

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 12th of July 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. Trevino, Roger Miller, Berta E. Gonzalez, Ralph Trevino, and Raymundo Del Bosque.

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 commented that we had a good rain last week, enough to get water under the bridge.

Commissioner Mendoza and Judge Rathmell commented on how nice the 4th of July fireworks were.

Gabriela Gonzalez reported on behalf of Fire Chief Daniel D. Arriaga. There were 10 grass fires on the 4th of July, 4 legit and the others were extinguished before Fire Department arrived.

The state has terminated Covid-19 testing. Some facilities are testing for a fee, the free ones are the pediatric clinic and CVS, by appointment.

Vaccination – first doses are coming in. There will be no vaccinations at Fire Department for the next 2 weeks because the vaccines are currently depleted. However, they are waiting for 400 vaccines. As of April, the Fire Department has vaccinated 850 persons.

Judge Rathmell reported on Covid-19 as follows:

There are currently 3 new cases

12 + fully vaccinated 58%

65+ 1 dose 83% and fully vaccinated almost 75%.

DSHS is vaccinating 1 day a week.

Sheriff Del Bosque reported that he attended a round table discussion with Gov. Abbott. It's looking good for counties participating in the disaster declaration. Resources are needed and we are asking for resources and manpower. They were informed that some of the illegal

immigrants are carrying the new Delta variant. The Zapata County jail will continue not accepting visitations. They are trying to vaccinate everyone who is coming in. Inmates and employees are mandated to wear masks for everyone's wellbeing. They will be meeting with Gov. Abbott again to push the budget through the appropriations committee. The sheriff is asking for a 96-bed addition to the jail at no cost to the county. He will be meeting with the Texas jail commission.

Commissioner Mendoza asked the sheriff what the process is when apprehending possibly Covid infected illegals and precautionary measures to avoid spreading the virus. Sheriff Del Bosque stated that the recommendation is a soft cell release, which is a separate tent like structure that is manned with certified jailers, peace officers and EMT, they will not have contact with others. Those involved will be constantly checked and vaccinated. Illegals apprehended will be charged with criminal trespass charges.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices in the amount of \$797,874.36 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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$797,874.36 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 \$7,237.03 for the month of June with a year-to-date total of \$91,383.35. Tax collections in the amount of \$262,782.87 and a rate of 88.73%.

ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL ON PROPOSAL FOR INSTALLATION OF FLOORING AT ZAPATA COMMUNITY CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to table request by Judge Rathmell of the proposal for labor only, for the installation of flooring at the Zapata 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 IN PERSON DINING AT NUTRITION CENTER AND REPORT ON NUTRITION CENTER CONGREGATE MEAL PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis to approve in person dining at Nutrition Center at a 50 person max capacity, effective July 19, 2021. All three

centers will open with the exception of Falcon due to issues with the building, 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.

Bertha Gonzalez gave a report on the Nutrition Center Congregate Meal Program. Budget for home delivered meals has been depleted and they are negative \$41,000. She got a call informing her that they would be getting \$15,000 from the CARES Program, however, they would still be negative about \$26,000. Home delivered meal services are for those with handicaps and home bound. On average they are making 510 out of town one-way trips. These are charged every time a person steps into the van. The program is roughly serving 1600 units served per month. Now they can serve about 50 participants while keeping social distancing. San Ygnacio Nutrition Center has fewer participants and social distancing is not a problem. Participants from Falcon will have to be transported to Zapata because there are deficiencies in the building.

ORDER APPROVING ENGINEERING PLATTING SERVICES FOR DESIGN OF SECTION 3 OF ZAPATA COUNTY CEMETERY

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to request engineering platting services for the design of section 3 of 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.

ORDER APPROVING TO AMEND RULES AND REGULATIONS AND PRICING OF PLOTS AT ZAPATA COUNTY CEMETERY

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to amend rules, regulations, and pricing of plots at Zapata County Cemetery. Price will be modified to \$500.00 and enforce all restrictions effective August 1, 2021, 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 TO REQUEST PROPOSALS FOR REPAIRS ON FALCON NUTRITION CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded Commissioner Garza, to approve to request proposals for the repairs of the Falcon Nutrition 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 REPAIRS TO LANDFILL DUMP TRUCK

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve repairs to the landfill dump truck 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 JOHN DEERE 750L CRAWLER DOZER FROM DOGGETT HEAVY MACHINERY FOR ROAD & BRIDGE DEPARTMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of a John Deere 750L Crawler Dozer from Doggett Heavy Machinery for Zapata County's Road & Bridge Department, for the price of \$291,328.18, to be paid with CD from Road & Bridge and be reimbursed by Certificate of Obligation 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 ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE ORDER FOR DOFFETT FREIGHTLINER OF SOUTH TEXAS, LLC AND DOGGETT HEAVY MACHINERY FOR HEAVY MACHINERY FOR ZAPATA COUNTY'S ROAD & BRIDGE DEPARTMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the issuance of purchase orders for Doggett Freightliner of South Texas, LLC., and Doggett Heavy Machinery for heavy machinery for Zapata County's Road & Bridge Department 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 PARTIAL PAYMENT OF \$6,320.00 TO RIYED ENTERPRISES, LLC FOR PICNIC AREA, POOL AREA, AND BLEACHER AREA SHADE TARPS AT ROMEO T. FLORES PARK DUE TO STORM DAMAGE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve partial payment of \$6,320.00 to Riyed Enterprises, LLC., for picnic area, pool area and bleacher area shade tarps at the Romeo T. Flores Park. Tarps were damaged by a recent storm and only a partial amount was covered by Zapata County's insurance, to be paid out of general fund/maintenance repairs policy 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 USE OF EXHIBIT HALL ON NOVEMBER 12-13, 2021 FOR A BOXING EVENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve use of Exhibit Hall on November 12-13, 2021, for a Boxing Event, and pay fee an per fee schedule as requested by Hon. Olga M. Elizondo, Commissioner Precinct 2.

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

ORDER ACCEPTING RETIREMENT OF HOMERO GONZALEZ

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to accept the retirement of Homero Gonzalez, in 15-014- slot #4 effective 6/30/2021 as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner Precinct 4.

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

ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF JUAN A. RODRIGUEZ

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to transfer Juan A. Rodriguez from 10-004-slot #1 at \$10.98 per hour to 15-014-slot #4, Driver at \$12.10 per hour, effective 7/12/2021 as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner Precinct 4.

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

ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF OSCAR FLORES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to transfer Oscar Flores from 10-002- slot #1 at \$9.00, Labor Maintenance to 10-004- slot #1, Truck Driver/Welder at \$10.98 per hour effective 7/12/202 as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner Precinct 4.

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

**ORDER APPROVING ADDING TREASURER'S OFFICE
OPENGOV FINANCIAL SOFTWARE TO CLOUD**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve adding the Treasurer's Office OpenGov Financial Software to the Cloud at the same current rate of \$30,177.00. On year six and beyond it will drop to \$26,000. Service will add security and scalability to prevent ransomware, viruses, and cyber-attacks 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 TO BEGIN BID REQUEST ON REPAIR SERVICES
FOR WATER DEPARTMENT TANKS AND TOWERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to begin bid request on repair services for Water Department tanks and towers 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 TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
HEBP PLAN FOR FY 2021-2022**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the Texas Association of Counties-HEBP plan for FY 2021-2022, to keep current plan (1400 NGS) with 95% county contribution 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.

**ORDER APPROVING TEXAS COUNTY AND DISTRICT RETIREMENT
SYSTEM RENEWAL FOR 2022**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the Texas County and District Retirement System Renewal for 2022, to keep same benefits, 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.

ORDER APPROVING RENEWAL RATES FOR AMERITAS DENTAL/VISION FOR YEAR 2022

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the renewal rates for Ameritas Dental/Vision for year 2022, with no rate increase, 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.

ORDER APPROVING ZAPATA COUNTY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Zapata County Holiday Schedule for fiscal year 2021-2022 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.

ORDER APPROVING USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION TO ADVANCE HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START FOR A DAYCARE FAIR

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the Zapata County Pavilion to AVANCE Head Start & Early Head Start for a daycare fair (pending date) as requested by Maria Isabel Espinosa, Daycare Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Sheriff's County Jail	010-561-391	Prisoner Medication	\$7,000.00
TO	Sheriff's County Jail	010-561-462	Miscellaneous & Rentals	\$7,000.00
FROM	Sheriff's County Jail	010-567-391	Prisoner Medication	\$7,000.00
TO	Sheriff's County Jail	010-567-462	Miscellaneous & Rental	\$7,000.00

as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque.

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 Garza, to approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	49 th District Court	10-435-402	Criminal	\$3,000.00
TO	49 th District Court	10-435-485	Fuel	\$3,000.00
FROM	49 th District Court	10-435-402	Criminal	\$6,000.00
TO	49 th District Court	10-435-400	Professional Services	\$6,000.00

as requested by Hon. Jose A. Lopez, 49th District Judge.

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 Garza, to approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Library	10-650-310	Office Supplies	\$500.00
TO	Library	10-650-463	Books	\$500.00
FROM	Library	10-650-462	Repairs & Maintenance	\$500.00
TO	Library	10-650-310	Office Supplies	\$500.00

as requested by Amalia Navarro, Public Librarian.

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 Garza, to approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Sewer Plant	008-56960-602	Improvements	\$4,400.00
TO	Sewer Plant	008-33660-602	Repairs & Maintenance Supply	\$4,400.00
FROM	Sewer Plant	008-46260-602	Equipment Rental	\$3,500.00
TO	Sewer Plant	008-33660-602	Repairs & Maintenance Supply	\$3,500.00

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 RESOLUITON DECLARING INTENTION TO REIMBURSE CERTAIN EXPENDITURES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution declaring intention to reimburse certain expenditures 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.

ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE LIVESTOCK AND CATTLE THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution recognizing the Zapata County Sheriff's Office Livestock and Cattle Theft Prevention Program as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque.

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 GARZA, TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY NELLIE R. TREVINO TO ADDRESS
ZAPATA COUNTY EMPLOYEE VIOLATIONS OF SEVERAL
EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK GUIDELINES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Nellie R. Trevino to address Zapata County employee violations of several employee handbook guidelines and any and all matters subject thereto.

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 (8) Consultation with Attorney.

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