

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 22nd day of May 2023, 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
Celica A. Rodriguez	Chief Deputy County Clerk

ABSENT:

Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court
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VISITORS: Nellie R. Treviño, Karran Westerman, Adolfo Gonzalez, Jr., Delia Mendoza, Veronica Alanis, Daniel D. Arriaga, Olga M. Bruni, Joe Peña, Roger Miller.

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 CELICA A. RODRIGUEZ, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER, COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Solis stated that there were damages done at the Pct. 3 park. He encouraged the public to report damages to Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Garza suggested to open park for only a few hours per day.

Judge Rathmell stated that he attended the youth of the year ceremony. He congratulated this year's seniors. Graduations will take place this coming Friday.

Adolfo Gonzalez, Jr., Veteran's Officer reported that Zapata County was awarded a \$300,000.00 grant and a \$100,000.00 grant for veterans. The grant cycle begins in July.

Mr. Gonzalez added that the JROTC will do clean up at cemetery then put-up flags for Memorial Day event. The flag pole is ready.

He further added that Border Patrol has solar cameras that could help with damages at Pct. 3 park.

Fire Chief Danny Arriaga reported that 4 employees graduated as paramedics.

No Covid-19 Report.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices from May 5 – May 18, 2023 in the amount of \$731,972.57 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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from May 5 – May 18, 2023 in the amount of \$731,972.57 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.

8. PRESENTATION BY THE ZAPATA COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION REQUESTED BY HON. JOE RATHMELL, COUNTY JUDGE

No one present for this item; Mr. Garcia will be here for the next meeting.

ORDER APPROVING TO EXTEND DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER RELATED TO THE SURGE OF MIGRANTS UNLAWFULLY CROSSING TEXAS MEXICO BORDER

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to extend the Declaration of Local Disaster related to the surge of migrants unlawfully crossing Texas-Mexico border for two years. Current declaration expires on August 31, 2023. New declaration expires August 31, 2025 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 DESIGNATING CELICA A. RODRIGUEZ, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK, AS FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR ALL OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GRANTS IN REPLACEMENT OF ROMEO SALINAS, COUNTY TREASURER

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to designate Celica Rodriguez, Chief Deputy County Clerk, as financial officer for all office of the Governor grants in replacement of Hon. Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer, 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 2024 CHEVY TAHOE FOR ZAPATA OLS BAILIFF FROM AVAILABLE OPERATION LONE STAR GRANT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of a 2024 Chevy Tahoe for the Zapata OLS Bailiff from available Operation Lone Star grant #4372601 for \$75,934.00. Vendor Siddons Martin Emergency Group is listed on Buyboard 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 PORTABLE AND UNIT RADIOS FOR OLS BAILIFF FROM AVAILABLE OPERATION LONE STAR GRANT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the purchase of portable and unit radios for the OLS Bailiff from available Operation Lone Star grant #4 4372601 funds 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 RADIOS FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND CONSTABLES USING AVAILABLE OPERATION LONE STAR GRANT FUNDS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve purchase of radios for the Zapata County Fire Department and Constables using available Operation Lone Star grant funds as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. Operation Lonestar budget will be amended.

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

ORDER APPROVING TO REQUEST PERMISSION FROM OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR TO PURCHASE AMBULANCE USING UNUSED OPERATION LONE STAR GRANT FUNDS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to request permission from Office of the Governor to purchase an ambulance using unused Operation Lone Star grant funds for \$296,450.00 as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. Operation Lonestar budget will be amended.

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

ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF FOUR VEHICLES FOR ZAPATA COUNTY CONSTABLES THROUGH SIDDONS-MARTIN EMERGENCY GROUP FROM OPERATION LONE STAR GRANT FUNDS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of four vehicles for the Zapata County Constables through Siddons-Martin Emergency Group from Operation Lonestar Grant #4372601 for a total of \$303,736 as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. Operation Lonestar budget will be amended.

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

ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT TO SUPERIOR SILICA SANDO FOR TOP DRESSING MIX TO REPAIR GREENS AND TEES AT LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment in the amount of \$1,830.50 to Superior Silica Sando for top dressing mix to repair greens & tees at the Los Ebanos Golf Course 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 INVOICES PAYABLE TO RASCAL SERVICES, LLC

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve two invoices to Rascal Services, LLC for the installation of netting at the Los Ebanos Golf Course driving range in the total amount of \$8,340.00 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 PAY RICOH FOR 6 MONTHS OF SERVICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to pay Ricoh the amount of \$957.00 for 6 months of services; to be paid out of non-department as requested by Hon. Judge Anna M. Guerra, Justice of the Peace Pct. 1.

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

ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PCT. 2 TRAINING

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to pay for Justice of the Peace Pct. 2 training in the amount of \$2,555.50; to be paid out of courthouse security line item as requested by Hon. Judge Olga M. Bruni, 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 PURCHASE OF TWO (2) PATROL UNITS FROM RELIABLE CHEVROLET THROUGH BUYBOARD FROM OPERATION STONEGARDEN FY 2021 GRANT FUNDS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of two (2) Patrol Units from Reliable Chevrolet through Buyboard from Operation Stonegarden FY2021 grant #3672905 for a total of \$135,302.78 as requested by Chief Joe Peña, Sheriff's Office.

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

ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS WITH GPS FROM INTRENSIC

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve purchase of body-worn cameras with GPS from Intrensic using \$25,000 of Body-worn Camera Program Grant# 4372501 FY2022 and \$8,519.15 paid from Sheriff's Office forfeiture account as requested by Chief Joe Pena, Sheriff's Office.

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

ORDER APPROVING AND SIGNING OF MASTER SITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS AND ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve and sign Master Site Communications System Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between City of Austin, Texas and Zapata County, Texas, pending review by County Attorney, as requested by Chief Joe Pena, Sheriff's Office.

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

ORDER APPROVING TO RATIFY THE HIRE OF RAFAEL MARTINEZ IN ROAD & BRIDGE AS EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to ratify the hire of Rafael Martinez in Road & Bridge as Equipment Operator in 15-621-Slot #2 at \$14.48 per hour as requested by Nellie 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 RATIFY TRANSFER OF JOSE L. GARCIA FROM ROAD & BRIDGE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR IN 15-621 SLOT #2 TO ROAD & BRIDGE PCT. 1 15-011 SLOT #2 EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to ratify the transfer of Jose L. Garcia from Road & Bridge, Equipment Operator in 15-621-Slot #2 to Road & Bridge Pct. 1 15-011-slot #2, Equipment Operator at \$14.57 per hour as requested by Nellie 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 SUBMIT PROPOSAL TO JOIN TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES-UNEMPLOYMENT FUND FOR FY2023-2024

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve to submit proposal to join Texas Association of Counties-Unemployment Fund for FY 2023-2024 as requested by Nellie 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 TCDRS RATE FOR FY2023-2024

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the TCDRS rate of \$12.87 for FY2023-2024 as requested by Nellie 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 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO CT BRANNON CORPORATION FOR AIRPORT FUEL FARM PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment for professional services to the CT Brannon Corporation for the Airport Fuel Farm Project in the amount of \$14,600 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 TRANSFER \$20,000 FROM TOBACCO LINE-ITEM #67-800-43800 TO GENERAL SUPPLIES LINE-ITEM #10-543-42620

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve a transfer of \$20,000 from, Tobacco Fund line-item #67-800-43800 to General Supplies line-item #10-543-42620 as requested by Chief Daniel 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 USE OF COURTHOUSE SECURITY FUND TO
PAY \$1,276.32 FOR CONSTABLE PCT. 2 TRAINING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the use of the Courtroom Security Fund to pay \$1,276.32 for a Constable Pct 2 training as requested by Chief Daniel 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 LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet budget requirements.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata Tax Office	010-499-42610	Supplies	\$2,000.00
TO	Zapata Tax Office	010-499-43580	Travel & Training	\$2,000.00

as requested by Hon. Delia 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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet budget requirements.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	10-665-310	Office Supplies	\$900.00
TO	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	10-665-427	Workshops & travel expenses	\$900.00

as requested by Jesus F. Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension Agent.

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

**ORDER APPROVING AND ACCEPTING LICENSE PLATE READER (LPR)/SPEED
READER SYSTEM MOU**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis to approve, and accept License Plate Reader (LPR)/Speed Reader System MOU as requested by Chief Joe Pena, Sheriff's Office.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION BETWEEN TXDOT AND
ZAPATA COUNTY FOR LICENSE PLATE READER PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve resolution between TXDOT and Zapata County for License Plate Reader Program as requested by Chief Joe Pena, Sheriff's Office.

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 SOLIS,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MORALES,
TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY BERTA LOPEZ TO APPROVE HIRING OF OLGA
IBARRA AS SITE MANAGER FOR ZAPATA COUNTY NUTRITION CENTER – SAN
YGNACIO**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Berta Lopez, Nutrition Center Director, to approve the hiring of Olga Ibarra as Site Manager for Zapata County Nutrition Center-San Ygnacio position at \$10.00 per hour.

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 THE FOLLOWING ITEM DISCUSSED IN
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

31/36. Discussion and possible action to take legal action against Zapata County Treasurer Romeo Salinas, for failure and/or refusal to execute a lawful order of the Zapata County Commissioners Court as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, 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