

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 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
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

**ABSENT:**

Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
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**VISITORS:** Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, Monica Alanis, Nellie R. Trevino, Jose F. Mendoza, Alex Garcia, Eliud Guerra, Juan J. Meza, Ralph Trevino, Joyce Currington, Adriana Figueroa, Consuelo R. Villarreal, Alejandro Barrera, Jr, and Manuel Gonzalez.

**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  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Elizondo commented that the birders were here last week. They get together in Laredo, then meet at the roadside park; proceed to the bird sanctuary, then the landfill.

Judge Rathmell commented that he attended the town meeting with landowners where there was a lot of discussion on the border wall. He also attended a meeting at the Border Patrol station regarding the construction of the border wall. The landowners were informed of what to expect and when they would get the right of entry forms. He explained that it is a difficult situation because some owners go along with it while others choose to fight it. Some people have pumps along the river while others have cemeteries. He added that he attended because he was informed that the county has some land along the 307<sup>th</sup> that may be affected with the construction of the border wall. At the next meeting, the court will discuss whether they will agree to the right of entry or not. The section that will be condemned is 200 feet wide and on the west side it will be 150-foot-wide where there is a caliche road. Not all landowners will have a gate for river access. The current funding will be enough to construct a 14-mile border wall from the county line to San Ygnacio. The wall will go along the 307<sup>th</sup> and will not affect the historical buildings in town, but the bird sanctuary may be affected. The right of entry will allow engineers to go in and take soil samples to make sure the ground can sustain the structure.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that he attended the political forum last week which was hosted by Zapata County News and Amistad Health Care. He commended Rev. Roger Miller on

his participation. The even was a huge improvement from the one held in 2016 and was very well organized.

Commissioner Elizondo asked if the court had control regarding the assistance given to the voters. Celica Rodriguez explained that it is allowed by the law, and the assistant takes an oath to assist the voter. Commissioner Mendoza added that a lot of this could be avoided if the candidates were not allowed to set up along the courthouse parking lot, perhaps this issue can be addressed in the future. Even persons that are educated were getting assistance, however, it cannot be questioned if the voter is asking for the assistance.

#### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve invoices in the amount of \$860,713.97 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 Martinez, 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 Elizondo, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$744,152.83 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 \$7,228.55 for the month of January for a year to date total of \$26,831.66. Collections are at a rate of 74.71% for a total base tax collected of \$4,883,851.27.

#### **PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT PLAQUE FOR ELIUD GUERRA**

Mr. Eliud Guerra was presented with a retirement plaque for 26 years of service to Zapata County as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1.

#### **ORDER AWARDING BID TO ROBERTO CAMPOS FOR ZAPATA COMMUNITY CENTER REPAIR PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to award bid to Roberto Campos, with a bid of \$155,215.00 for the Zapata County Community Center repair project, for roof only, 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 INVOICES AND STATUS REVIEW ON FALCON MESA PAVING PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve invoice payable to REIM Construction in the amount of \$63,144.45, and invoice in the amount of \$1,300.40 payable to Terracon for Falcon Mesa Paving project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

A change order was approved by the court and was submitted to TDA for approval. The change order consisted of relocation of existing water lines and TDA approved the change order and pricing. Terracon ran some caliche samples, one passed, one did not. Contractor was advised not to use the source that did not pass.

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY MANUEL GONZALEZ, PREMIER ENGINEERING FOR REVIEW STATUS AND APPROVAL OF INVOICES FOR WASTEWATER PLANT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to table request by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering, regarding review status and invoices for Wastewater Plant project.

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

**ORDER APPROVING LINE ITEM TRANSFER**

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FIND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Zapata County Water Plant	80-600-341	Chlorine and Chemicals	\$50,000.00
<b>TO</b>	Zapata County Water Plant	80-600-336	Repair and Maintenance Supplies	\$50,000.00

as requested by Ralph Treviño, Water Plant Director.

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 ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA,  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ELIZONDO,  
TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to take no action on request by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director, regarding personnel matters at the Zapata County Wastewater Plant as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director.

*Executive Session: Note 3, Gov't Code Ann 551.074, 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 Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, 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