

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 24<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
Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Celica A. Rodriguez	Chief Deputy County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

**VISITORS:** Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, Nellie R. Trevino, Monica Alanis, Roger Miller, Juan J. Meza, Joyce Currington, Nereida Sanchez, Johanna Tejada, Melissa R. Cigarroa, Valentin Ruiz, Elsa Hall, Christopher Rincon, Ramona Martinez, and Leslie Vela.

**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  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Judge Rathmell commented that the County fair is about to start and there are a lot of activities going on.

Commissioner Elizondo stated that the Queens Contest took place this weekend and congratulated the Queen Kayla Pina and her court.

Chief Meza commented that the new fire truck will be here on Friday and will be ready for the parade.

Judge Rathmell commented that we are into our 2<sup>nd</sup> week of early voting. Celica A. Rodriguez stated that we are seeing record breaking numbers. The judge thanked the County Clerk's office for the hard work during election time. Mrs. Rodriguez mentioned that we are very thankful to the District Attorney Chilo Alaniz for sending his officers to assist us every day. Pete Garza, Assistant District Attorney, 49<sup>th</sup> District Judge Joe Lopez and Poncho Figueroa, County Attorney have all offered help. Most issues have occurred outside the 100 feet distance marker. We correct issued that happen inside, many times requiring assistance from Secretary of State, which is the governing body for elections. Commissioner Elizondo asked if we could hire people to assist the voters instead of them coming in with assistants from outside. She was advised by Mrs. Rodriguez that we are there to assist. However, if the voters come in with the assistant, once the assistant takes the oath, we cannot question it, that is Secretary of State Election Law. Commissioner Mendoza added that we need to do away with the set up outside, because it usually creates drama. Mrs. Rodriguez added that many times the voters are intimidated. Commissioner Garza suggested that elections be moved to the Community Center. Judge Rathmell said it would

put a burden on the clerk's office. Ms. Rodriguez stated that we cannot be transporting equipment, it is not portable.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Elsa Hall, along with other landowners, addressed the court and stated that they are not concerned about violence or safety; it's not about border security, therefore they feel the border wall is a waste of money. There are other measures to control migration, drug problems and other issues.

Christopher Rincon from the River Pierce foundation, addressed the court as a concerned citizen. He stated that there are many historic and cultural treasures. There will be a short window of public feedback and they are going to ask landowners to give feedback on areas of cultural significance like historic cemeteries, landmarks, etc. Landowners are here to inform the court of these things. The court was asked to stand firm on the position to fight against the construction of the wall.

Nereida Sanchez asked for permission to use pavilion for senior scholarship event.

### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$4,061,000, as presented by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor.

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 Martinez, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$2,935,000 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.

### **REPORT ON BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF ZAPATA**

Leslie Vela reported that they had an extraordinarily successful skeet shoot. Awards and prizes are given to children that attend daily. Children with special needs are provided with special activities. (Report is attached for the record.)

### **ORDER DENYING RIGHT OF ENTRY TO U.S. GOVERNMENT TO COUNTY LAND NEAR SAN YGNACIO FOR SURVEY AND SITE ASSESSMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to deny right of entry to the U.S. Government to county land near San Ygnacio for survey and site assessment 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 157 ADDITIONAL ACRES FOR EXPANSION OF ZAPATA COUNTY LANDFILL IN SAN YGNACIO**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve purchase terms for additional acreage for the expansion of the Zapata County Landfill in

San Ygnacio; purchase price of \$810,000 to be paid in 4 installments of \$202,500 with 1<sup>st</sup> payment due at time of closing, 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 INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,560.00 PAYABLE TO ABELARDO MENDOZA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoice in the amount of \$1,560.00 payable to Abelardo Mendoza for a repaired gate at Vat 2 at Old Zapata, as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioner Martinez, Garza, and Elizondo and Judge Rathmell, Commissioner Mendoza abstained. Motion carried.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,872.00 PAYABLE TO JUVENTINO ZAPATA, JR.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$4,872.00 payable to Juventino Zapata, Jr. for installing doors at the show barn, Livestock Committee will reimburse the county the amount of \$2,100 for the door, 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 REPAIR OF ONE-HALF OF DETERIORATING FLOORING AT THE PORTABLE BUILDING AT ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the proposal by Juventino Zapata, Jr., in the amount of \$7675.00, to repair one-half of the deteriorating flooring at the portable building at Zapata County Community Center 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 USE OF COURTHOUSE SECURITY TO PAY INVOICE TO CDW – GOVERNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the use of Courthouse Security to pay invoice for \$139.31 to CDW-Government (061-581-392) as requested by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO ENROLL ZAPATA COUNTY IN TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES STATE MANDATED FREE CYBER SECURITY TRAINING COURSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to enroll Zapata County in the Texas Association of Counties state mandated free cyber security training course 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 PROPOSAL BY METROPEX CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE UPGRADING OF SECURITY CAMERAS AND SERVERS AT THE ZAPATA COUNTY REGIONAL JAIL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve a proposal by Metroplex Control System (MCS), in the amount of \$55,675.00 for the upgrading of security cameras and servers at the Zapata County Regional Jail, to be paid out of the fund balance, as requested by Sheriff Alonso M. Lopez, Zapata County Sheriff's Office. Must be installed by a specialized company.

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 OF THE ZAPATA COUNTY WASTEWATER PLANT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$104,877.66 payable to EJCDC for Zapata County 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 REMOVAL OF CATTLE GUARDS ON PEDERNAL ROAD REPAIR CULVERT C-4 WASHOUT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve removal of cattle guards on Pedernal Road repair culvert c-4 wash out for Wanzek Const. Inc. during duration of project, due to heavy equipment, as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

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

**ORDER AUTHORIZING COUNTY ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE WITH LANDOWNERS AND ACQUIRE A 12' X 140' TEMPORARY CONTRUCTION EASEMENT FOR DRAINAGE CHANNEL REPAIRS ON FLORES AVENUE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to authorize County Attorney to negotiate with landowners and acquire a 12' x140' temporary construction easement for drainage channel repairs on Flores Avenue as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

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

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF PAVILION FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER FOR SENIOR BAND MEMBERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve request to use of the pavilion on May 2, 2020 for scholarship fundraiser for senior band members as requested by Johanna Tejada & Eliza Colunga, Parents Club Officers.

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