

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 24th of May 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, Roger Miller, Ralph Trevino, Daniel D. Arriaga, Carlos Q. Ramirez, Ramona Martinez, Leslie Vela, Delia Mendoza, Sammy Luera and Jesse Rodriguez.

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

Fire Chief Daniel Arriaga reported that with the assistance of the Sheriff's Office and the Red Cross they were able to help 9 families that were displaced due to the storm of May 11-12. Not all 9 were placed in hotel rooms, but they were given vouchers. A couple of the families used vouchers to start repairs to damages to their homes. Visual assessments were made, and preliminary reports indicated that they did not meet the threshold to meet public assistance program. Approximately 1400 customers were without power, there was structural damages and blown roofs, power lines and poles down. Law enforcement, county crews and the community worked hard to assist those in need.

Gov. Abbot lifted all mask mandates, and the county cannot impose or fine anyone. Hospitals, state support facilities and jails are exempt. Schools are not required to wear a mask after the 5th.

Vaccination has slowed down a lot meaning that our citizens have been vaccinated; 80 doses were transferred to the school. Vaccination will be done at the Fire Department. There is 1 active Covid-19 case. Vaccines continue to be encouraged for those who have not yet been vaccinated now that the mask mandate has been lifted. Testing is currently done at the pavilion.

School is vaccinating 12+ starting May 25. They will be taken care of by DSHS. Vaccines are still not mandatory for school age children.

Judge Rathmell stated that he had sent a mail out to county offices advising of the mask mandate lift.

Judge Rathmell commented Carlos Colina Vargas applied for a grant with TPWL for \$750,000 for the golf course. TPWL has recommended funding for this project. The award will be

this coming week. He also applied for a \$150,000 grant for the Miraflores Park, and has also been recommended for approval.

Congressman Cuellar was here 2 weeks ago and awarded a \$7,000,000 grant to Gateway Clinics. He also announced that he would be asking for \$1.5M for a new fire station and an emergency operation center. Congressman Cuellar's goal is to enhance Hwy 83 from Starr County to Webb County and has asked for funding to accelerate the project.

Pope Gonzalez, Veterans Service Officer, informed the Judge that 400 flags were purchased to place on veterans' graves for Memorial Day.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$444,937.84 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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$444,937.84, 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.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB REPORT

Leslie Vela reported on the Boys & Girls Club. They had to cut down on staff due to the number of active members going down. Meals are being provided to Zapata and San Ygnacio children. An Easter event was held. They continue to do lots of arts and crafts projects to keep the children busy. Attendance went down drastically, they capped at about 25 kids, but the average was up to 40 at times and are hoping to go up to 90 by the Fall. Report attached for the record.

ORDER APPROVING INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WEBB COUNTY AND ZAPATA COUNTY FOR AUTOPSY SERVICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Webb County and Zapata County for Autopsy Services 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 HIRING OF OMARO GARCIA AS CAD TECHNICIAN

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the hiring of Omaro Garcia as CAD Technician (Slot 18) at \$14.62 per hour effective May 17, 2021, as requested by Ralph Trevino, Water Plant Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING 36 MONTH CONTRACT WITH UNIFIRST FOR WASTEWATER UNIFORM

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a 36-month contract with Unifirst for wastewater uniform services as requested by Ralph Trevino, Water Plant Director.

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

ORDER ALLOWING FIRE DEPARTMENT TO TEMPORARILY EMPLOY RESERVE EMT/FIRE FIGHTERS/PARAMEDICS TO WORK ON AS NEEDED BASIS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to allow the Fire Department to temporarily employ reserve EMT/Firefighter/Paramedics to work on as needed basis. These employees are to be paid from Line Item (10-543-106) Overtime Line Item as requested by Daniel D. Arriaga, Fire Chief.

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

ORDER ACCEPTING RESIGNATION FROM RAMIRO GARCILAZO III

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to accept resignation from Ramiro Garcilazo III effective May 12, 2021 as requested by Daniel D. Arriaga, Fire Chief.

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

ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF LUIS LOPEZ

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to transfer Luis Lopez from (General Order 543) Slot #7 to Slot #16 at 10.88 per hour, effective May 24, 2021, as requested by Daniel D. Arriaga, Fire Chief.

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

ORDER APPROVING ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT OPERATOR'S LIABILITY INSURANCE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve Zapata County Airport Operator's Liability Insurance for FY 2021-2022 as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, HR Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING ZAPATA COUNTY LIABILITY RENEWAL TO TAC RISK MANAGEMENT POOL FOR FY 2021-2022

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the Zapata County Liability Renewal to TAC Risk Management Pool for FY 2021-2022, which covers the General Liability, Public Officials Liability, Auto Physical Damage, Auto Liability, and Law Enforcement Liability Insurance as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, HR Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING TO UPDATE ZAPATA COUNTY POLICY REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF CLEARINGHOUSE BY U.S DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to update Zapata County Policy regarding the implementation of Clearinghouse by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration as recommended by Texas Association of Counties as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, HR Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF NEW COMMERCIAL DOORS FOR THE ZAPATA COUNTY NUTRITION CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of new commercial doors for the Zapata County Nutrition Center, in the amount of \$3,950.00, to be paid out of non-department, as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, HR Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING REFUND OF \$1,841.17 TO RENE GARCILAZO FOR PURCHASE OF TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 4

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve refund of \$1,841.17 to Rene Garcilazo for the purchase of technology equipment for Justice of the Peace Pct.4 as requested by: Rene Garcilazo, IT Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING VELENO ESTATES REPLAT INTO LOTS 7A & 8A

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Veleño Estates replat into Lots 7A & 8A 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.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM

22. To review and approve plat of parcel Z-293-B Tract 3 into Lot 3A & 3B as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

ORDER APPROVING THE FOLLOWING LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

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	I & A Program	37-645-330	Fuel & Lubricants	\$7,000.00
TO	Nutrition Center	38-648-336	Raw Food	\$7,000.00

as requested by Rosalinda S. Gonzalez, Nutrition 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 Solis, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Postage Expense	010-31149-499	Postage	\$4,459.29
TO	Equipment Maintenance	010-45749-499	Maintenance	\$4,459.29
FROM	Postage Expense	010-31149-499	Postage	\$4,076.58
TO	Workshops/Travel	010-42749-499	Workshops	\$4,076.58

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BORDER REGION
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a resolution in support of Border Region Behavioral Health Center as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Precinct 1.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ZAPATA COUNTY'S
APPLICATION TO TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 2021
TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE (TA) CALL FOR PROJECTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution supporting Zapata County's Application to the Texas Department of Transportation 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) call for projects as requested by Sammy Luera, AgriLife Extension.

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 SOLIS,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT TO MAXZIN TORRES FOR
DAMAGES TO VEHICLE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment to Maxzin Torres in the amount of \$1,302.00 for damages to vehicle as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director.

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 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.074 (A)(B) (Personnel Matters)

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, 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