

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 14th day of April, 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: Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Daniel D. Arriaga, Dora Maricle, Ray Del Bosque, Ramon Montes, Jose A. Solis, Jared Gonzalez, Robert Collett, James Bendele, James Cody, Mark Dodson, Ken Eliason, Jim Klick, Gary Shoffner, and Ed Walters.

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 reported that as of yesterday Zapata has 3 positive cases with over 100 negative tests, 9 tests results are still pending. Some of the persons who tested had symptoms. The 3 positives are doing well and continue isolated. Most of the persons who tested were first responders. Mrs. Mary Plattner is the only one providing testing at this time.

Chief Meza recommends to continue with Shelter in Place Order until April 30. All of the firefighters are negative.

Judge Rathmell communicated with the Congressman and Harlingen will be coordinating and following up, they provided 30 test kits. He spoke to Elmo Lopez of the Laredo Health Department as they received a grant and are in the process of acquiring 1500 tests and some will be made available to Zapata. Right now the spread is very limited.

Zapata County bought masks and some were taken to Roxy and about 1,100 were delivered to the Sheriff's Office.

Danny Arriaga reported that he has been working together with Fire Department and other law enforcement offices, they have enforced curfew, shut down 6 curbside vendors, shut down vendors that were selling from home and did 19 stops for curfew violations.

James Bendele addressed the court and requested for the boat ramp to open. Many boat ramps are open throughout Texas. He stated that if they practice social distancing there should not be a problem.

Commissioner Elizondo added that hunters should not be allowed either.

Dora Maricle owner of Tiger Island told the court that she had not been informed until Tuesday night.

Robert Collet stated that 30 persons in a store is more dangerous than people on the lake. He added that many outsiders are coming in to fish and asked the court to be more sensible. Judge Rathmell stated that the state park is shut down.

Jared Gonzalez addressed the court and stated that some ramps are still open and many lakes are open for ramps.

Dora Maricle stated that Tiger Island has a private ramp that is used by the old people that live there.

County Attorney Figueroa added that what we are going through is hurting a lot of people, but we have to do our part to get through it. If we have an outbreak in Zapata, where are we going to get medical resources? We are all hurting, but we all need to work together.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, 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 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 \$1,380,357.11 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 \$6,598.60 for the month of March with a year-to-date total of \$59,358.75; tax collections at a rate of 80.39% for a total base tax collected of \$205,005,280.73.

ORDER APPROVING EXTENDING FIRST AMENDED SHELTER IN PLACE FOR ZAPATA COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve extending the First Amended Shelter in Place for Zapata County for 2 additional weeks and add restriction prohibiting children to accompany parents into stores 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 EXTENDING SECOND AMENDED ORDER REGARDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GATHERINGS IN ZAPATA COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve extending Second Amended Order Regarding Public and Private Gatherings in Zapata County, and other changes as needed, 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 EXTEND CLOSURE OF ALL SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERS RUN BY ZAPATA COUNTY AND PROVIDE ALL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS WITH HOME DELIVERED MEALS

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to extend the closure of all Senior Nutrition Centers run by Zapata County and provide all eligible participants with home delivered meals 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 EXTEND THE CLOSURE ON ALL PUBLIC SPACES RUN BY ZAPATA COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to extend the closure of all public spaces run by Zapata County 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 APPLICATION FOR TXDOT 2020 COUNTY TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUND GRANT PROGRAM AND DEVELOP A PRIORITIZED LIST OF LOCAL PROJECTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve an application for TxDOT 2020 County Transportation Infrastructure Fund Grant Program and to develop a prioritized list of local projects and approve the 5% grant writer fee. Funds will be divided equally into the 4 precincts as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. Funds will be split equally

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

ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF ONE DESTOP COMPUTER AND ONE WEBCAM FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PCT 3

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the purchase of one desktop computer and one webcam for the Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3, out of the Technology Funds as requested by Hon. Fernando Muñoz, Jr., 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 PURCHASE OF TWO LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR REGIONAL AND WOMENS JAILS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the purchase of 2 laptop computers for the Regional and Womens Jails, for the amount of \$3,787.75 to be paid out of non-department computer expense fund as requested by Captain Ramon Montes, Regional Jail.

ORDER APPROVING RESIGNATION OF ALMA LIZETTE EDWARD FROM ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the resignation of Alma Lizette Edward from the Zapata County Fire Department as requested by Fire Chief J.J. Meza.

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

ORDER ALLOWING FIRE CHIEF TO HIRE FIREFIGHTER/EMT

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to allow the Fire Chief to hire a firefighter/EMT at \$11.43 per hour out of slot #11, Department #543 Fire Department as requested by Fire 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 THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEM

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line item transfer to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Wastewater	08-600-336	Repair and Maintenance	\$1,500.00
TO	Wastewater	08-602-205	Uniforms	\$1,500.00

as requested by Eloy Chapa, Wastewater Manager.

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 MENDOZA, TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

ORDER TO AMEND THE ZAPATA COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL AS PER RECOMMENDATION BY TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES FOR FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to amend the Zapata County Personnel Policy Manual as per recommendation by the Texas Association of Counties for the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, for the duration of the declaration of emergency.

Closes Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071/551.074 (A)(B) Consultation with Attorney/Personnel Matters.

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