

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 22th of November 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: Belinda Chapa, Jose Dodier, Berta Lopez, Roger Miller, Daniel D. Arriaga, Nellie R. Trevino, Carlos Colina Vargas, Manuel Gonzalez, Ramon E. Montes, and N. Garza.

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, COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell advised the court that Congressman Henry Cuellar will be here at 12:45 p.m. today to present the Stone Garden Grant for the Zapata County Sheriff's Office.

He added that there is a lot of activity on FM 496 at the base camp as National Guard start moving in today working the Operation Lone Star to provide surveillance and assist DPS. They will be here for at least one year. There will be between 750-1000 soldiers taking residence here. Judge Rathmell thanked Zapata County Water Works for working on the FM 496 improvements.

Commissioner Elizondo reported that she is part of the Avance Headstart. There are programs for pregnant women and children; contact the Texas Health Service for more information. Commissioner Elizondo will put the information on her Facebook page.

Fire Chief Danny Arriaga reported 454 booster vaccines have been administered. DSHS helped the school district get three hundred children vaccinated. DSHS will continue to vaccinate the 5-11 age group. Fire department placed order for more vaccines for the same age group. TDUM is no longer providing the test kits. They will continue to work with TEEEX. National Guard will not be here during the holiday. Fire department will only vaccinate Monday of this week. DSHS will not vaccinate this week. CVS, DSHS, and PPA will continue to vaccinate by appointment. CVS sells home tests. There are only 5 active cases.

Judge Rathmell stated that the County Thanksgiving in-service will be Thursday 8-12 a.m.; he encouraged elected officials to bring door prizes. In-service is mandatory and all employees need to attend to get paid for the day. TAC will be present to talk about programs available to employees.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve invoices in the amount of \$917,979.17 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 \$917,979.17 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.

PRESENTATION BY ZAPATA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Jose Dodier came before the court to request \$31,000 to hire an employee to keep the office open. The office is technically closed because it's run by the government. The employee has to leave the office to meet the people in their ranch. He also presented the financial statement. They are in good standing; the balance is zero. The office has been in operation for 71 years in Zapata County. Zapata County had been investing over one million dollars into all kinds of conservation programs. Last year they took a big hit because the government took a lot of the allocation and put out for other purposes. Last year only \$503,991.00 were spent in the county by ranchers. There are currently two employees and one vacancy. Mr. Dodier has been on the local board for 25 years and 16 years at the state level.

ORDER APPROVING FIRST PAYMENT TO SANTOS CASTILLO

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the first payment of \$15,000 to Santos Castillo for work being done 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 REQUEST BY ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND INTERESTED LOCAL BUSINESSES TO DECORATE TOWN PLAZA FOR CHRISTMAS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the request of the Zapata Co. Sheriff's Department and interested local businesses to decorate the town plaza for Christmas, and include parade of Christmas market, 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 SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PCT. 1 OFFICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of a surveillance camera system for the Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1 office, for the amount of \$5,876.10 to be paid out of the Technology Fund 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 SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM FOR ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of a surveillance camera system for the Zapata County Airport, for the amount of \$24,456.45, half of the amount covered by RAMP, remaining balance will be paid by general fund as requested by Ramon Montes, Airport Manager.

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

ORDER APPROVING PROPOSAL FOR ROOFING AND FOUNDATION OF CARPORT AT ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve proposal in the amount of \$7,800.00 by Jose Romero's Welding for the roofing and foundation of a carport at the Zapata County Airport as requested by Ramon Montes, Airport Manager.

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

ORDER TO TABLE PROPOSAL FOR REPAIRS TO ZAPATA COUNTY NUTRITION CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request to consider proposal for repairs to the Zapata County Nutrition Center, including an addition to the existing building as requested by Bertha G. 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 APPRAISAL REPORT FOR LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE PROPERTY AND APPROVE PAYMENT TO VALBRIDGE PROPERTY ADVISORS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the appraisal report for the Los Ebanos Golf Course property; and approve the payment of \$3,800 to Valbridge Property Advisors as compensation for its preparation as requested by Carlos Colina Vargas, Consultant. Updated appraisal amount is \$1,745,000.

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

**ORDER APPROVING APPRAISAL REPORT FOR MIRAFLORES PARK SITE
AND PAYMENT TO VALBRIDGE PROPERTY ADVISORS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve appraisal report for the Miraflores park site property; and approve the payment of \$2,800 to Valbridge Property Advisors as compensation for its preparation as requested by Carlos Colina Vargas, Consultant. Appraised amount is \$150,000.

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

ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICE TO EDCJC

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoice #1, in the amount of \$280,524.57, payable to EDCJC for the Colorado Acres as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that lines have been installed and project is completed. Taps are made up to the property line, price varies to connect.

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

Manuel Gonzalez reported on need for exterior and interior jail repairs. Some gaskets need replacement, metal section rusted out, need installation of 30 rubber gaskets, and down spouts. Metal section on corners that holds planes together need to be re painted; 100 linear feet of gutter need replacement. Northern wall has subsided and needs welding. There are additional repairs needed.

Manuel Gonzalez reported on Pct. 1- paving project. Fourteen hundred linear feet of curb and gutter along Ramirez Drive have been installed. A 600 sq. ft. section for an intersection improvement that is going to remove asphalt and put in concrete to be done with county crews. Pct. 2 - Miraflores Street from 10th Street to 16th Street to mill existing asphalt and add 1-1/2" of asphalt over lay. Pct. 3 - Pelican Street, Crow Street to Lake Drive paved part of it before and now paving other section and adding 1-1/2" of overlay and other repairs. Pct. 4 - 2nd Street, Hwy 16 to Miraflores Street mill and replace with 1-1/2" of asphalt. Second street going from 16 to Miraflores Street may only cover half of the street depending on budget. Suggested that School District will be doing paving, county could contact them and do paving at the same time using county crews.

INSTALLATION OF STREETLIGHTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the installation of the following streetlights:

- a. 1805 3rd Street
- b. 1801 Ramireno Street
- c. 615 Villa Avenue
- d. 16th Street & Mier Avenue
- e. 1807 1st Street
- f. 2nd Street & Ramireño Avenue

as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner Pct. 4.

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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the following line item transfers, to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Constable Pct. 1	10-550-310	Supplies	\$50.00
TO	Constable Pct. 1	10-550-454	Repairs and Maintenance	\$50.00

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 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION OF AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL GRANT WRITING -APPLICATION PREPARATION AND GRANT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Judge Rathmell, to approve resolution of Award for Professional Grant Writing-Application Preparation and Grant Administration Services for the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs Community Resiliency Program as requested by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was denied by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Garza, motion did not carry due to a tie.

After discussion, the item was recalled. Commissioner Elizondo and Garza rescinded their vote against.

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Resolution of Award for Professional Engineering Services to Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting, LLC for the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs Community Resiliency Program 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.

TO APPROVE RESOLUTION OF AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Resolution of Award for Professional Engineering Services for the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Community Resiliency Program to Premier Engineering 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 AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL GRANT
WRITING-APPLICATION PREPARATION AND
GRANT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY EMERGENCY
OPERATION CENTER GRANT PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve Resolution of Award for Professional Grant Writing-Application Preparation and Grant Administration Services for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operation Center Grant Program to Carlos Colina Vargas as requested by Hon. 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 RESOLUTION OF AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
SERVICES FOR FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY EMERGENCY
OPERATION CENTER GRANT PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Resolution of Award for Professional Engineering Services for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operation Center Grant Program to Premier Engineering 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 SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING FOR TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve scheduling Public Hearing for the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Community Resiliency Program for December 8, 2021 at 5:10 PM 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 SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING FOR FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY EMERGENCY OPERATION
CENTER GRANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve scheduling Public Hearing for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operation Center Grant for December 8, 2021 at 5:15 PM 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.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ELIZONDO,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,**

TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

**ORDER APPROVING TO DOWN PAYMENT OF \$500,000 TO ACQUIRE
LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis to approve down payment of \$500,000 to acquire Los Ebanos Golf Course and pending approval from TPWL as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. Mr. Ramirez will continue operating the golf course until Zapata county can transition.

[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071 {Consultation with Attorney} and Note 2 Gov't Code Ann 551.072, (Real Property).

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