

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 25th of October 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, Amalia Navarro, Daniel D. Arriaga, Martiniano Ramirez, Maria S. Ramirez, and Benita Ramirez Gomez.

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
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Fire Chief Daniel D. Arriaga reported that Covid-19 numbers have dropped significantly; on October 20 FDA amended use for Moderna and Johnson & Johnson booster. Moderna booster has been approved for those 18 and over 6 months after 2nd dose; additional 3rd Moderna dose 28 days after 2nd dose only for severely immunocompromised, such as, persons with HIV and undergoing cancer treatment, not past cancer treatment. Pfizer is the same as Moderna. Johnson & Johnson booster is approved 2 months after initial dose. Mix and match is also approved for immune compromised (mostly cancer patients). Vaccines and testing will take place at community center. Vaccines at community center Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. National Guard will continue testing on Tuesdays. DHS offer both Moderna and Pfizer. Daniel's Pharmacy only Moderna. Information will be posted on Fire Department Facebook page.

Sheriff Ray Del Bosque met with Governor Abbot to discuss the preparation to secure our lake and our border. There will be resources coming in as of today, DPS and other state and federal agencies. They will be preparing for any kind of surge through low lake areas and will be contacting land owners that have adjacent properties with the lake. There have been more activities in the last few weeks. Heavy equipment needs to be stored, some will be at the airport and shooting range. They will be setting up camps in different areas to have a 24/7 watch and they will also be staying at some of the local hotels, as well as, adjoining counties. The deployment will depend on where the surge is occurring. Sheriff Del Bosque will meet with Carl Esser to submit grant application. They are looking at Zapata County for deployment of processing center; that will be discussed with the judge at a later date as processing centers are looking at being closer to the border.

Commissioner Elizondo commented that the Miss Falcon Lake Pageant took place, congratulated the participants, two of which will represent Zapata County.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$1,280,209.65 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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$1,280,209.65, 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 TO HIRE MEDICAL ASSISTANT FOR ZAPATA COUNTY JAIL AND ZAPATA COUNTY WOMEN'S JAIL

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to hire a Medical Assistant for the Zapata County Regional Jail and the Zapata County Women's Jail at a starting pay of \$31,080.00 to be paid from General Order funds rescinded by County Official salaries 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 PART TIME POSITIONS AS REQUESTED BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve part time positions as requested by department heads at the Food Pantry, Public Library, and Water Plant for approximately \$45,000 for the 3 part time positions (to include cleaning of Pct. 4 office) to be paid from General Order funds rescinded by County Official salaries as requested by Hon. 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 ALL PENDING COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve all pending Commissioners Court minutes through September 13, 2021 as requested by Hon. Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, County Clerk.

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

ORDER TO TABLE ITEMS 11, 12 AND 13

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Hon. Romeo Salinas to approve quote for the removal of aging insulation at the Helping Hands Food Pantry (original structure) and replace with closed cell spray foam 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Hon. Romeo Salinas to approve quote for additional improvements to the Helping Hands Food Panty, to include but is not limited, to a new roll up door, forklift storage, and concrete ramp for unloading of food truck as requested by: Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer.

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 table request by Hon. Romeo Salinas to approve quote for the repair of several monuments at the Zapata County Cemetery 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 QUOTE FOR REPLACEMENT OF LIGHT FIXTURES
LOCATED JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PCT. 2 OFFICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve quote in the amount of \$1,965.00 for the replacement of light fixtures located within the Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2 office as requested by Hon. Judge Juana Maria Gutierrez, Justice of the Peace Pct. 2.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO HIRE ALFONSO J. BENAVIDES AS
CEMETERY MAINTENANCE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve hiring of Alfonso J. Benavides as Cemetery Maintenance 10-409 Slot #2 at \$10.00/hr., effective October 22, 2021 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 SHERIFFS' AND CONSTABLES' FEES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Sheriffs' and Constables' Fees, with no changes, as requested by Joe Pena, Zapata County Sheriff's Office.

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

ORDER TO DENY CHANGE ORDER FOR COLORADO SUBDIVISION PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to deny request by Manuel Gonzalez for change order for the Colorado Subdivision Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that project is over 80% complete. Connections for services are connected to the property line.

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

ORDER APPROVING WATERLINE INSTALLATION ON HUISACHE ROAD

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve water line installation on Huisache Road to be installed by property owner on county right-of-way as requested by: Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering. Mr. Gonzalez provided a map and other paper work for the record.

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

ORDER AUTHORIZING COMMISSIONER ELIZONDO TO CONTACT PROPERTY OWNERS TO ACQUIRE EASEMENTS FOR INSTALLATION OF WATER LINE ON U.S. HWY 83 NORTH OF SAN YGNACIO VIEJO SUBDIVISION

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to authorize Commissioner Elizondo to contact property owners to acquire easements for installation of waterline on U.S. Hwy 83 north of San Ygnacio Viejo subdivision as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering. Mr. Gonzalez provided map for the record. Commissioner Elizondo will help contacting owners for easements.

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

ORDER APPROVING CEMETERY LAYOUT ON NEW SECTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve Option 1 for cemetery layout on new section as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

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 PUMPS FOR WASTEWATER PLANT FROM USDA FUNDS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve purchase of new pumps for the Wastewater Plant funds from USDA funds requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

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

ORDER APPROVING TO REQUEST QUALIFICATIONS FOR GRANT WRITER/GRANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER GRANT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to request qualifications for Grant Writer/Grant Administrator for Emergency Operation Center Grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 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 TO REQUEST QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER GANT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to request qualifications for Engineering Services for Emergency Operations Center Grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 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 APPLICATION TO TDHCA-CDBG FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to apply for the TDHCA-CDBG Funds for the Community Resiliency Program 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 TO REQUEST QUALIFICATIONS FOR GRANT WRITER/GRANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR TDHCA-CDBG COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to request qualifications for Grant Writer/Grant Administrator for TDHCA-CDBG Community Resiliency Program 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 TO REQUEST QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR TDHCA-CDBG COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to request qualifications for Engineering Services for TDHCA-CDBG Community Resiliency Program 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 TO ACQUIRE SERVICES OF C.M. COMPANY AUCTIONS TO CONDUCT SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AUCTIONS FOR ZAPATA COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to acquire services of C.M. Company Auctions to conduct surplus equipment auctions for Zapata County as requested by Nadia Stephens, C.M. Company Auctions.

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 LIGHT

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

- 411 Ocampo, San Ygnacio, TX
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 RESOLUTION FOR 2022 INDIGENT DEFENSE
GRANT PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution for 2022 Indigent Defense Grant Program 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 RESOLUTION OF ZAPATA COUNTY TO ADOPT PLAN C AS
NEW SINGLE PRECINCT FOR USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution of Zapata County to Adopt Plan C the new single member precincts for use by Zapata County 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.

ADJOURN

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