

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 23rd of August 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
Jose A. Solis	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Celica A. Rodriguez	Chief Deputy County

ABSENT:

Olga M. Elizondo	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
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VISITORS: Nellie R. Trevino, Roger Miller, Ralph Trevino, Adrian Galvan, Leslie Vela, Ramona Martinez, Daniel D. Arriaga, Berta Gonzalez, Joe Pena, Carlos Colina Vargas, and Carlos Ramirez.

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
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Leslie Vela from Boys and Girls Club reported that they continue with the same number of staff. During the Summer they had a very good turnout of up to 45 kids. Attendance has improved and gone up to 50 kids. They are trying to bring kids gradually, allowing 10 at a time, and registrations have been coming in. They offer after school power hour, keeping the kids busy. They serve a meal and do their homework. She recognized her staff as they have been working through the pandemic since October 2020. Parents have been very good at communicating if any one is sick. Staff is all vaccinated and have had no issues with that. Also, they donated over 400 pairs of cleats to football kids, cleats were donated to the Boys and Girls Club. They are having a car raffle; tickets are still available at \$20.00. They are maintaining good numbers in the food program. They did have a change in the program because school district went back to 100% in person. They are no longer able to provide the curb side meals, so numbers went down for August. Hoping to get numbers up to normal; kids can eat on site. Report attached for the record.

Chief Daniel D. Arriaga reported that there has been confusion with the 3rd booster shot. It has been approved, but they are focusing on a certain population as of now. It is recommended for people who have received organ transplants, stem cell transplants, people with advanced or untreated HIV infections, recipients of cancer treatments, or people that take medications that weaken the immune system or those otherwise directed by their physician. Right now, those are the ones being vaccinated with the 3rd dose. The 3rd dose for general population will start September 20, but it must be eight months minimum from the 2nd dose. Information will be posted to inform the public. DSHS is vaccinating Monday through Friday. They are testing Monday,

Wednesday, and Friday at Fire Department. Vaccines are Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Community Center. Since the last commissioners court meeting 182 vaccines have been administered: 74 – 1st doses, 45 – 2nd doses, and 63 – 3rd doses. Over 2300 vaccines have been administered, Fire Department has done over 1000 additional. The Fire Department has also conducted 835 Covid-19 tests.

Judge Rathmell gave the Covid-19 report as follows:

18,273 tested

1,698 positives

17,075 negatives

298 probable cases

80 active positive cases

41 deaths

12+ fully vaccinated – 62.9%

65+ fully vaccinated – 76%

Commissioner Mendoza added that FDA just received full approval the Pfizer vaccine. Hopefully this will motivate people to move forward and get vaccinated.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$868,303.12 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 CHECKS ISSUED

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$868,303.12 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.

ORDER APPROVING PROPOSAL FOR REMOVAL OF EXISTING FLOORING AND INSALLATION OF 20,000 SQ. FT OF NEW FLOORING AT ZAPATA COMMUNITY CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve proposal by Santos Castillo for the removal at existing flooring and installation of 20,000 sq. ft. of new floor at the Zapata Community Center, for the cost of \$43,000, 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 AWARDING ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES RELATED TO THE U.S. TREASURY CORONA VIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY AWARD

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to award administrative consulting services related to the U.S. Department of the Treasury Corona Virus Local Fiscal Recovery Award to Esser and Company 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 AWARDING BID FOR RESTROOMS AND SHOWERS AT
ZAPATA COUNTY REGIONAL JAIL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to award bid submitted for the restrooms & showers at the Zapata County Regional Jail to Carlos Diaz, for the total cost of \$75,000 to be done in 4 phases, 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 ORDER FOR 2021 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
SPECIAL ELECTION FOR NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve an order for the 2021 Constitutional Amendment Special Election for November 2, 2021, as ordered by the governor 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 THE FY 2022 CONTRACT BETWEEN OFFICE OF ATTORNEY
GENERAL AND ZAPATA COUNTY FOR STATEWIDE AUTOMATED VICTIM
NOTIFICATION SERVICE GRANT PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the FY 2022 contract between the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and Zapata County for the Statewide Automated Victim Notification Service (SAVNS) grant program for the cost of \$7,028.30, subject to approval by County Attorney, as requested by Hon. Joe Joseph 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 EXHIBIT HALL ON OCTOBER 29, 2021 FOR A
BOXING EVENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the Exhibit Hall on October 29, 2021, for a Boxing Event, pending payment and liability insurance, as requested by Hon. Olga M. Elizondo, Commissioner Pct. 2.

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

**ORDER APPROVING ORDER AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF "ZAPATA COUNTY,
TEXAS CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION SERIES 2021" AUTHORIZING A PAYING
AGENT/REGISTRAR AGREEMENT AND PURCHASE AND INVESTMENT LETTER
AND AUTHORIZING OTHER MATTERS THERETO**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve order authorizing the issuance of "Zapata County, Texas Certificates of Obligation, Series 2021" authorizing a paying agent/registrar agreement and a purchase and investment letter as presented and authorizing other matter relating thereto; as requested by Nellie 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 DESKTOP COMPUTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of a desktop computer for the Environmental Office. Funds to come from the Non-Department Line Item: 010-33540-409, in the amount of \$1,368.25, 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 PAYMENT OF \$5,850 FOR FREEZER FOR NUTRITION CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of \$5,850.00 for a freezer for the Nutrition Center as requested by Bertha Lopez, Nutrition Center 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 Solis, to approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	County Attorney	10-475-462	Equipment Rental	\$800.00
TO	County Attorney	10-475-392	Misc. Maint. Exp.	\$800.00
FROM	County Attorney	10-475-454	Vehicle Expense	\$700.00
TO	County Attorney	10-475-392	Misc. Maint. Exp.	\$700.00
FROM	County Attorney	10-475-311	Postage	\$200.00
TO	County Attorney	10-475-392	Misc. Maint. Exp.	\$200.00

as requested by Said A. Figueroa, County Attorney.

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 approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata Co. J.P. Pct. 1	10-455-316	Dues Pct. 1	\$78.21
TI	Zapata Co. J.P. Pct. 1	10-455-310	Supplies Pct. 1	\$78.21
FROM	Zapata Co. J.P. Pct. 1	10-455-427	Workshop/Travel Pct. 1	\$300.00
TO	Zapata Co. J.P. Pct. 1	10-455-461	Equipment Rental Pct. 1	\$300.00

as requested by Hon. Anna Guerra, Justice of the Peace Precinct 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 SOLIS,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

ORDER APPROVING HIRING OF RAMON E. MONTES AS AIRPORT MANAGER

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve hiring of Ramon E. Montes as Airport Manager at the Zapata County Airport at a salary of \$30,823.00, effective September 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 AUTHORIZING LEGAL COUNSEL TO EXPLORE ANY AND ALL
LEGAL OPTIONS PERTAINING TO WORK DONE AT
ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza seconded by Commissioner Solis, to authorize legal counsel to explore any and all legal options pertaining to work done at the 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.

[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney).

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

19./23. To discuss equipment maintenance issues as requested by Ralph Trevino, Water Plant Director.

[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071 (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