

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 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. Trevino, Ralph Trevino, Roger Miller, Karran Westerman, Daniel D. Arriaga, Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., 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, COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Fire Chief Danny Arriaga reported that the Fire Department had a busy week having 5 fires in 1 week. Approximately 1,155 acres caught fire in San Ygnacio, fire took 2 days to extinguish. The National Guard helped the Fire Department for the 2 days the fire was ongoing. A fire in Bustamante consisted of 2 vacant structures and another 2 fires in Hwy 16.

Fire Chief Arriaga also reported that sixty doses of Covid-19 vaccines/boosters had been administered. Testing will no longer be free. They will only be testing individuals that are insured, have Medicare, or Medicaid since there will be no option to pay.

Triunfo Gonzalez reported on Certificates of Obligation 2021 (Report attached for the record.)

Judge Rathmell announced that Gov. Greg Abbot amended the Declaration of Disaster to include Zapata. Zapata County is waiting for reimbursement from OSL grant. Working on submissions from Zapata County to state.

Romeo Salinas stated that he spoke to the Governor's office, and he was told that a daily activity report should be submitted in order to receive reimbursement.

Judge Rathmell has also been in contact with the Governor's office and grant was received and approved for reimbursement to Zapata County for the departments that will be working on specific cases.

Judge Rathmell added that Congressman Cuellar was here to announce a \$1,000,000 grant for weatherization of homes.

Covid-19 test results:

2,389 positives with an increase of 1  
1,285 probable with an increase of 4  
55 deaths with an increase of 2

### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$1,811,963.85 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 Solis, 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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$1,811,963.85 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 \$9,252.82 for the month of December with a year-to-date total of \$82,508.95. Net tax collections were \$302,751.86 with a rate of 86.37%.

### **ORDER APPROVING ADVERTISEMENT OF NEW GRANT FUNDED POSITIONS VIA OPERATION LONE STAR GRANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the advertisement of available new grant funded positions via Operation Lone Star Grant #4372601 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 TO HIRE AURORA ZEPEDA AT SAN YGNACIO WATER PLANT**

Motion was made by Judge Rathmell, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to hire Aurora Zepeda as a part-time at the San Ygnacio Water plant for the collection of payments at \$10.00 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 COMMISSIONER MENDOZA FOR DEMOLITION AND DISPOSAL OF OLD BRIDGE LOCATED AT FALCON PARK**

Motion was made Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Commissioner Mendoza for demolition and disposal of the old bridge located at the

Falcon Park due to liability concerns from the community.

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

**ORDER AUTHORIZING PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES FOR PREPARATION OF COLONIA FUND APPLICATION TO TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR SAN YGNACIO WATER SYSTEM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to authorize the procurement of services for the preparation of a colonia fund application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for San Ygnacio water system 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 PURCHASE OF TONER FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 2**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the purchase of toner for the Justice of the Peace Pct. 2, to be paid from the Technology Fund 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 AGREEMENT WITH CANALES, GARZA, BAUM PLLC FOR AUDIT SERVICES REGARDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERTAINING TO THE GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve agreement with Canales, Garza, Baum PLLC for the audit services regarding the financial statements pertaining to the governmental activities of Zapata County for the four years ending September 30, 2021 through September 20, 2024, 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 AUTHORIZING HIRING OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR 2022 COLONIA FUND CONSTRUCTION APPLICATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to authorize the hiring of professional services for 2022 Colonia Fund Construction application preparation/management services and engineering services 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 APPROVING PAYMENT TO RAMSA ELECTROMECHANIC, INC. FOR REPAIRS TO LIFT STATIONS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the payment to Ramsa Electromechanic, Inc for repairs to lift station #4 and #7 in the amount of \$12,400.00 from the Certificate of Obligation Series 2021 as originally allocated, 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY MANUEL GONZALEZ ON REVIEW OF EXISTING EASEMENT ON FALCON SHORES DRIVE**

Motion was made Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to table request by Manuel Gonzalez on review of existing easement on Falcon Shores Drive.

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

**ORDER TO AUTHORIZE TO GO OUT FOR BIDS FOR MIRAFLORES PARK PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to authorize to go out for bids for the Miraflores Park Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. (See attachment of proposed park plans.)

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO USE ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION FOR BINGO TO BENEFIT JROTC MILITARY BALL AND WAIVE RENTAL FEES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request to use the Zapata County Pavilion on April 10, 2022, for a Bingo to benefit the JROTC Military Ball and waive rental fees as requested by Karran Westerman, Zapata County Newspaper.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO USE ZAPATA COMMUNITY CENTER FOR JROTC MILITARY BALL AND WAIVE RENTAL FEES**

Motion was made Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request to use the Zapata Community Center on April 23,2022 for the JROTC Military Ball and waive rental fees, as requested by Karran Westerman, Zapata County News.

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

- 305 3rd Street (Lot 3, Block 12, E. Flores Addition)

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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-312	Communication & Programs	\$1,300.00

TO	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-427	Workshops & Travel Exp.	\$1,300.00
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as requested by: Jesus F. Rodriguez, Agrilife Ext.

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  
OPERATION STONEGARDEN FY-2021**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a resolution in support of Operation Stonegarden FY-2021 as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION FOR “CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT AWARENESS  
& PREVENTION MONTH”**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution for "Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness & Prevention Month" as requested by Dr. Severita Sanchez, Executive Director-Childrens Advocacy Center.

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.

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JOSEPH RATHMELL, COUNTY JUDGE  
OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

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MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN,  
COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS