

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 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
Pedro Morales	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Jose A. Solis	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Roberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

**VISITORS:** Sheriff Ray Del Bosque, Alejandro Barrera, Carlo Javier Garcia, Joseph Peña, Hector Abel Solis, Aaron D. Solis, Luis Mendoza, Ramon Arambula, Carlos Ramirez, Patricia A. Gonzalez, Manuel Gonzalez, and Hector Solis.

**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  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRESENTATION TO ANNOUNCE \$375,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDS TO  
THE ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
FROM FY23 OPERATION STONEGARDEN.**

Judge Rathmell announced that Congressman Cuellar was here to award to \$370,000 in federal funds Operation Stone Garden FY2023.

Congressman Cuellar and Agent Perez from Border Patrol addressed that court. Congressman Cuellar stated that he was hoping that there is no government shut down. In case of shut down, Border Patrol would continue working, but they would not get paid. He announced that in 2008, they started the Stone Garden program, which provides monies to local communities, sheriffs, police, and constables, so they can work along with border patrol. It is part of Homeland appropriations; it works with FEMA. The \$375,000 are important because it provides security to these are and at the same time helps commissions court and tax payers because money is used for equipment, over time and operating costs. Over the years 9.7 million dollars have come to Zapata with this program.

Agent Perez added that the program is super important to Border Patrol. The collaboration that they have with the sheriff's department and other law enforcement is crucial for Zapata. They keep the community safe; it is very important that collaboration between law enforcement exists. programs like these allow that to happen. He stated that he is very thankful to the Sheriff's Department and to the state and other federal agencies for the assistance they give Border Patrol. There are 134 agents assigned to Zapata.

Sheriff Del Bosque addressed the court and thanked Congressman Cuellar, Agent Perez and all law enforcement and local elected officials. He stated that because of us working together and supporting each other that's why things like these happen.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Solis stated that they are making progress on Ebanos Road. It is 75% complete.

Judge Rathmell commented that we applied for Operation Lone Star funding for 2024-2025 and he received notification that we were not granted the request for this year because in this fiscal year, the county did not use the minimum percentage of funds. The silver lining is that, since we did not use the entire amount that was allocated to us, the governor's office is allowing us to expend the remaining funds for this year. The fire department was not allowed to apply, so we will have to get the go ahead to whether some of those funds can be used by the fire department. We have a little over two million dollars to expend. Half of that will be payroll. Reimbursement in the amount of \$775,621 was approved and should be coming in this week.

Commissioner Solis reminded the public that the library will be hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spooktacular Monster Mash Health, Wellness and Fitness Fair on October 4<sup>th</sup> at the community center from 4 -6 p.m.

Judge Rathmell added that the burn ban is still in effect. We had a large brush fire. Asked every one to be careful. Lake levels are still critical; asked everyone to conserve water.

### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve invoices from September 8 – September 21, 2023 in the amount of \$311,661.05 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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices from September 8 – September 21, 2023 in the amount of \$311,661.05 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.

### **PRESENTATION OF FUNDS RECEIVED FROM AUCTIONS HELD BY THE ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ON AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup> AND AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

Sheriff Del Bosque reported on funds received from auction held by the Zapata County Sheriff's Office on August 17<sup>th</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup> 2023. They have been having auctions on old equipment and materials that belong to the Sheriff's office. A total of \$2,223.90 was collected for county owned equipment. Among items sold were a 2010 Crown Victoria and a 2007 Crown Victoria. For forfeiture account, they generated \$92,083.00. There are other auctions pending.

Sheriff Del Bosque provided a copy of breakdown for Sheriff's Office salaries. Judge Rathmell reached out to state representative to see how we can comply with the statute of \$40,000 minimum. Ryan Guillen said that it is probably not a good idea to use Senate Bill 22 funds for officers already above the \$45,000 level, since it may jeopardize the grant, so numbers need to be reworked. Some numbers will have to be switched around. We would have to stay within certain boundaries and not use state funds to pay above the \$45,000 level.

**ORDER APPROVING FIRST CONTRACT RENEWAL PARTICIPATING ENTITY SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the first contract Renewal Participating Entity Services Agreement for the Statewide Automated Victim Notification Service (SAVNS) 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 COMBINE PRECINCTS 1A & 1B WITH PRECINCT 1 AND PRECINCT 2A WITH PRECINCT 2 FOR NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SPECIAL ELECTION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to combine precincts 1A & 1B with Precinct 1 and Precinct 2A with Precinct 2 for the November 7<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Special Election as requested by Hon. Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, County Clerk.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEE ON 015-422-SLOT #5 TO 010-409-SLOT #3**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the transfer of employee on 015-422-slot #5 to 010-409-slot #3 effective 10/01/2023 as requested by Hon. Pedro Morales, Commissioner Pct. 2.

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

**ORDER ALLOWING COMMISSIONER MORALES TO HIRE EMPLOYEE IN 015-422-SLOT #5**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to allow Commissioner Morales to hire an employee in 015-422-slot #5 as requested by Hon. Pedro Morales, 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 MOTOR GRADER FOR PRECINCT 4**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve purchase of motor grader for Precinct 4, for \$32,500.00 to pay ½ with old budget and ½ with new budget as requested by Hon. Roberto Garza, Commissioner Pct. 4.

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

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

20. To approve Zapata County Sheriff's asset forfeiture budget as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, County Sheriff.

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL \$2,700.00 FOR  
LINE ITEM 038-648-42630 FOOD PURCHASE AND CONCESSIONS  
FOR NUTRITION CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve request of additional \$2,700 for line item 038-648-42630: Food Purchase and Concessions for the Nutrition Center Home Delivered C2 Department as requested by Bertha Lopez, Nutrition Center Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO MOVE ISIDRO RAMIREZ  
FROM SLOT #11 TO SLOT #9**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to move Isidro Ramirez from slot #11 to slot #9. Will be replacing Daniel Arambula at the Environmental Department effective October 1, 2023 as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Director.

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

**PROGRESS REPORT ON JAIL REPAIRS**

Mr. Manuel Gonzalez of Premier Engineering reported that the contractor commenced work at the jail today. Materials had to be ordered; materials requested (epoxy type material) are not off the shelf. He will repair cracks within the walls, once repairs are done, they will repaint everything and make sure that maintenance is kept to pass inspection. Some items like beds and tables may need to be repainted also. The contractor has 30 days to complete work.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICE AND PROGRESS REVIEW ON  
LOS EBANOS WATER AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve payment to Mouflon Oilfield Services for \$27,000.00.

Mr. Manuel Gonzalez reported that the area of Los Ebanos Road has continuously had problems with water leaks; those line have been repaired about 10 times. The road has become deteriorated over the years. They will replace lines with C900 6" lines that hold good pressure. They are using materials that they had on hand. They have installed 1100 linear feet of 6" line and will need to have a water hydrant relocated from mid to end of the block to have dual purpose; so, they can flush lines and use for fire protection. They also acquired baseline materials so they can put millings and mix them with base material and reset asphalt once water line repairs are complete.

**ORDER APPROVING PLAT ON LAKEVIEW RANCHETTES PARTITION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve plat on Lakeview Ranchettes Partition as requested by Ivan Garcia, Rio Delta Engineering.

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 transfer to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Sheriff's Office	010-560-42610	General Supplies	\$117.16
TO	Sheriff's County Jail	010-561-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$117.16
FROM	Sheriff's County Jail	010-561-42610	General Supplies	\$19.55
TO	Sheriff's County Jail	010-561-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$19.55
FROM	Sheriff's Office	010-560-42610	General Supplies	\$312.16
TO	Sheriff's County Jail	010-561-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$312.16
FROM	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-42654	Prisoner Medication	\$223.84
TO	Sheriff's Office	010-560-42610	General Supplies	\$223.84
FROM	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-42652	Prisoner Clothing	\$1,067.76
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-560-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,067.76
FROM	Sheriff's Office	010-560-41270	Clothing Allowance	\$102.93
TO	Sheriff's County Jail	010-567-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$102.93
FROM	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-42610	General Supplies	\$335.18
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$335.18
FROM	Sheriff's Office	010-560-42610	General Supplies	\$539.86
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$539.86
FROM	Sheriff's County Jail	010-561-41270	Clothing Allowance	\$78.47
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$78.47
FROM	Sheriff's County Jail	010-561-42652	Prisoner Clothing	\$72.07
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$72.07
FROM	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-42656	Prisoner Supplies	\$129.62
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$129.62
FROM	Sheriff's Office	010-560-43580	Travel & Training	\$1,762.11
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-43580	Travel & Training	\$1,762.11
FROM	Sheriff's Office	010-560-43580	Travel; & Training	\$1,221.23
TO	Sheriff's Office	010-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,221.23
FROM	Sheriff's County Jail	010-561-41270	Clothing Allowance	\$421.53
TO	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-41270	Clothing Allowance	\$421.53
FROM	Sheriff's County Jail	010-561-42652	Prisoner Clothing	\$87.95

<b>TO</b>	Sheriff's County Jail	010-561-43440	Rentals	\$87.95
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-42654	Prisoner Medical	\$421.77
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-42658	Psychological Medical Employee	\$421.77
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-42654	Prisoner Medical	\$352.08
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-43440	Rentals	\$352.08
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff's County Jail	010-561-42610	General Supplies	\$16.49
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff's Regional Jail	010-567-43440	Rentals	\$16.49

as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr., County Sheriff.

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 transfer to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Nutrition Center	038-649-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$180.00
<b>TO</b>	Nutrition Center	038-648-42630	Purchase Foods & Concessions	\$180.00
<b>FROM</b>	Nutrition Center	038-647-42616	Supplies Consumables	\$275.00
<b>TO</b>	Nutrition Center	038-648-42630	Purchase Foods & Concessions	\$275.00
<b>FROM</b>	Nutrition Center	038-647-43430	Repairs and Maintenance	\$210.00
<b>TO</b>	Nutrition Center	038-648-43630	Purchase Foods & Concessions	\$210.00
<b>FROM</b>	Nutrition Center	038-647-47735	Safety Service	\$630.00
<b>TO</b>	Nutrition Center	038-648-42630	Purchase Foods & Concessions	\$630.00
<b>FROM</b>	Nutrition Center	038-647-49100	Repairs and Maintenance	\$295.00
<b>TO</b>	Nutrition Center	038-648-42630	Purchase Foods & Concessions	\$295.00
<b>FROM</b>	Nutrition Center	038-648-43430	Repairs and Maintenance	\$290.00
<b>TO</b>	Nutrition Center	038-648-42630	Purchase Foods & Concessions	\$290.00
<b>FROM</b>	Nutrition Center	038-648-42616	Non-Food Consumables	\$50.00
<b>TO</b>	Nutrition Center	038-648-42630	Purchase Foods & Concessions	\$50.00

as requested by Bertha Lopez, Nutrition Center Director.

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 transfer to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	County Judge	010-400-43165	Indigent Defense	\$1,300.00
<b>TO</b>	County Judge	010-400-42618	Postage	\$1,300.00

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 RESOLUTION FOR TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE OF  
HWY 83 FOR HAWK FEST PARADE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve a resolution for the temporary road closure of Hwy 83 for the annual Hawk Fest Parade which will be held on October 18, 2023 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.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA,  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,  
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER TO REINSTATE ALL PROPERTY TAX ACCOUNTS THAT WERE IN  
ARREARS TO COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

Motion was made by Judge Rathmell, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to reinstate all property tax accounts that were in arrears to the County of Zapata on or about December 2020 specifically, property tax accounts that were either delinquent and/or had a court judgment entered against them, and the subsequent actions taken by the staff of then Office of the Zapata County Tax Assessor Collector, Adriana Figueroa, of accepting partial payments, amount less than the total amounts due, as full-payment on property tax accounts. All conduct having occurred prior to Delia Mendoza's elected term and assumption of office to the post of the Zapata County Tax Assessor Collector in January 2021 as requested by Hon. Delia Mendoza, Tax Assessor Collector.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO ADOPT THE ZAPATA COUNTY BUDGET  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to adopt the Zapata County Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 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 APPROVING TO ADOPT THE 2023-2024 TAX RATE FOR  
ZAPATA COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE  
SECTION 111.007-111.010 BY EXECUTING AN “ORDER SETTING TAX RATE  
FOR 2023-2024”**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to adopt the 2023-2024 tax rate of 0.893627/\$100, valuation for Zapata County in accordance with Local Government Code Sections 111.007-111.010 by executing an “Order Setting the Tax Rate for “2022-2023,” to be approved as follows:

General fund .....	0.600000
Interest and Sinking Fund .....	0.213439
Special Road & Bridge .....	0.080000
<u>F.M./Flood Control .....</u>	<u>0.000188</u>
TOTAL TAX	<b>0.893627</b>

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 TO SET SALARIES AND  
NUMBER OF POSITIONS BY APPROVING  
GENERAL ORDER OF PERSONNEL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to set the salaries and the number of positions by approving the General Order of Personnel for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 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 APPROVING “OPERATIONAL GENERAL ORDER FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the "Operational General Order for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 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 COUNTY TREASURER AND  
COUNTY AUDITOR TO CLOSE ALL ACCOUNTS AND MAKE  
ALL NECESSARY LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to authorize the County Treasurer and the County Auditor to close all accounts and make all necessary line-item transfers 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.

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Solis, 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