

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 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 Commissioners Court

**VISITORS:** Nellie R. Trevino, Bobbie Meza-Barrera, Jose F. Mendoza, Raymundo Del Bosque, Isidro Alaniz, Delia Mendoza, Dora Martinez, Daniel Arriaga, Lupita Garza, Carlos Q. Ramirez, Jesse Rodriguez, Michael Finger, Nedina V. Gutierrez, Berta Lopez, Maria Sanchez, Armando Guerra, Sandra Moore, and Nora Presas.

**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 COMMISSIONERS COURT  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Judge Rathmell reported that Congressman Cuellar will be here to announce the award of various grants for Zapata County as follows:

- \$10 million in federal funding for broadband connectivity in Zapata County.
- \$1 million in federal funding for improvements and renovations to the Siesta Shores Water Control and Improvement District.
- \$1 million emergency services (Fire Department).
- \$6 million for expansion of Hwy 16.

Covid-19 report:

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| • 19,776 tested    | • 502 probable |
| • 1,759 positives  | • 68 active    |
| • 18,017 negatives | • 44 deaths    |

Judge Rathmell also reported that there have been significant improvements at the boat ramp.

Commissioner Elizondo announced that there will be a training for grant applications for home improvements.

Nedina V. Gutierrez will also be available to assist with filling out grant applications.

Sheriff Del Bosque and County Attorney Figueroa will be in Washington to meet with Congressman Cuellar to discuss border funding.

#### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices in the amount of \$856,774.69 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 \$856,774.69 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 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR INDIGENT HEALTH CARE OUTPATIENT AND INPATIENT SERVICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request for proposals for indigent health care outpatient & inpatient services as requested by Honorable 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 SECOND CONTRACT RENEWAL AGREEMENT FOR ZAPATA COUNTY VINE SERVICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Second Contract Renewal Agreement for the Zapata County VINE Service (Automated Victim Notification Services) as requested by Honorable 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 TO RESCHEDULE REGULAR COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to reschedule the Regular Commissioners Court Meeting from October 12, 2021 to October 8, 2021 as requested by 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 REIMBURSEMENT TO RENE GARCILAZO**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve reimbursement of \$178.60 to Rene Garcilazo for the purchase of a battery backup and surge protector as requested by Judge 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.

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY HON. ANNA GUERRA REGARDING PURCHASE OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Hon. Anna Guerra regarding purchase of a surveillance camera system for Justice of the Peace Office, 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 TECHNOLOGY FUND TO PURCHASE OF NEW COMPUTER FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 3 COURT CLERK**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, second by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the Technology Fund to purchase of a new computer for Justice of the Peace Precinct 3, Court Clerk as requested by Judge Fernando Munoz, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO CONTINUE LETTER OF CREDIT TO ESTABLISH STAND BY TRUST FUND FOR FINANCIAL ASSURANCE FOR CLOSURE OF SAN YGNACIO LANDFILL NO 793 AND CLOSED LANDFILL NO. 1528**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to continue the Letter of Credit to establish stand by trust fund for the financial assurance for the closure and post closure of San Ygnacio Landfill No. 783 in the amount of \$583,561 and closed Zapata Landfill No. 1528 in the amount \$293,818 as requested by TCEQ, Deborah Wisenski, Financial Analyst 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 REHABILITATION OF WATER CLARIFIER LOCATED AT SAN YGNACIO**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the rehabilitation of the water clarifier located at the San Ygnacio Water Plant, estimated at an amount \$46,000.00. Work to be performed by RGV Industrial Machine Shop & Pumps LLC 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 REPLAT OF TRACT 24 INTO 24A AND 24B IN RANCHITO SAN JOSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve replat of Tract 24 into 24A & 24B in Ranchito San Jose 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 INVOICE AND STATUS OF COLORADO ACRES SEWER PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoice submitted by Premier Engineering for services performed at Colorado Acres Sewer Project

as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Project is moving along and sewer lines have been installed.

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

**ORDER APPROVING GRANT SUBMISSION OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve grant submission of the General Assistance Grant for the Texas Veterans Commission as requested by Adolfo Gonzalez, Veterans Service Officer.

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

**ORDER APPROVING CONTRACTING GRANT WRITING AND MANAGEMENT FIRM FOR TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION (TVC) GENERAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve contracting a grant writing and grant management firm for the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) General Assistance Grant as requested by Adolfo Gonzalez, Veterans Service Officer.

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

**ORDER AWARDING CONTRACT TO FIRM OF VALBRIDGE PROPERTY ADVISORS FOR UPDATING 2019 APPRAISAL OF LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE PROPERTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to award contract to the firm of Valbridge Property Advisors for updating the 2019 appraisal of the Los Ebanos Golf Course property, for a fee of \$3,800, as requested by Carlos Colina Vargas, Consultant.

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

**ORDER AWARDING CONTRACT TO FIRM OF VALBRIDGE PROPERTY FOR PREPARATION OF APPRAISAL OF SITE DESIGNATED FOR MIRAFLORES NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to award contract to the firm of Valbridge Property Advisors for preparation of an appraisal of the site designated for the Miraflores Neighborhood Park, for a fee of \$2,800.00, as requested by TPWD.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF SECURITY LIGHTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve installation of the following security light:

- a. 1-57 Dolores Road, San Ygnacio, TX

as requested by Hon. Olga M. Elizondo, 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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve installation of the following security light:

a. 505 Lincoln

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 LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfer:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	County Judge	10-400-462	Rentals/Maintenance	\$500.00
<b>TO</b>	County Judge	10-400-431	Postage	\$500.00

as requested by Roxanna Elizondo, County Judge’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 Garza, to approve the following line-item transfers:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff’s County Jail	010-560-335	Computer Expense	\$7,300.00
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff’s County Jail	010-560-454	Vehicle Maintenance	\$7,300.00
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff’s County Jail	010-560-335	Computer Expense	\$5,702.23
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff’s Regional Jail	010-567-462	Miscellaneous & Rental	\$5,702.23
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff’s Office	010-560-335	Computer Expense	\$42.37
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff’s County Jail	010-561-452	Miscellaneous & Rental	\$42.37
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff’s Regional Jail	010-567-335	Computer Expense	\$107.22
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff’s Regional Jail	010-567-462	Miscellaneous & Rental	\$107.22

as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Sheriff’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 Garza, to approve the following line-item transfers:

	DEPARTMENT	LIEN-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Tax Office	10-31049-499	Supplies	\$1,720.64
<b>TO</b>	Tax Office	10-31149-499	Postage	\$1,720.64
<b>FROM</b>	Tax Office	10-45249-499	Equipment Rental	\$654.00
<b>TO</b>	Tax Office	10-45749-499	Equipment Maintenance	\$654.00
<b>FROM</b>	Tax Office	10-31049-499	Supplies	\$248.23
<b>TO</b>	Tax Office	10-42749-499	Workshop & Travel	\$248.23

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 PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve proclamation declaring September 2021 Suicide Month in Zapata County 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.

Delia Mendoza clarified on delinquent tax collections.

At 11:30 motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza to recess until 1:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo to return to regular session.

**ORDER ADOPTING ZAPATA COUNTY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to adopt the Zapata County Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, with all added changes, as requested by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor. *(SEE ATTACHMENT FOR DETAILS)*

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioner Mendoza, Garza, Elizondo and Solis. Judge Rathmell voted against. Motion carried.

**ORDER APPROVING TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to adopt a tax rate of 0.924026/\$100 valuation for Zapata County in accordance with Local Government Code Sections 111.007-111.010 by executing an “Order Setting the Tax Rate for “2021-2022,” to be approved as follows:

General fund .....	0.639000
Interest and Sinking Fund .....	0.215000
Special Road & Bridge .....	0.070016
<u>F.M./Flood Control</u> .....	<u>0.000010</u>
<b>TOTAL TAX</b>	<b>0.924026</b>

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 SETTING SALARIES AND NUMBER OF POSITIONS BY APPROVING GENERAL ORDER OF PERSONNEL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve order setting salaries and the number of positions by approving the “General Order of Personnel for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, with recommendations and changes, as approved by the majority of vote, as request 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 OPERATION GENERAL ORDER FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve request by County Auditor, Triunfo Gonzalez, to approve the “Operation General Order for Fiscal Year 2021-2022”.

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

**ORDER APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING COUNTY TREASURER  
AND COUNTY AUDITOR TO CLOSE ALL ACCOUNTS AND MAKE ALL  
NECESSARY LINE ITEM TRANSFERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve and authorize the County Treasurer and the County Auditor to close all accounts and make all necessary line item transfers 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.

**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