

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 14th day of September A. D., 2015, 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
Olga M. Elizondo	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Eddie Martinez	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk

VISITORS: Triunfo Gonzalez, Nellie R. Treviño, Monica Alaniz, Brian Martinez, Maria I. Gutierrez, Roger Miller, Juan J. Meza, Maria Blanca S. Lopez, Josefa A. Martinez, Jose F. Mendoza, Paco Mendoza, Xavier Villarreal, Rosalinda Gonzalez, Dalia Arreola, Joel Ruiz, Joe Peña, Luis L. Gonzalez, Laura Garza, Rosa E. Martinez, Ramon R. Benavidez, Dora Martinez Castañon, Sheriff Lopez, Ray Del Bosque, Jr., Ramon E. Montes, and Betty M. Lopez.

WHEREUPON, the following Orders and Proceedings were had by said Court, to-wit:

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:30 A.M.
ROLL CALL BY MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN, COUNTY CLERK
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Nellie R. Trevino informed the Court that the annual surplus check was received in the amount of \$23,070.00.

Nellie R. Trevino also advised the Court that CVS was holding a flu vaccine drive.

Commissioner Elizondo commented that she attended the 9/11 remembrance at North Elementary School.

Brian J. Martinez advised the Court that a Texas Border Coalition Meeting will take place at Laredo on October 1 at La Posada.

Xavier Villarreal, a resident and tax payer of Zapata County, addressed the Court regarding the District Attorney's Claims, as a tax payer, he differs stating that the District Attorney's Office is not giving the services. Mr. Villarreal stated that he has called the DA's office after being referred to Pete Garza and Mr. Garza has not been available nor returned his telephone calls.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices as presented by Triunfo Gonzalez. Commissioner Vela stated that salaries may not be paid with purchase orders.

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 Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, 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 Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, 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.

TAX / ASSESSOR COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Luis L. Gonzalez, Tax Assessor/Collector, reported collections of Motel-Hotel Tax in an amount of \$13,076.87 for a year to date collection of \$205,007.32. Tax collections were \$82,167.14, with YTD collections at 91.78%.

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

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

ORDER ADOPTING COUNTY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to adopt and approve the County Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, with recommendations and changes as approved by majority of vote, 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 TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to adopt a tax rate of 0.924026/\$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 “2015-2016, ” be approved as follows:

General fund.....	0.624000
Interest and Sinking Fund.....	0.250000
Special Road & Bridge	0.050000
<u>F.M./Flood Control.....</u>	<u>0.000026</u>
TOTAL TAX	0.924026

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 SETTING SALARIES AND NUMBER OF POSITIONS BY APPROVING GENERAL ORDER OF PERSONNEL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to set salaries and the number of positions by approving the “General Order of Personnel for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, with recommendations and changes as approved by the majority of vote, as request 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 OPERATION GENERAL ORDER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request by County Auditor, Triunfo Gonzalez, to approve the “Operation General Order for Fiscal Year 2015-2016”.

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

ORDER APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING COUNTY TREASURER AND COUNTY AUDITOR TO CLOSE ALL ACCOUNTS AND MAKE ALL NECESSARY LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve and 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.

ORDER APPROVING REPAIRS TO ZAPATA BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve repairs to Zapata Boys & Girls Club, in the amount of \$3,000.98 on claim made 9/18/2013, to be paid out of non-department, as requested by Honorable 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 ELIMINATION OF CELL PHONE STIPEND
FROM ZAPATA COUNTY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve to eliminate cell phone stipend from Zapata County Officials and employees as requested by Honorable 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 SAVNS MAINTENANCE GRANT CONTRACT
BETWEEN OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL AND
ZAPATA COUNTY FOR 2015-2016**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve SAVNS Maintenance Grant contract between the Office of the Attorney General and Zapata County for 2015-2016 as requested by Honorable Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

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 TENTATIVE
CLOSURE OF ZAPATA COUNTY GATEWAY COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER CLINIC**

Mr. Treviño addressed the Court, he announced that he will be retiring and Oscar Bautista will be his replacement. No action was taken on discussion on tentative closure of the Zapata County Gateway Community Health Center Clinic and possibly cease healthcare services in Zapata County as requested by Honorable J.E. Vela, Commissioner Pct. 1.

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON DISCUSSION TO ADDRESS
CLOSURE AND SUSPENSION OF DAYCARE SERVICES BY TMC**

No action was taken on discussion to address the closure and suspension of daycare services by TMC. The Benito Juarez Daycare Center has been used by TMC under an inter-local agreement with Zapata County and is in effect until 2019. They are currently recruiting children for next year. The building will be used for meeting until it is reopened as requested by Honorable J.E. Vela, Commissioner Pct. 1.

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON DISCUSSION TO
PROMOTE EVARISTO BOTELLO FROM PART TIME TO
FULL TIME EMPLOYEE**

No action was taken on discussion to promote Evaristo Botello, slot #4 from part time to full time employee as requested by Honorable Olga M. Elizondo, Commissioner Pct. 2.

**ORDER APPROVING DESIGNATION OF JUSTICE COURTS
(JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS PRECINCTS 1-4)
AS OFFICIAL TRUANCY COURTS OF ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the designation of the Justice Courts (Justice of the Peace Courts Precincts 1-4) as the official truancy courts of Zapata County as requested by 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 PURCHASE OF SCANNER, MONITOR AND
VIDEO CARD FROM TECHNOLOGY FUND**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the purchase of a scanner, monitor, and video card in the amount of \$1,400.00 from the Technology Fund (62-582-392) as requested by Ramon Benavides, Justice of the Peace Pct. 4.

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

**ORDER APPROVING 2015-2016 HEALTH INSURANCE RATE AS
PROPOSED BY TAC-HEALTH EMPLOYEES BENEFITS POOL
AND TO REFLECT IN 2015-2016 BUDGET FOR ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the 2015-2016 Health Insurance Rate as proposed by TAC-Health Employees Benefits Pool and to reflect in the 2015-2016 Budget for Zapata County as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Manager.

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

**ORDER TO TRANSFER \$15,000 FROM TOBACCO FUND (67-800-352)
TO REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE (10-543-457)
FOR AMBULANCE REPAIRS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to transfer \$15,000 from the Tobacco Fund (67-800-352) to Repairs & Maintenance (10-543-457) for ambulance repairs as requested by Chief J.J. Meza, 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 6 FIRE PUMPS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve the purchase of 6 (six) Fire pumps (5 gallon water backpacks) at a price of \$200 each as requested by Chief J.J. Meza, Fire Chief.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESIGNATION OF JUVENTINO ZAPATA III
FROM WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the resignation of Juventino Zapata III from the Waste Water Department Mr. Zapata occupied slot #8 as requested by Carlos Treviño Jr., Water Plant Manager.

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

**ORDER APPROVING USE AND WAIVE FEES FOR
COMMUNITY CENTER FOR 3RD ANNUAL ZAMORALES
FOR KIDS BENEFIT DANCE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the use and waive the fees for the Community Center for the 3rd Annual Zamorales for Kids Benefit Dance on November 27, 2015. All proceeds go to benefit Zapata County Children as the money is used to purchase toys for Operation Blue Santa as requested by Brian Martinez, Judge's Office.

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

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION
FOR HEALTH FAIR COORDINATED BY HHSC
JAIME ARIZPE ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2015**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use and waive the fees of the Zapata County Pavilion for a Health Fair Coordinated by HHSC Jaime Arizpe on September 26, 2015 requested by Joe Peña, Zapata Co. 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 USE OF LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS IN
PRECINCTS 1, 2, AND 4 FOR ADULT TOURNAMENT
ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2015**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve the use of Little League Fields in Precincts 1, 2, & 4 for Adult Tournament on September 19, 2015 as requested by Ramiro Hernandez.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PROPOSAL FROM JUAN M. CANTU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL OF
SOUTH TEXAS AND AUTHORIZING COUNTY JUDGE AND
COUNTY ATTORNEY TO EXAMINE CONTRACT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve proposal from Juan M. Cantu, Executive Director of the Community Action Council of South Texas, and authorizing County Judge and County Attorney to examine contract, as requested by 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 CONSENT ITEMS

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line item transfer in order to meet budget requirements.

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	Zapata Sewer Plant	08-602-443	Electricity	\$3,000.00
TO	Zapata Sewer Plant	08-602-121	Sewer Plant Overtime	\$3,000.00
FROM	Zapata Co. Water Plant	80-600-341	Chlorine & Chemicals	\$5,000.00
TO	Zapata Co. Water Plant	80-600-105	Water Plant Overtime	\$5,000.00

as requested by Carlos Treviño Jr., Water Plant Manager.

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 Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line item transfer in order to meet budget requirements.

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	Olga V. Figueroa Zapata Co. Public Library	10-650-330	Fuel	\$1,100.00
TO	Olga V. Figueroa Zapata Co. Public Library	10-650-463	Books	\$1,100.00

as requested by Aida R. Garcia, Library 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 Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line item transfer in order to meet budget requirements.

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	Zapata County Museum of History	10-668-336	Supplies & Services	\$883.71
TO	Zapata County Museum of History	10-668-482	Contracted Services	\$883.71
FROM	Zapata County Museum of History	10-668-480	Subscriptions and Membership	\$500.00
TO	Zapata County Museum of History	10-668-482	Contracted Services	\$500.00

as requested by Dr. Hildegardo E. Flores, ZC. Museum of History 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 Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line item transfer in order to meet budget requirements.

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	Non-Department	10-409-336	Supplies General	\$4,500.00
TO	Zapata Community Center	10-518-336	Supplies	\$4,500.00
FROM	Non-Department	10-409-444	Electricity	\$10,500.00
TO	Non-Department	10-409-420	Telephone	\$10,500.00
From	Non-Department	10-409-444	Electricity	\$750.00
TO	Non-Department	10-409-446	Garbage	\$750.00

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line item transfer in order to meet budget requirements.

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	Indigent Health Care	10-640-310	Supplies	\$180.00
TO	Indigent Health Care	10-640-427	Travel	\$180.00

as requested by Lupita Garza, Indigent Care Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 11, 2015
“PATRIOT DAY” IN ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Proclamation declaring September 11, 2015 “Patriot Day” in Zapata County as requested by Honorable Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

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 Martinez, 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
ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

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