

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2021, 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                                 |
| Jose A. Solis                | 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:** Triunfo Gonzalez, Monica Alaniz, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Trevino, Javier Zambrano, Adolfo Gonzalez, Jr., Ralph Treviño, Daniel D. Arriaga, Joseph Peña, Adriana Figueroa, Carlos Ramirez, and D. Austin Colina

**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**

Chief Arriaga reported that he met with Mrs. Mary Plattner and she has signed on as a provider for administration of vaccines. There is no date yet as to when the vaccine will be available to the public. The state continues to stress the importance of following requirements – Tier 1 and Phase 1a and 1b.

Judge Rathmell added that Gateway Clinic has also gotten on board and will also receive the vaccines. LMC is also trying to access vaccines. Daniel's Pharmacy has also been very helpful with testing and will also receive vaccines. They are also planning on administering vaccines to those that are homebound.

Chief Arriaga said that the City of Laredo will be having vaccination. HEB Pharmacy and other locations will also be available to other counties.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that there will be enough vaccines for everyone.

Chief Arriaga clarified the requirements for the vaccine.

**Phase 1A:** Front-line healthcare workers such as physicians, nurses, those in medical field, such as community pharmacy staff, testing individuals and funeral homes.

**Phase 1B:** People 65+ or people 16+ with a medical condition that increases risk of severe COVID-19 illness, and also the homebound and those unable to reach health providers.

Judge Rathmell stated that they will be calling those who have registered as soon as the vaccine is available.

Commissioner Mendoza added that if a person has tested positive for Covid-19, they have to wait 90 days before getting the vaccine.

Judge Rathmell also added that he will be reaching out to area nurses for volunteers during vaccination. The vaccine is free to the public. The person does not have to be a U.S. citizen to receive the vaccine.

Covid-19 Report:     12,341 tested  
                              1,077 positives  
                              10,996 negatives  
                              857 recovered  
                              21 deaths

Judge Rathmell stressed that even after vaccination we must follow protocol and continue taking all precautions.

Congressman Cuellar will be at the courthouse rotunda at 1:15 p.m.

#### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$826,846.12 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 \$826,846.12 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 \$4,483.39 for the month of November with a year-to-date total of \$16,121.77. Tax collections at a rate of 68.38% for a total base tax collected of \$3,896,122.22.

**UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF PROPOSED ENHANCEMENT TO ARROYO SAN FRANCISCO OVERLOOK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TXDOT, NATIONAL PARK SERVICES, RIVER PIERCE FOUNDATION AND CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NATIONAL TRAIL**

Mr. Christopher Rincon presented the court with an update progress of a proposed enhancement to the Arroyo San Francisco overlook, in partnership with TxDot, National Park Service, River Pierce Foundation, and Camino Real De Los Tejas National Trail. River Pierce Foundation will be applying for a grant; monies will be available in 2022.

**PRESENTATION ON UTILITY U TRAINING GIVEN TO ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS EMPLOYEES AS REQUESTED BY CESARIO VELA, COMMUNITIES UNLIMITED  
([cesario.vela@communitiesu.org](mailto:cesario.vela@communitiesu.org))  
(Presentation was postponed due to Covid-19)**

**ORDER APPOINTING MEMBERS TO ZAPATA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to appoint members to the Zapata County Historical Commission as follows:

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jose Luis Elizondo    | Amparo Montes-Gutierrez |
| Olga Elizondo         | Roberto Montes          |
| Dr. Hildegardo Flores | Rosa Elena Martinez     |
| Olga M. Flores        | Anselmo Treviño         |
| Laura Garza           | Hector Uribe            |
| Hector Lopez          | Jose Emilio Vela        |

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 RAISING STATE AND COUNTY BOND FOR ZAPATA COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR TO \$64,000.00**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve raising the state and county bond for the Zapata County Tax Assessor Collector to \$64,000.00 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.

**RESOLUTION OF AWARD FOR GRANT WRITING GRANT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES TO ESSER AND ASSOCIATES FOR ZAPATA COUNTY 2021-2022 TXCDBG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND**

***ITEM WAS REVISITED AT END OF MEETING AND APPROVED***

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Judge Rathmell, to approve resolution of award for grant writing grant administration services to Esser and Associates for the Zapata County 2021-2022 TxCDBG Community Development (CD) Fund as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

Commissioner Elizondo, Solis and Garza voted against. Motion was defeated 3-2.

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION OF AWARD FOR GRANT WRITING GRANT  
ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR 2021-2022 ZAPATA COUNTY TXCDBG  
COLONIA CONSTRUCTION FUND**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve Resolution of award for grant writing grant administration services to Grant Works for the 2021-2022 Zapata County TxCDBG Colonia Construction Fund (CFC) 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 SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2021-2022  
TXCDBG APPLICATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the scheduling of a Public Hearing for the 2021-2022 TxCDBG Application on January 25, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA TO REVIEW AND  
CONSIDER MODIFYING CURRENT ZAPATA COUNTY CEMETERY POLICIES  
AND PROCEDURES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Commissioner Mendoza to review and consider modifying the current Zapata County Cemetery policies and procedures.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RETIREMENT OF RUBEN SANCHEZ**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the retirement of Ruben Sanchez, Crew Leader, 15-013-slot #2, effective January 4, 2021 as requested by Hon. Jose A. Solis, Commissioner Pct. 3.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF ARMANDO DEL BOSQUE TO CREW LEADER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the transfer of Armando Del Bosque, CDL Driver, 15-013-slot #3 at \$9.50 per hour to crew leader, 15-013 slot #2 at \$14.57 per hour, effective January 5, 2021 as requested by Jose A. Solis, Commissioner Pct. 3.

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

**ORDER APPROVING HIRE OF JOSE A. MARTINEZ AS LABOR/MAINTENANCE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the hire of Jose A. Martinez as Labor/Maintenance at \$9.50 per hour, effective January 5, 2021 as requested by Jose A. Solis, Commissioner Pct. 3.

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

**ORDER APPROVING QUOTE OF \$2,694.30 FOR PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS  
FOR PRECINCT #3**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a quote of \$2,694.30 for the purchase of uniforms for Precinct 3 as requested by Hon. Jose A. Solis, Commissioner Pct. 3.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR'S DEPARTMENT NEW HIRES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Tax Assessor Collector's Department new hires and transfer \$1,000.00 from slot #6 to slot #2, no change to general order as requested by Hon. Delia Mendoza, Tax Assessor Collector.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO HIRE LUIS LOPEZ, JR. IN SLOT #21 AS FF/EMT-B**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to hire Luis Lopez, Jr., in slot #21 as FF/EMT-B @ \$11.35 per hour as requested by Fire Chief Daniel D. Arriaga.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF GABRIELA I. GONZALEZ TO  
SLOT #14 LT/FF/EMT-B**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to transfer Gabriela I. Gonzalez from slot #21 to slot #14 as LT/FF/EMT-B @13.80 per hour as requested by Chief Daniel D. Arriaga.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF \$25,000 FROM TOBACCO FUND TO  
MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to transfer \$25,000.00 from the Tobacco Fund to Medical Supplies (10-543-460) as requested by Chief Daniel D. Arriaga.

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

**ORDER APPROVING FY2019 SINGLE AUDIT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the FY2019 Single Audit 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 HIRE ADOLFO GONZALEZ AS  
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve to hire Adolfo Gonzalez as Veterans Service Officer for Zapata County 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 EXTENSION FOR FAMILIES FIRST CORONA RELIEF ACT  
FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES AFFECTED BY COVID-19**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the extension for Families First Corona Relief Act for county employees affected by Covid-19 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY RALPH TREVIÑO ON SALE OF PREVIOUS  
METER STOCK WHICH WAS REPLACED WITH NEW ELECTRONIC METERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to table request by Ralph Treviño on sale of previous meter stock which was replaced with the new electronic meters.

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

**ORDER APPROVING LA LEGION SUBDIVISION PLAT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve La Legion Subdivision Plat 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 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION OF  
DEPARTMENT POSITIONS AND ADJUSTMENT OF SALARIES TO MEET NEW JOB  
DESCRIPTIONS FOR DEPARTMENTAL OBJECTIVES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve Sheriff's Department reorganization of department positions and adjustment of salaries to meet new job descriptions for departmental objectives. All changes do not affect the Zapata County 2020-2021 Sheriff's budget as requested by Sheriff Ray Del Bosque, County Sheriff.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve installation of street lights at the following locations:

- a. 102 Colorado Lane
- b. 1415 Weslaco Lane
- c. 5414 South Siesta Lane
- d. 5406 Salvador Lane

as requested by Hon. Jose A. Solis, Commissioner.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION FOR CERVICAL CANCER  
AWARENESS MONTH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve proclamation for Cervical Cancer Awareness Month as requested by Vicky Morales, Area Health Education Center.

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**

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

35. Consultation with Attorney with matters pertaining to Zapata County vs. Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, et al. 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 (B) Consultation with attorney.*

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION OF AWARD FOR GRANT WRITING GRANT  
ADMINISTRATION SERVICES TO ESSER AND ASSOCIATES FOR ZAPATA  
COUNTY 2021-2022 TXCDBG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve resolution of award for grant writing grant administration services to Esser and Associates for the Zapata County 2021-2022 TxCDBG Community Development (CD) Fund 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.

**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