

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 14th day of November 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	Zapata County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

VISITORS: Nellie R. Treviño, Ramon E. Montes, Roger Miller, Nereida Garza, Jose Dodier, Belinda Chapa, Delia Mendoza, and Joseph Peña.

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
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER, COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell reported that there was a veterans ceremony on Friday. He thanked the military, Zapata County Independent School District. A ceremony was also held in San Ygnacio.

He added that a special meeting will be held to canvas general election results and veterans items.

Commissioner Elizondo reported that the vendors market held at the pavilion was a success. She also thanked Pope Gonzalez for being active with local veterans and assisting with payment of utility bills.

Covid 19 Report:

2,586 positive cases

1,708 probable cases

No deaths reported in the last 2 weeks

Romeo Salinas commented that Food Pantry funding by American Rescue Plan has run out. The Food Pantry is available to everyone. There will be turkey distribution for clients on list only. Food Pantry will distribute 650-680 turkeys and Shephard's Pantry will distribute 250. Food distributors will be issuing cards to clients to avoid duplicating food distributions. Clients will have to choose which pantry they will go to. The food pantry is receiving FEMA grant funding.

Commissioner Elizondo thanked the County Clerk's Office for election work.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from October 21 – November 10, 2022 in the amount of \$1,389,750.77, 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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, 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 Elizondo, to approve checks issued October 21 – November 10, 2022 in the amount of \$1,389,750.77, 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 \$9,365.23 for the month of October. Net tax collections were \$2,057,160.17, with a rate of 17.97%.

NO ONE PRESENT FOR ITEM #10 PRESENTATION ON THE MEDICARE STORE REQUESTED BY RENE RIVERA, MEDICARE STORE.

PRESENTATION FROM ZAPATA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Jose O. Dodier, Jr., Chairman of Zapata County Soil & Water Conservation District, stated that the district just celebrated the 72nd year in existence. USDA funding was cut back, however, the district was able to service 20 contracts out of 35; 21,873 acres got some kind of service. They were able to access funds from other counties that didn't use all allocations. He submitted their budget and requested \$31,000 from Zapata County.

ORDER APPROVING GRANTWORKS FEE SCHEDULE FOR FEMA'S HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Grantworks fee schedule for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program application approved on October 24, 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.

ORDER APPROVING ADVANCE FOR WORK AT ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve advance in the amount of \$6,400.00 for work at the Zapata County Airport approved during Commissioners Court meeting held on October 24, 2022 as requested by Ramon Montes, Airport 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 AIRCRAFT TUG CADDY

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of an Aircraft Tug Caddy from Non-Department, amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 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 PURCHASE OF FURNITURE FOR ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT TERMINAL AND APPROVING BID BY FRED'S FINE FURNITURE

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of furniture for the Zapata County Airport and accept Fred's Fine Furniture bid in the amount of \$2,619.60 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 TO AMEND BUDGET IN SPECIAL ROAD AND BRIDGE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to amend the budget in the Special Road and Bridge and allocate \$70,000 in the 015-45662621 for equipment repairs. Monies to come from fund balance 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 TO WAIVE RENTAL FEE FOR USE OF COMMUNITY CENTER FOR JROTC MILITARY BALL

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to waive the rental fee for the use of the Community Center for the JROTC Military Ball on April 22, 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 INVOICE AND REVIEW OF CDBG DRAINAGE PROJECT PROGRESS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$4,000.00 payable to Premier Engineering for work on CDBG Drainage Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Project is in Precinct 4 from Mier Street to Hwy 16 and 3 blocks South. The county owns 60 feet of right-of-way from Mier to Hwy 16, right-of-way is on the East side, however, the county will need to acquire additional right-of-way to complete project. Project is 80% complete.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICE AND REVIEW OF EOC BUILDING PROJECT
PROGRESS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$5,000.00 payable to Premier Engineering for work on EOC Building Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Mr. Gonzalez presented updated layout of project and will meet with Chief Arriaga. Layout will be submitted to FEMA for their review. (Layout attached for the record.)

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

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICE AND REVIEW OF TXDOT PAVING PROJECT
PROGRESS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoice Number 1 in the amount of \$4,000.00 payable to Premier Engineering for work done on TxDOT Paving Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Mouflon Oilfield Services was awarded the bid and has submitted insurance and has been given orders to proceed, they have 30 days to complete work.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTION BIDDING ON MIRAFLORES
PARK AND APPROVAL OF INVOICES**

Motion was Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve request for construction bidding on Miraflores Park and approval of invoice in the amount of \$4,000.00 payable to Premier Engineering as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Survey, plans and specs are complete and have been submitted to Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations for review and project has been approved. Comments were added in case certain improvements were added to the park.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
ZAPATA COUNTY AND
RIO GRANDE RIVER SOLAR REINVESTMENT ZONE #1,
DESERT VINE SOLAR REINVESTMENT ZONE #1,
SIERRA MADRE SOLAR REINVESTMENT ZONE #1, AND
REDONDA SOLAR REINVESTMENT ZONE #1**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve tax abatement agreements between Zapata County and Rio Grande River Solar Reinvestment Zone #1, Desert Vine Solar Reinvestment Zone #1, Sierra Madre Solar Reinvestment Zone #1, and Redonda Solar Reinvestment Zone #1, pursuant to the County's guidelines and criteria under the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act, Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code as requested by Jeff Snowden, Capex Consulting Group.

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

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHT

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

a. 2203 Elm Street

as requested by Hon. Olga 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 IN SUPPORT OF FY 2023 INDIGENT DEFENSE
FORMULA GRANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution in support of FY 2023 Indigent Defense Formula Grant as requested by Hon. Judge 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