

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 27th day of July, A.D., 2020, 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, Said A. Figueroa, Triunfo Gonzalez, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Daniel D. Arriaga, Nellie R. Trevino, Joyce Currington, Jose A. Solis, Ralph Trevino, Roger Miller, Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr., 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 CELICA A. RODRIGUEZ, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK AND
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell reported on COVID-19 testing as follows: tests conducted 3,404, negative results 3,010, pending test results 271, positive test results 123, released for isolation 83, and 1 death. Last week's test results will be available next week.

Chief Meza commented on the storm; fortunately the storm headed South of Zapata County; we had 5.5" of rain. Approximately 1370 sand bags were bagged and distributed. Chief Meza added that 260 COVID-19 tests were done and a private contractor will be in Zapata doing additional COVID-19 testing.

Commissioner Elizondo stated that she received a call from a representative from the 8-liners and they want to know when they can reopen.

Commissioner Martinez expressed his condolences to the family of Felix Garcia, the Veterans Service Officer for Zapata County. Mr. Garcia suffered of congestive heart failure.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$1,072,035.40 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA – REPORT WILL BE RATIFIED/APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer presented Commissioners Court the Treasurer's Report for July 2020. No action was taken.

ORDER APPROVING CHECKS ISSUED

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$1,072,035.40, 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.

NO REPORT WAS PRESENTED – BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB IS CLOSED

8. Boys and Girls Club Report as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner, Pct. 1.

ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF COLD MIX FROM ANDERSON COLUMBIA FOR PRECINCT 4

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to purchase cold mix from Anderson Columbia for Precinct 4 to repair roadways. Purchase amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 as requested by Hon. Norberto 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 ALLOWING SHERIFF ALONSO LOPEZ TO HIRE A SERGEANT/INVESTIGATOR

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to allow Sheriff Alonso Lopez to hire a Sergeant/Investigator (10-560/Slot #22) as requested by Hon. Alonso Lopez, County Sheriff.

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

ORDER ALLOWING SHERIFF ALONSO LOPEZ TO HIRE A DEPUTY SHERIFF

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to allow Sheriff Alonso Lopez to hire a Deputy Sheriff (10-560/Slot #30) as requested by Hon. Alonso Lopez, County Sheriff.

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

ORDER ALLOWING SHERIFF ALONSO LOPEZ TO HIRE A JAIL COOK

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to allow Sheriff Alonso Lopez to hire a Jail Cook for (10-561/Slot #13) as requested by Hon. Alonso Lopez, County Sheriff.

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

**ORDER TO DENY REQUEST BY SHERIFF ALONSO LOPEZ TO
HIRE DETENTION OFFICER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to deny request by Sheriff Alonso Lopez to hire a Detention Officer for (10-567/Slot #13).

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

14. To allow Sheriff Alonso Lopez to hire a Detention Officer/Secretary (10-567/Slot #25) as requested by Hon. Alonzo Lopez, County Sheriff.

**ORDER TO DENY REQUEST BY SHERIFF ALONSO LOPEZ TO
HIRE DETENTION OFFICER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to deny request by Sheriff Alonso Lopez to hire a Detention Officer (10-567/Slot #26).

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

**ORDER TO DENY REQUEST BY SHERIFF ALONSO LOPEZ TO
HIRE JAIL COOK**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to deny request by Sheriff Alonso Lopez to hire a Jail Cook (10-567/Slot #33).

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO ADJUST SALARY FOR SLOT #24 JOHAN ALVARADO
DUE TO TYPO ERROR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to adjust salary for slot #24 Johan Alvarado from \$12.21 to \$13.21 when letter of hiring was submitted there was a typo error on salary. The \$13.21 was already budgeted 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 PAYMENT OF INVOICE AND STATUS REVIEW ON ZAPATA
COUNTY JAIL PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment to Deep South Haulers in the amount of \$7,034.00 for Zapata County Jail Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Contractor is moving along with work, did some of the grading. There is a request for a needed adjustment on work on valley gutter; need to add ramp for bus, additional cost is \$4,650.00

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, APPROVING DRAINAGE
EASEMENT AND STATUS REVIEW ON BERTHA STREET DRAINAGE EASEMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$1,500.00 payable to Premier Engineering for Bertha

Street drainage easement and approve acquisition of drainage easement from property owners as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Will construct a 10 feet drainage easement to prevent and divert ponding. Prepared survey and property description for drainage easement. Mr. Figueroa will prepare the paperwork.

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
(OPSG) OPERATION STONE GARDEN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution for the grant (OPSG) Operation Stone Garden as requested by Hon. Alonzo Lopez, County Sheriff.

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 GARZA,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER APPROVING BUDGET FOR ZAPATA COUNTY BORDER WALL
LITIGATION COST**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve retainer fee in the amount of \$7,500 per month with an additional \$1,800 for expert testimony for Zapata County border wall litigation as requested by Hon. Said Figueroa, County Attorney.

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

**ORDER APPROVING CLARIFICATION AND MODIFICATION ON ZAPATA
COUNTY WATER ORDINANCE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to modify and clarify Zapata County Water Ordinance as follows: Section A: add the word “interfere/tamper”; Section E: increase charges to include materials; Section 3(5)(B): remove “tenants or occupants”; modify NSF fees from \$25 to \$35; deposits have increased/doubled accordingly as per recommendation by Water Plant Manager.

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.

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