

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 28th of March 2022, 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. Treviño, Zenon Perez, Adolfo Gonzalez, Jr., Gabriella Guevara, Humberto Medina, Berta Lopez, Fred Lopez, Jimmy Gonzalez, Francisco Cantu, Karran Westerman, Daniel Flores. Maricia Benavides, Luis Guevara, Joseph Peña, Daniel Benavides, Raymundo Del Bosque, Hugo Rodriguez, Alberto Soto, and Craig Bigler.

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

Fire Chief Danny Arriaga reported that Fire Department administered 4 Moderna vaccines between February 28 and March 28 – 2-2nd dose and 2-3rd dose.

A total of 4,836 tests have been conducted. Curative is still testing, and vaccines are still available.

Judge Rathmell reported on Covid-19 test results as follows:

2,388 total positive tests
6 positives
53 deaths
1,281 probables
age 5+ 65.02% fully vaccinated
age 65 + 82.05% fully vaccinated

Karran Westerman announced that the JROTC will be having their military ball on April 1 at county pavilion.

Commissioner Elizondo reported that Marion Varela, former jazz player, performed in San Ygnacio.

Judge Rathmell commented that the County Fair auction was very successful. Grand Champion steer did very well.

Jimmy Gonzalez with Linebarger informed the court that there is a Texas grant program available under the American Recovery Plan for people that cannot afford property taxes or mortgage payments due to pandemic. There is a limited pool. Tax office has station available for applications.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$2,818,750.15 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 \$2,818,750.15 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 \$9,728.55 for the month of April with a year-to-date total of \$73,256.13. Tax collections were \$1,129,474.59 with a rate of 84.39%.

ORDER RECOGNIZING AND PROCLAIMING APRIL AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to recognize and proclaim April as Autism Awareness Month and approve the temporary closure of US Hwy 83 on April 2, 2022, for the Zapata County 6th Annual Autism Awareness K- Run/Walk 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.

PRESENTATION BY TxDOT ON ZAPATA COUNTY PROJECTS

Presentation was made by Francisco Cantu, Freddy Lopez, and Danny Flores of TxDOT on various U.S. Hwy 83 Zapata Projects. One of the main scopes is to construct a 4-lane divided highway for an approximate length of 22.45 miles. They are currently working on erosion in the San Ygnacio area. Judge Rathmell commented that Zapata County projects are being pushed back. (Report attached for the record.)

UPDATE ON ZAPATA COUNTY SURPLUS AUCTION

Judge Rathmell reported that approximately \$69,912.90 were generated from mostly heavy equipment auction sales held by C.M. Company Auctions.

ORDER APPROVING PETITION TO TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONSIDER LOWERING SPEED LIMIT WITHIN SAN YGNACIO TOWN LIMITS FROM 45 MPH TO 35 MPH

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve petition to the Texas Department of Transportation to consider lowering the speed limit within the San Ygnacio town limits from 45 mph to 35 mph 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 AMENDMENT OF 2021-2022 BUDGET FOR COUNTY COURT STAFF SALARIES, INCLUDING SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, AND POTENTIAL NEW GRANT FUNDED POSITIONS CONTINGENT ON APPROVAL FROM OFFICE OF GOVERNOR OPERATION LONE STAR GRANT

Motion was made by commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Amendment of 2021-2022 Budget for County Court staff salaries, including Sheriff's Department, and potential new grant funded positions, contingent on the approval of funding from the Office of the Governor Operation Lone Star Grant Number 43726011 with 100% reimbursement by the State to 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.

ORDER APPROVING FINAL PAYMENT ON PURCHASE OF LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve final payment in the amount of \$850,000 on the purchase of the Los Ebanos Golf Course, out of the catastrophic fund, to be refunded, 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL FOR PROPOSAL FOR LANDSCAPING OF COURTHOUSE GROUNDS

Motion was made Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by County Judge for proposal for the landscaping of courthouse grounds.

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

ORDER DENYING REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL FOR CONSIDERATION OF COMPENSATING RESIDENT FOR DAMAGES TO PERSONAL PROPERTY AT 259 FM 3074

Motion was made Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to deny request by Judge Rathmell for consideration of compensating resident for damage to personal property at 259 FM 3074 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL TO PROPOSE SENDING EMPLOYEE OF ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS TO SAN YGNACIO WATER PLANT FOR PURPOSE OF COLLECTING PAYMENTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Judge Rathmell, to propose sending an employee of the Zapata County Waterworks to the San Ygnacio Water Plant for the purpose of collecting payments.

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

ORDER APPROVING HERBICIDE APPLICATION ON INVASIVE WEEDS AT BRAVO PARK AND THE LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the herbicide application on invasive weeds at Bravo Park and the Los Ebanos Golf Course by IVM Solutions, for the amount of \$5,000.00, to be paid out of Certificate of Obligation as requested by 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 PAYMENT TO MED-LOZ SERVICE, INC. FOR THE LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment to Med-Loz Lease Service, Inc. for \$9,107.50 for the Los Ebanos Golf Course maintenance. Amount to be paid from Certificate of Obligation Series 2021 as requested by 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 FINAL PAYMENT ON INVOICE TO VISTA SOLUTIONS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve final payment on invoice to Vista Solutions for \$7,150.00, to be paid out of non-department line item #10-33540-409 as requested by Delia R. 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 ADOPTING QUALIFIED BENEFIT REPLACEMENT ARRANGEMENT WITH TCDRS TO COVER EMPLOYEES WHO FACE 415 LIMITATIONS WHEN THEY RETIRE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to adopt a qualified benefit replacement arrangement with TCDRS to cover employees who face 415 limitations when they retire. The annual benefit limit for 2022 is \$245,000 for employees aged sixty-two or older 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.

ORDER ADOPTING IRS MILEAGE RATE AND ADJUST AS CHANGES ARE MADE

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to adopt the IRS mileage rate and adjust as changes are made. The State of Texas mileage rate is 58.5 Cents per mile effective January 1, 2022, 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.

ORDER APPROVING REQUEST BY SHERIFF DEL BOSQUE TO PURCHASE KITCHEN A/C HEATER AND EXTRACTOR

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request by Sheriff Del Bosque to purchase kitchen A/C Heater and Extractor.

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

ORDER APPROVING REIMBURSEMENT TO ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMMISSARY FOR EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC TITLING BRAISING PAN

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve reimbursement to Zapata County Sheriff's Office commissary, in the amount of \$17,603.05, for the emergency purchase of an electric titling braising pan, to be paid out of maintenance and operations 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 ALLOWING HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR AND COUNTY TREASURER TO SEEK RFP'S FOR ZAPATA COUNTY GROUP MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR FY 2022-2023

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to allow Human Resources Director and County Treasurer to seek RFP's for the Zapata County group medical insurance for FY2022-2023 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 PAYMENT TO GENCO ENERGY SERVICES, INC FOR RENTAL AT THE LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment for \$2,083.81 to Genco Energy Services, Inc. for rental at Los Ebanos Golf Course 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 PURCHASE OF 2,000 GALLON WATER TANK FOR COUNTY SHOP

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve the purchase of a 2000 Gallon Water Tank for the County Shop from the Certificate of Obligation Series 2021 for \$9,500.00 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 PAYMENT TO ZAPATA COUNTY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB FOR
FY 201-2022**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment for \$50,000 to the Zapata County Boys & Girls Club for FY 2021-2022 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 2022-2023 TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES PROPERTY
RENEWAL AND ALLOW HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT
RENEWAL SCHEDULE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the 2022-2023 Texas Association of Counties Property Renewal and allow HR Director to submit the renewal schedule 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 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR
LINE ITEM 038-36664-647 (RAW FOODS)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve additional funding for line item 038-36664-647(raw foods) for \$25,000, to be funded out of the fund balance, 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 TRANSFER OF RAUL RAMIREZ FROM SLOT #10 TO SLOT
#3 AS HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the transfer of Raul Ramirez from slot #10 to slot #3 as a Heavy Equipment Operator at \$15.07 per hour (Crew Leader) as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF AMANDO GONZALEZ FROM SLOT #7 TO
SLOT #10 AS COMPACTOR OPERATOR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the transfer of Armando Gonzalez from slot #7 to slot #10 as a Compactor Operator at \$13.00 per hour as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICES FOR ZAPATA COUNTY
JAIL PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of invoice payable to Campos Construction in the amount of \$10,330.00, and invoice payable to Premier Engineering in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Zapata County Jail Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Damaged rubber gaskets have been removed

and replaced, gutters have been replaced, holes have been repairs. Wall plates have been installed and metal beams have been repaired.

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

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF STREETLIGHT

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

- a. 380 Gonzalez St.
as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1.

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 transfer to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Water Plant	80-600-443	Electricity	\$1,286.66
TO	Non-Department	10-409-444	Electricity	\$1,286.66

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	County Clerk	10-403-437	Records Processing	\$815.00
TO	County Clerk	10-403-427	Workshops/Travel	\$815.00

as requested by 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Tax Office	010-33449-499	Scanning & Preservation	\$3,000.00
TO	Tax Office	010-42749-499	Workshops/Travel Expense	\$3,000.00

as requested by Delia R. Mendoza, Tax Assessor.

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 Solis, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Justice of the Peace	10-455-328	JP Collection Costs	\$8,443.92
TO	Special Road & Bridge	15-621-470	JP Collection Costs	\$8,443.92

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.

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

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

**ORDER AUTHORIZING WATER PLANT MANAGER TO PROCEED WITH
CONNECTIONS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to authorize Ralph Treviño, to proceed with connections, as discussed in Executive Session 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.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION APPROVING ZAPATA COUNTY'S AMERICAN
RECOVERY PLAN ACT FUND ALLOCATIONS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution approving Zapata County's American Recovery Plan Act Fund Allocation 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 TO ADD OPTIONAL WORKERS
COMPENSATION COVERAGE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve resolution to add Optional Workers Compensation Coverage 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.

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN SOUTH
TEXAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF
REPRESENTATIVES FROM ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to

approve resolution to Support and Participate in the South Texas Development Council and confirm the appointment of Judge Rathmell and Commissioner Norberto Garza as representatives from the County of Zapata, Texas to serve on the Board of Directors of the South Texas Development Council for the period of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022, 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