

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 22nd of March 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: Nellie R. Treviño, Daniel Arriaga, Gloria A. Solis, Raymundo Del Bosque, Jimmy I. Mendoza, Adriana Figueroa, Manuel Gonzalez, and Delia Mendoza.

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 addressed the court stating that a lot of things have been going on during the last two weeks, mainly with the COVID-19 vaccination of our community. We also had the county fair sale.

Commissioner Mendoza commented on the county fair sale, actual sales were right under \$200,000 that doesn't include any add-ons. Overall considering the current situation it was a success. A lot of people enjoyed the online feature and were able to view. It is something that will continue for future years. Some buyers come through every year and come forward and support the kids.

Daniel Arriaga stated that through the judge's office they were able to obtain 1,000 vaccines from National Guard. They will be administered on the 24th and 25th. About 40% of the 10,000 eligible residents have been vaccinated. Vaccines are still available. Winter storm expense report has been submitted to the state; deadline has been extended until April 20. Covid-19 testing is still being conducted Monday through Sunday, but at a very low turnout. Operation SOS (Save our Seniors) is taking place via National Guard; however, we took the initiative and took care of our seniors (over 65), teachers and others.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$999,857.21 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 CHECKS ISSUED

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$999,857.21, 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 ONE PRESENT FOR THE FOLLOWING REPORT

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

PRESENTATION ON STAT ER & SPECIALTY HOSPITAL

Gloria Solis, STAT Business Developer, addressed the court and stated that she has been visiting local businesses and discussed the needs of our community. STAT has two locations in Laredo on Loop 20. She offered the services to Zapata County residents. They are open 24/7 – 365 days a year. Their facility at the North end of Loop 20 has a small hospital for short term stays. STAT offers outpatient exam services with same day results, no appointment necessary. They have expanded to Eagle Pass and Del Rio. They offer services to insured patients; they do not accept Medicare or Medicaid. However, patients cannot be turned away.

ORDER AMENDING HOURS OF OPERATION FOR 8-LINERS IN AMUSEMENT REDEMPTION ORDINANCE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to amend hours of operation for 8-liners in the Amusement Redemption Ordinance; new hours will be increased and open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. 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 Commissioner Solis, Elizondo, and Garza. Judge Rathmell and Commissioner Mendoza voted against. Motion carried.

ORDER APPROVING CHANGES WITHIN ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE 10-560 BUDGET

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve changes within the Zapata County Sheriff’s Office 10-560 budget and unfreeze 2 positions, will not change the budget as requested by Sheriff Ray Del Bosque.

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 ITEMS

13. To request the hiring of two jailers due to an increase in the inmate population at the Zapata County Jail as requested by Sheriff Ray Del Bosque.

14. To allow the hiring for a cook position as requested by Sheriff Ray Del Bosque.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICE FOR \$2,093.83 TO SHI
GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of invoice for \$2,093.83 to SHI Government Solutions for Justice of the Peace Pct. 4 as requested by Hon. Ramon Benavidez, Justice of the Peace Pct 4.

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

ORDER APPROVING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR ZAPATA COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a Citizen Participation Plan for Zapata County as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting, LLC.

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

17. To review preliminary plat of La Loma Linda Subdivision in Meza Salinas Road as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

**ORDER APPROVING REPLAT OF LOTS 14A & 35A BLOCK 169
IN MEDINA ADDITION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve replat of Lots 14A & 35A, Block 169 in Medina Addition 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 RESOLUTION FOR LOCAL
BORDER SECURITY PROGRAM 2022**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution for Local Border Security Program 2022 as requested by Sheriff Ray Del Bosque.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION FOR WORLD DOWN SYNDROME
AWARENESS DAY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution for World Down Syndrome Awareness Day as requested by Jessica Hurtado, Border Region Behavioral Health Center.

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

ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION TO TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR 2021-2022 TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a Resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for a 2021-2022 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program-Community Development Fund grant related activities; project would be for improvements of Cardinal and Crane Street, as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting, LLC.

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

ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF 2021-2022 TxCDBG COLONIA FUND CONSTRUCTION (CFC) GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a resolution authorizing submission of the 2021-2022 Tx CDBG Colonia Fund Construction (CFC) grant program application as requested by Roxana Sandoval, Application Specialist-Grant works.

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 LIGHT AND LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve installation of a streetlight at the following address:

a. 1852 Paloma Drive (Lots 161 & 161A, Lago Halcon Area B, Section).
as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1.

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 Solis, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata County Water Plant	80-48160-600	State Fees	\$1,967.98
TO	Zapata County Water Plant	80-48560-600	TCEQ Assessment	\$1,967.98

as requested by Ralph Trevino, Water Plant 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 Solis, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet department needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Non-Department	10-409-446	Garbage	\$2,105.00
TO	Non-Department	10-409-445	Water	\$2,105.00

as requested by Bobbie Meza-Barrera, Auditor’s Office.

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 SOLIS,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

10. To require all Zapata County employees to be inoculated with the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes widely available, and subject to exemptions and limitations provided by law, including the Americans with Disabilities Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1.

**ORDER AUTHORIZING COUNTY JUDGE TO NEGOTIATE PURCHASE OF
ADDITIONAL ACREAGE ADJACENT TO ZAPATA COUNTY CEMETERY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to authorize County Judge to negotiate the purchase of additional acreage adjacent to the Zapata County Cemetery 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.

Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071/551.072 (B) (Consultation with Attorney) (Real Property).

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