

**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> day of February A. D., 2013, 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
	Jose Emilio Vela	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
	Gabriel Villarreal	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
	Eddie Martinez	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
	Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
	Saíd Alfonso Figueroa	County Attorney
	Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk

**VISITORS:** Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, Mario Gonzalez-Davis, Auddy Hernandez, Nellie R. Treviño, Brian J. Martinez, Juan J. Meza, Maria I. Gutierrez, Bobbie Meza-Barrera, Lilonee Garza, Joyce Currington, Jan Williams, Beatriz M. Gutierrez, Virginia Mendiola, Francisca de los Santos, Marta Camacho, Cynthia Avila, Ana Luisa Zamora, Vanessa Serna, Luis E. Mares Muñoz, Aaron Carmona, Leydiana Carmona, Beatriz Ramirez Vega, Alejandra Ramos, Evelina Vera, Norma Z. Cabriales, Martina Rubio, Dalia Esquivel, Bertha Bear, Carmen S. Davila, Ana Laura Lozano, Israel Niño, Sean Kamber, Diana Villarreal, Alma D. Rodriguez, Margarita Bautista, and Luis L. Gonzalez.

**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**

**INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ORDER APPROVING MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2013 AND  
JANUARY 28, 2013**

Motion was made by Commissioner Villarreal, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the Minutes of **January 14, 2013 and January 28, 2013**, as presented by 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.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Beatriz M. Gutierrez, LCC-ESL, Invited Commissioners Court to attend the first Pre-Valentine Brunch which will be held February 12, 2013 at the ESL building at 10:00 a.m.

### **MONTHLY REPORT BY ZAPATA COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR**

Luis Lauro Gonzalez, Zapata County Tax Assessor/Collector, presented the Court with his report for January 2013. A total of \$11,646.73 was collected for Motel/Hotel Tax and County collections are at 86% with a total of \$1,657,809.64 collected.

### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Villarreal, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices as presented 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 CHECKS ISSUED**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to approve checks issued 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.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Before presenting his treasurer's report, Romeo Salinas addressed the Court regarding HB958. If passed, said bill proposes to reduce the interest crediting rate on all TCDRS funds from 7% to 5%. A Resolution opposing said bill will be presented in the next Commissioners Court meeting.

### **ORDER APPROVING TREASURER'S REPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to approve Treasurer's Report as presented 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.

### **MONTHLY REPORT OF ZAPATA FAMILY MEDICAL CLINIC**

Mr. Sean Kamber of Laredo Medical Center presented Commissioners Court with the monthly report for January 2013. The clinic saw a decline in patient visits which could be attributed the new year being that patients may have to meet new deductibles and other expenses. The State Radiology inspection was conducted with minor changes needed. Lab results for blood are now

available in a short period of time. Other devices will be implemented in a couple of weeks which will determine if a patient is having a heart attack.

#### **UPDATE ON 2013 LITTLE LEAGUE SEASON**

Mr. Ramiro Hernandez presented the Court with an update on the 2013 Little League season. They currently have a total of \$6,047.47 in the bank. His update included a calendar with upcoming schedules and events. (Report attached for the record.)

#### **REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2012**

Gus Martinez, Linebarger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson, LLP, presented Commissioners Court with the Report on Delinquent Tax Collections for Fiscal Year 2012. (Report attached for the record.)

#### **REPORT ON ZAPATA COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY**

Dr. Hildegardo Flores, Zapata County Museum of History, presented Commissioners Court with the Semiannual Progress Report. The museum has received approximately 1500 visitors since it's grand opening in July 2011. The museum was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Guadalupe and Lilia Martinez Foundation which will be applied to its operation budget for 2013-2014 fiscal year. The museum is working to get more local residents to participate and provide information and artifacts to enhance its current exhibits. Leaders of the hang gliders group visited the museum and have committed to set up one of their gliders on exhibit in July 2013. Improvements and enhancements continue to be made to the numerous exhibits with additional artifacts and embellishments to the accompanying story. Dr. Flores also showed the Court a power point presentation on some of the improvements and additions that have been made to the museum. (Report attached for the record.)

#### **ORDER APPROVING USE OF OSWALDO H. AND JUANITA G. RAMIREZ EXHIBIT HALL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the Oswaldo H. and Juanita G. Ramirez Exhibit Hall on March 30, 2013 as requested by Karran Westerman, Zapata County Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

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

#### **ORDER APPROVING RENEWAL OF DELINQUENT TAX CONTRACT BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND LINEBARGER, GOGGAN, BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the renewal of the delinquent tax contract between Zapata County and Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, LLP, as is, for a three year term, as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioner Vela, Martinez, and Villarreal. Commissioner Garza abstained. Motion Carried.

**ORDER APPROVING RENEWAL OF JUSTICE COURT FINES AND FEES  
CONTRACT BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND LINEBARGER, GOGGAN, BLAIR  
& SAMPSON, LLP**

Motion as made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve renewal of the Justice Court Fines and Fees Contract between Zapata County and Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, LLP, pending review by County Attorney, 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 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION TO TEXAS  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR INSTALLATION OF HIGHWAY  
MARKER TO IDENTIFY U.S. HWY 83 AS “TEXAS VIETNAM VETERAN  
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY”**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to authorize the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Transportation for the installation of a highway marker to identify U.S. Hwy. 83 as “Texas Vietnam Veteran Memorial Highway” in compliance with Chapter 225, Subchapter A, Sec. 225.003 as requested by Hon. Jose E. Vela, Commissioner Pct. 1.

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

**ORDER TO APPROVE USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS FOR  
FUND-RAISER TO BENEFIT LOCAL CANCER PATIENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the Zapata County Little League fields for a fund-raiser to benefit a local cancer patient as requested by Ramiro Hernandez, Zapata County Little League.

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

**ORDER APPROVING AN EMPLOYEE TRANSFER FROM SLOT #3 TO SLOT #4**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve an employee transfer from slot #3 to slot #4 as requested by Ida Garcia, Zapata County Library Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING EMPLOYEE TRANSFER FROM SLOT #5 TO SLOT #3**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve an employee transfer from slot #5 to slot #3 as requested by Ida Garcia, Zapata County Library Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING HIRING OF RODOLFO GUERRA, JR. AS WATER PLANT OPERATOR TRAINEE FOR ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve hiring of Rodolfo Guerra, Jr., as a Water Plant Operator Trainee for Zapata County Waterworks, at a starting salary of \$10.50 per hour. Funding to be obtained from slot #5 from the General Order of Personnel as requested by Carlos Treviño, Jr., Zapata County Water Plant Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICE FROM BEXAR GRAPHICS IN AN AMOUNT OF \$949.00 FOR PURCHASE OF BINDERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of invoice from Bexar Graphics in the total amount of \$949.00. This amount includes 13 binders at \$68 each and a \$65.00 freight charge. Funding will be obtained from the Records Management/Preservation Fund for the purchase of Commissioners Court binders 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 AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUS COMMISSIONERS COURT ORDER TO REFLECT PURCHASE OF COUNTY COURT MINUTE BINDERS INSTEAD OF COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTE BINDERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve amendment to previous order approved by Commissioners Court on December 21, 2012 to reflect the purchase of County Court Minute binders instead of Commissioners Court Minute binders 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 PAYMENT OF INVOICE FROM BEXAR GRAPHICS IN AN AMOUNT OF \$922.15 FOR PURCHASE OF DOCKET SHEETS AND BINDERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to approve payment of invoice from Bexar Graphics in the total amount of \$922.15 for the purchase of criminal docket sheets, probate minute binders, guardianship binders and blue probate case binders/folders, to be paid from the Records Management/Preservation Fund 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 INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the installation of the following street lights:

- a. 1307 Villa between 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Street (existing pole)
- b. 1605 17<sup>th</sup> Street between Hwy 16 and Mier (existing pole)

as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner Pct. 4.

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 Vela, to approve the following line item transfers:

From: Non-Department	10-409-420	Telephone-General	\$2,000.00
To: Non-Department	10-409-394	Contingencies	\$2,000.00

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve the following line item transfers:

From: Tobacco Fund	67-800-352	Tobacco Fund	\$10,000.00
To: Fire Department	10-543-457	Repairs & Maintenance	\$2,000.00

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 OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to approve a Resolution in support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner, Pct. 4 and Hon. Eddie Martinez, Commissioner, Pct. 3.

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

*Mr. Figueroa addressed Commissioner Court and announced that his office will be providing immigration legal services free of charge for consultation. He further warned that some notaries are claiming to offer legal advice, which is an illegal practice.*

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ,  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,  
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER ALLOWING COUNTY ATTORNEY TO ENTER INTO SETTLEMENT  
NEGOTIATION WITH SET GUIDELINES AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to allow County Attorney, to enter into settlement negotiations with set guidelines as discussed in executive session in reference to county employee in grievance proceedings 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.

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Martinez, 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.

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JOSEPH RATHMELL, COUNTY JUDGE  
ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

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