

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 28th of February 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 the Commissioners Court

VISITORS: Nellie R. Treviño, Roger Miller, Daniel Arriaga, and Delia Mendoza.

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
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Fire Chief Daniel D. Arriaga reported that vaccines for Covid-19 have slowed down significantly, having administered only 21 in the last two weeks. Percentage of vaccines has gone up. Most of the people wanting the vaccine or the booster have already gotten it.

The National Guard will demobilize on March 8, due to low numbers.

Fire Department will continue with Moderna vaccines on certain dates. Fourth dose has already been approved for the Moderna and Pfizer; only or severely immunocompromised individuals. CVS, DHS will continue with the Pfizer.

Testing has also slowed down. Private testing entities need commissioners court approval. Curative is still here; numbers are low.

Commissioner Mendoza added that he was approached by a private company that wants to be present the three days of the fair on site and offer testing and vaccinations.

Judge Rathmell reported on Covid-19:

139 positive

2,056 total

141 probable

3 deaths

There is a backlog since December so numbers could be higher.

Fully vaccinated 65+ 82.06%

1st dose 91.16%

5+ 75.40%

An application was made for the Resiliency Grant and the maximum allowed was \$300,000; there were 50 applicants and only 14 applicants were granted. Zapata was number four, two brand new ambulance units will be purchased with the grant funds. There are four working units at this time; but only three are used with the staff that they have.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB REPORT

Ms. Vela with the Boys and Girls Club reported that nothing has changed; will get additional funding after implementing new program. Inhouse numbers are low. They offer curbside for food program. Report attached for the record.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$3,142,987.06 (including annual loan payment in the amount of \$39,210.37 to Zapata National Bank for election machines) as presented by Triunfo Gonzalez. Other large amounts were for bond payments.

Triunfo Gonzalez gave update on certificates of obligation. (Report included 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 CHECKS ISSUED

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$3,142,987.06 (including annual loan payment in the amount of \$39,210.37 to Zapata National Bank for election machines), 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.

REPORT ON ZAPATA COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY BUDGET

Judge Rathmell visited with Amparo Gutierrez, they are requesting \$25,000 which have been allocated from windfarms. Given the specific purposes of how hotel motel funds can be used, the museum is a reach on how we can use those funds. Those funds should be used primarily to promote our community and bring visitors into town with events and such. The museum should technically be funded by our general fund. Judge Rathmell asked the court, that as we move forward, we transition away from using hotel motel funds to fund the museum. The museum is funded \$240,000 a year; \$25,000 will now be coming from the windmill funds for the next 10 years.

UPDATE ON THE ZAPATA COUNTY SURPLUS AUCTION HELD BY C.M. COMPANY AUCTIONS (NO ONE WAS PRESENT)

This was an online auction; the first listing has already been closed. County shop has a list of additional items.

ORDER APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN ANNUAL CYBERSECURITY TRAINING OFFERED BY TAC

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the participation in the Annual Cybersecurity Training offered by TAC for all employees,

elected officials, and appointed officials as required by Tex. Gov't Code 2054.5191 as requested by Nellie Treviño, Personnel Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING REQUEST OF \$11,660 FOR PURCHASE OF MOSQUITO FOGGER

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve request of \$11,660 for the purchase of a mosquito fogger from certificate of obligation by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Department.

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

ORDER DENYING REQUEST BY GUILLERMO SAENZ FOR \$16,640 FOR PURCHASE OF UTV FROM CERTIFICATE OF OBLIGATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to deny request of \$16,640 for the purchase of a UTV from certificate of obligation as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Department.

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:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Environmental Department	10-595-456	Maintenance	\$3,000.00
TO	Environmental Department	10-595-427	Travel	\$3,000.00

as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Department.

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 MENDOZA,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICES TO WHITWORTH CIGARROA FOR BORDER WALL LITIGATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoices in the amount of \$19,944.17 to Whitworth Cigarroa for border wall litigation 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 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.

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