

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 23rd of May 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: Nereida Garza, Javier Zambrano, Carlos X. Garza, Nellie R. Treviño, Ralph Treviño, Anna Holcomb, Sandy J. Pippin-Gomez, Victor Villarreal, Delia Mendoza, Raymundo Del Bosque, Carlos Ramirez, 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 THE COMMISSIONERS COURT
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER, COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell reported that Zapata County got between 2” to 4” of rain. There was a problem with the community center roof due to the rain; there was a substantial amount of damage at the North side offices. Contractor was sued due to previous issues with building repairs.

Commissioner Garza reported that 2nd Steet was flooded.

Judge Rathmell reported on Covid-19 as follows:

2,435 total positive cases

1,318 probable cases

55 total deaths

There is no more free testing.

Judge Rathmell reminded the court that election day is tomorrow, Tuesday, May 23rd. 2022. A total of 667 votes voted during early voting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Anna Holcomb addressed the court regarding the Chamber of Commerce finances. Attachment was submitted for the record.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from May 6 - May 19, 2022, in the amount of \$1,503,904.24 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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve checks issued May 6 – May 19, 2022, in the amount of \$1,503,904.24 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.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ORDER AWARDING ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR TXCDBG 2022 COLONIA CONSTRUCTION FUND SERVICES APPLICATION TO ESSER AND COMPANY CONSULTING, LLC

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to award administrative and professional services for TXCDBG 2022 Colonia Construction Fund Service application to Carlos Colina Vargas.

Judge Rathmell, Commissioner Solis and Commissioner Mendoza voted against. Motion was defeated 3 – 2.

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to award administrative and professional services for the TxCDBG 2022 Colonia Construction Fund Services application to Esser & Company Consulting, LLC, 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 AWARDING ENGINEERING/SURVEYING SERVICES FOR TXCDBG 2022 COLONIA CONSTRUCTION FUND SERVICES APPLICATION TO PREMIER ENGINEERING

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to award engineering/surveying services to the TxCDBG 2022 Colonia Construction Fund Services application 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 PAYMENT TO ABELARDO MENDOZA FOR WORK DONE AT DIPPING VAT 2

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve payment of \$1,500.00 to Abelardo Mendoza for work done at Dipping Vat 2 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.

**UPDATE ON TXDOT PAVING PROJECT BY MANUEL GONZALEZ OF
PREMIER ENGINEERING**

Manuel Gonzalez of Premier Engineering updated the court on the TxDOT paving project. He met with Sergio Cantu the engineer and inspector for TxDOT. He inspects sites before project commences and after project is completed. He and Mr. Gonzalez visited two individual sites for the upcoming projects. They talked about the possibility of having to bid out the project. Mr. Gonzalez worked quantities of the project and looked at project on Precinct 4 - 2nd Street and from Hwy 16 to Guerrero Street. He worked on a similar project and looked at numbers and took the lowest bidder and the project is over our budget. The project will cost about \$60,000, but the budget is approximately \$40,000.

He also looked at the Project in Falcon Mesa on Cardinal and Crane and Pelican Streets and stated that both projects can bid out at the same time.

Commissioner Mendoza added that there is no adequate staff in home, on other project the work has not been up to par and have lost a lot of material.

Mr. Gonzalez added that we can still do the prep-work and bid out the rest. They will start with milling in Precinct 4.

No written report was provided for the record.

**ORDER APPROVING FUNDING FOR PURCHASE OF SEWER LINE FITTINGS
TO BE INSTALLED ON PENGUIN STREET**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve funding in the amount of \$13,298.00 for the purchase of sewer line fittings, to be paid out of line-item #336-60-602 (materials) for 2 blocks of sewer line to be installed on Penguin Street, 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 ALLOWING ZAPATA COUNTY TO PURCHASE 2013 CHEVY TRAVERSE
FROM ZAPATA COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to allow Zapata County to purchase a 2013 Chevy Traverse from the Zapata County Juvenile Probation Department in the amount of \$12,800.00, said vehicle will be used by Rene Garcilazo, 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 RENEWING MEMBERSHIP TO TEXAS BORDER COALITION

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve renewing membership to the Texas Border Coalition, annual membership fee is \$694.00, 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 APPROVING PURCHASE OF TWO TRAILERS FROM RON HOOVER CO.
OF LAREDO**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of 2 trailers from Ron Hoover Co of Laredo in the amount of \$18,302.50 from the

Certificate of Obligation, Series 2021 as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Precinct 1.

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

**ORDER APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
COMMUNITY LOAN CENTER OF LAREDO AND ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve the (MOU) Memorandum of Understanding between the Community Loan Center of Laredo and Zapata County, pending approval by County Attorney, to offer county employees Affordable Small Dollar Loans through payroll deduction 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 CONTRACT WITH LGS SOFTWARE FOR
OPERATION LONE STAR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve contract with LGS Software for Operation Lone Star, contingent on reimbursement from grant, as requested by Hon. Said A. Figueroa, County Attorney.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST OF \$50,000.00 FOR REGIONAL JAIL
FOOD BUDGET**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request of \$50,000 for the regional jail food budget, to be paid out of the fund balance, as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, County Sheriff.

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

ORDER APPROVING REQUEST OF \$20,000.00 FOR COUNTY JAIL FOOD BUDGET

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve request of \$20,000.00 for the county jail food budget as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, County Sheriff.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT FOR EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE, PRINTER
AND COMPUTER ACCESSORIES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment for an external hard drive, printer, and other computer accessories as requested by Hon. Judge Juana M. Gutierrez, Justice of the Peace Precinct 2.

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

ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF \$30,000.00 FROM TOBACCO FUND LINE TEM TO MEDICAL SUPPLIES LINE ITEM

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve transfer of \$30,000.00 from the tobacco fund line item #67-800-352 to medical supplies line item # 10-543-460 as requested by Daniel A. Arriaga, Fire Chief.

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

ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF DIESEL TANK AND PUMP FOR SPECIAL ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of a diesel tank and pump for the Special Road and Bridge Department from Certificate of Obligation, Series 2021, in the amount of \$1,792.79, as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel 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 TWO TURF TIGER MOWERS FROM MAE POWER EQUIPMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of 2 Turf Tiger Mowers from MAE Power equipment for Precinct 1 from the Certificate of Obligation, Series 2021, in the amount of \$29,514.06, as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING CORRESPONDENCE FROM TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS THAT ZAPATA COUNTY CDBG-CV CRP CONTRACT #707800001015 FOR PURCHASE OF AMBULANCES ENVIRONMENTALLY CLEARED

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve correspondence from Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs that Zapata County CDBG-CV CRP Contract #707800001015 for purchase of (2) Ambulances is Environmentally Cleared as of May 11, 2022, as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting LLC.

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

ORDER APPROVING ADVERTISING FOR SEALED BIDS FOR TWO AMBULANCES AND SCHEDULE BID OPENING DATE TO OPEN AND REVIEW BIDS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve advertising for sealed bids for 2 ambulances and schedule bid opening date to open and review bids. Ambulances to be purchase from funding Zapata County CDBG-CV CRP Contract #70800001015 as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting LLC.

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

STATUS REPORT ON CDBG FALCON MESA PAVING PROJECT

Manuel Gonzalez of Premier Engineering gave a status report on CDBG Falcon Mesa paving project. He reported that the project is 90% complete. Mr. Gonzalez has met with two of the property owners who live on Cardinal Street and asked them for a drainage easement. The owners asked if they gave easement will the county give them the same amount of land on the front side of the property. The request will be considered for the future. The property owners also asked if the county would maintain the easement.

ORDER APPROVING TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF US HWY 83 FOR BEAT THE HEAT 5K RUN/WALK EVENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the temporary closure of US HWY 83 for the Beat the Heat 5K Run/Walk event on July 9, 2022 from 7th Ave. to 25th Ave. as requested by Ricky Garza, Zapata Roadrunners.

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	Fire Department	24-406-427	Travel	\$319.71
TO	Fire Department	10-543-427	Travel	\$319.71

as requested by Daniel A. Arriaga, Fire Chief.

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 Attorney's Office	010-31047-475	Office Supplies	\$300.00
TO	County Attorney's Office	010-39547-475	Misc./Maint. Expense	\$300.00
FROM	County Attorney's Office	010-31147-475	Postage Expense	\$200.00
TO	County Attorney's Office	010-39547-475	Misc./Maint. Expense	\$200.00
FROM	County Attorney's Office	010-45447-475	Vehicle Expense	\$500.00
TO	County Attorney's Office	010-39547-475	Misc./Maint. Expense	\$500.00
FROM	County Attorney's Office	010-49947-475	Equipment Rental	\$500.00
TO	County Attorney's Office	010-39547-475	Misc./Maint. Expense	\$500.00

as requested by Hon. Said A. Figueroa, County Attorney.

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	Nutrition Center Congregate	038-33664-647	Raw Food	\$2,030.33
TO	Nutrition Center Congregate	038-46764-647	Non-Food Consumables	\$2,030.33
FROM	Nutrition Center Congregate	038-33664-647	Raw Food	\$554.75
TO	Nutrition Center Congregate	038-45664-647	Equipment Maintenance	\$554.75

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 RESOLUTION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF US HWY 83 FOR RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the resolution for temporary closure of US Hwy 83 for the Heat 5K Run/Walk event on July 9, 2022 to meet the requirements of the TxDOT ROW application as requested by Ricky Garza, Zapata Roadrunners.

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