, Said A. Figueroa, Triunfo Gonzalez, Nellie R. Trevino, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Danny Arriaga, Roger Miller, Celica Rodriguez, Jose F. Mendoza, Alejandro Barrera, Jr., Sonia Montes, Sandy J. Gomez, Adriana C. Figueroa, Raymundo Del Bosque and Joe Peña.

**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**

Elsa Hall, an environmentalist and member of the No Border Wall Coalition, addressed the Court and petitioned the County to file an Amicus Brief. Phase 1 includes 52 miles which has been funded; Phase 2 includes downtown Laredo to Zapata County and is not funded. Deadline for filing of Amicus Brief is mid-November.

Eddie Gracia, with TXDot also addressed the Court and stated that a meeting was held last week to discuss how much land the Highway would take. People are not objecting.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve invoices in the amount of \$1,895,894.16 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 Mendoza, 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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$1,894,729.32, 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 \$5,514.77 for the month of September; with a year-to-date total of \$106,049.78. Tax collections are at 88.79% with collections in the amount of \$5,744,120.04.

**RECOGNITION OF VANESSA CANTU FOR TAKING WORLD TITLE AS WORLD KIDS SUPER MODEL**

Vanessa Cantu was recognized by the Court for taking the World Title as World Kids Super Model. A picture was taken of Miss Cantu with members of Commissioners Court.

**PRESENTATION BY Z.C.I.S.D. AND OFFICIALS ON UPCOMING SCHOOL BOND ELECTION**

Mr. Carlos Gonzalez, School Superintendent gave a presentation on upcoming School Bond Election as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT FOR BORDER COALITION MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment for the Border Coalition Membership Dues 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 AIR CONDITIONER FOR SAN YGNACIO FOOD PANTRY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve the estimate for the purchase of an air conditioner for the San Ygnacio Food Pantry for the amount of \$4,500 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 DEMOLITION OF NON-FUNCTIONING BOOSTER STATION ON RAW WATERLINE RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED OFF FM 496**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the demolition of non-functioning booster station on raw waterline right-of-way located off FM 496 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 PROPOSAL BY HYDRO-PRO SOLUTIONS FOR REPLACEMENT OF ALL NON-DIGITAL ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS METERS INCLUDING FINANCING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve proposal by Hydro-Pro Solutions for the replacement of all non-digital Zapata County Waterworks Meters including financing options as follows: \$1,030,995.50 purchase price to be paid in 10 annual payments of \$128,257.18 per year, with a fixed interest rate of 2.82% and 5% contingency fee 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 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$800 TO ABELARDO MENDOZA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$800,00 to Abelardo Mendoza for repairs done 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 ELECTION SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND ZAPATA COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR UPCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the Election Services Contract between Zapata County and Zapata County Independent School District for the upcoming Constitutional Amendment election to include School Bond Election for ZCISD 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 COMPENSATION RATE INCREASE FOR ELECTION WORKERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve compensation rate increase for election workers from \$8.00 to \$12.00 per hour 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY NELLIE R. TREVIÑO REGARDING PURCHASE OF CAMERA SYSTEM FOR COURTHOUSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Nellie R. Treviño regarding request to purchase camera system for the courthouse 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 BID AWARD FOR ZAPATA COUNTY JAIL ROOF AND ZAPATA COUNTY REGIONAL JAIL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to award bid to Montgomery Construction with a bid of \$33,816.67 for the Zapata County Jail Roof and a

bid of \$35,671.43 for the Zapata County Regional Jail as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Manager.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO HIRE MARTIN JASSO FOR CEMETERY POSITION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to hire Martin Jasso for the cemetery position at the rate of \$9.00 per hour as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO WAIVE FEES FOR USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER FOR 2020 OLYMPICS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to waive fee for the use of the Zapata Community Center for the 2020 Special Olympics reception as requested by Nellie R. Treviño.

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

**REQUEST TO ENFORCE PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS OF ILLEGAL USE OF WATER AS PER THE CUSTOMER AGREEMENT AS REQUESTED BY NELLIE R. TREVIÑO, PERSONNEL DIRECTOR**

No action was taken.

**ORDER TO APPROVE TRANSFER OF JOSE I. MARTINEZ CASTILLO FROM SLOT 20 TO SLOT 26 AT WATER PLANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to transfer Jose I. Martinez Castillo from slot 20 @ \$9.98 per hour to slot 26 (vacant) at \$11.35 per hour as requested by Carlos Treviño, Water Plant.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO HIRE RUDY GUERRA AND JOSE PEÑA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to hire Rudy Guerra in slot 22 at \$9.98 and Jose Peña in slot 20 @ \$9.48 per hour as requested by Carlos Treviño.

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 ZAPATA HIGH SCHOOL MARIACHI BINGO**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request to use the Zapata County Pavilion for the Zapata High School Mariachi Bingo in November and December (pending dates) as requested by Jennifer Lozano, Mariachi Halcon parent.

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF FRONT STEPS OF ZAPATA COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
FOR NATIONAL PILL TAKE BACK EVENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the front steps of the Zapata County Courthouse on October 25 and 26, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the National Pill Take Back Event as requested by Sonia Sanchez Montes, SCAN.

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

**ORDER APPROVING 2019-2020 CONTRACT FOR USE OF OFFICE  
SPACE FOR SCAN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve 2019-2020 contract for use of office space for SCAN as requested by Sonia Sanchez Montes, SCAN.

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 LIGHTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to install a security light at the following locations:

- a. 105 Maru Lane
- b. 1407 Mahogany Ave.

as requested by Hon. Olga Elizondo, Commissioner Pct. 2.

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 install a security light at the following location:

217 Olmos Street

as requested by Hon. Eddie Martinez, Commissioner Pct. 3.

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

**ORDER TO TABLE RESOLUTION FOR VILLA-ZAPATA INTERNATIONAL  
BRIDGE CROSSING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Carlos Villarreal regarding approval of resolution for Villa-Zapata International Bridge Crossing as requested by Carlos Villarreal.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH  
ILLNESS AWARENESS MONTH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve Proclamation for Mental Illness Awareness Month as requested by Jessica Hurtado, Border Region.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RESALE OF  
FORECLOSED PROPERTIES AT PUBLIC AUCTION DUE TO FAILURE TO  
PAY AD VALOREM TAXES TO ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve a resolution authorizing the resale of foreclosed properties at public auction due to the failure to pay ad valorem taxes to Zapata County as requested by Rodger Gonzalez, Linebarger, Goggan, Blair, and Sampson, LLP.

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 ELIZONDO,  
TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**ORDER APPROVING NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION ORDINANCE FOR  
AUTOMOBILE WRECKING AND SALVAGE YARDS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a Neighborhood Beautification Ordinance for automobile wrecking and salvage yards, all salvage yards are to comply, effective October 15, 2019, 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 JOSE RAFAEL TREVIÑO III AS WATER PLANT  
AND SEWER PLANT MANAGER POSITION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to hire Jose Rafael Treviño III as Water Plant and Sewer Plant Manager Position with an annual salary of \$60,000 plus \$2,400 car allowance effective January 1, 2020; transitional period will start in December, he will be paid \$5,000 plus benefits to be paid out of the fund balance as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. *Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter 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.

**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