

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, A.D., 2016, 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 and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

**VISITORS:** Romeo Salinas, Said A. Figueroa, Triunfo Gonzalez, Nellie R. Treviño, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Daniel Arriaga, Roger Miller, Elcina Buck, Karran Westerman, Yanira Salinas, Aida R. Garcia, and Raymundo Del Bosque.

**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 PASTOR ROGER MILLER, COMMISSIONERS COURT  
CHAPLAIN  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Vela commented that a genealogical meeting had been held and many attended.

He also stated that a fence was broken down at the Romeo T. Flores Park. Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director, received a check in the amount of \$750 for repairs.

Commissioner Elizondo stated that Pro-Bike Club held an event at the pavilion for their annual event. Over 100 bike riders attended.

She also reminded the Court that the fall festival is scheduled for October 31 at the pavilion. Some proceeds will go towards a dinner for the elderly.

Commissioner Elizondo also announced that the Falcon Lake Royalty is having a Catwalk Fashion Show on October 30.

Judge Rathmell commented that there had been a brush fire. Fire Chief Meza added that there were several fires over the weekend including a 500 acre fire and a 300 acre fire on FM 3169. He stated that the fire truck lost 2 rear tires and will look into who worked on it last. The truck will be sent for repairs. One person was arrested for criminal mischief.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Elcina Buck of Four Seasons addressed the Court. She expressed her concerns regarding the IBWC evacuations. There have been approximately 16 evictions, including a 93 year old person from Nebraska. They have 180 days to move out.

Commissioner Martinez stated that he has been in contact with Congressman Cuellar.

Judge Rathmell stated that he has pled with IBCW, however, unfortunately, they are within their rights to enforce the evictions.

Commissioner Martinez will contact Congressman Cuellar again this week.

Ms. Buck added that it was mostly elders being evicted.

### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices 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 Martinez, 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.

### **PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT PLAQUE TO AIDA R. GARCIA, LIBRARY DIRECTOR, FOR 14 YEARS OF SERVICE**

A retirement plaque was presented to Aida R. Garcia, Library Director, for 14 years of service as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

### **PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT PLAQUE TO RAFAEL BENAVIDES FOR 15 YEARS OF SERVICE**

A retirement plaque was presented to Rafael Benavides for 15 years of service as requested by Commissioner Norberto Garza.

### **REPORT ON COMMISARY PURCHASE OF CAMERA FOR FEMALE JAIL**

Chief Ray Del Bosque gave a report on commissary purchase of camera for the female jail. Chief Del Bosque reported that an audit has been conducted. Cameras are needed and are being installed. Funding will come from commissary. They have gone out for bids. The company selected to provide the equipment is Real Time.

### **PRESENTATION BY DAVID QUIN OF P3 REGARDING COUNTY'S RECORD OF SAVINGS THROUGH ITS MEMBERSHIP WITH P3**

David Quin, Program Manager of Public Power Pool, gave a presentation regarding the County's record of savings through its membership in P3, the upcoming contract for electricity service, and a rate comparison for adding any additional accounts as requested by Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer. (Report attached for the record.)

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT TO GUZMAN JUAREZ BACKHOE SERVICE FOR  
TXDOT LIFT STATION RELOCATION U.S. HWY 83 PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment to Guzman Juarez Backhoe Service in the amount of \$30,000 for the TXDot Lift Station Relocation U.S. Hwy 83 Project, to be paid out of General Fund and reimbursed from CD 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 DENYING ROSARIO GARZA TO WORK EXTRA HOUR DAILY AT  
NUTRITION CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Judge Rathmell, to allow Rosario Garza (Slot #3) to work an extra hour daily at the Nutrition Center with an increase of \$2,356.68 with benefits as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was denied. Commissioner Elizondo and Judge Rathmell voted for. Commissioners Garza, Vela, and Martinez voted against. Motion to deny carried.

**ORDER APPROVING ZAPATA COUNTY'S PAYMENT SHARE FUNDS PAYMENT  
FOR ACQUISITION OF ACREAGE REQUIRED FOR AIRPORT RUNWAY  
EXPANSION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Zapata County's payment share of funds payment for the acquisition of acreage required for the airport runway expansion. Zapata County's share is \$43,852.00 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 A 2017 FORD EXPLORER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve the purchase of 2017 Ford Explorer from line item #10-409-482 (insurance) \$33,813.91 and from line item #10-364-100 (equipment sale) \$867.00 from 2015-2016 budget. Vehicle to be bought through Buy Board 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 PURCHASE OF 2016 FORD TRANSIT 15 PASSENGER  
WAGON**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the purchase of 2016 Ford Transit 15 passenger wagon from line item #10-333-301 (grant contribution) \$27,995.00 and from line item 10-364-100 (equipment sale) \$8,747.95 from 2015-2016 budget. Vehicle to be bought through Buy Board 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 2017 TCDRS RATE AND CONTRIBUTION FOR ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the 2017 TCDRS rate and contribution for Zapata County with a contribution of 9.37% 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 AMERITAS DENTAL/VISION PLAN RATES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Ameritas Dental/Vision plan rates for 2017 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 PAY INCREASE FOR JOSHUA VALADEZ FOR ACHIEVING CLASS D WASTEWATER OPERATORS LICENSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the pay increase for Joshua Valadez from \$10.25 per hour to \$11.65 per hour, slot #9. Mr. Valadez has met all TCEQ educational requirements and has achieved a Class D Waste Water Operators License as requested by Carlos Trevino, 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 INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS**

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

- a. 2502 Brazos Street
- b. 1810 Lincoln Street
- c. 1514 Laredo Steet
- d. 2102 Alamo Street

as requested by Hon. Olga M. Elizondo, Commissioner Pct. 2.

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 MARTINEZ,  
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING JUDGE RATHMELL TO SEEK REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve and authorize Judge Rathmell to seek request for proposals for garbage collection,

pursuant to recommendations by commissioners' court, 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 AND AUTHORIZING COUNTY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE DOCUMENTS TO TRANSFER ALL PROPERTY FROM RAMIREÑO WATER DISTRICT TO ZAPATA COUNTY AND INSURE ALL PROPERTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve and authorize County Attorney Figueroa to prepare documents to deed (transfer) all property from the Ramireño Water District to Zapata County and to insure all known property as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director. *[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 552.071, Consultation with attorney.]*

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 ATTORNEY TO PREPARE DOCUMENTS TO TRANSFER ALL PROPERTY AND ACCEPT EXISTING ASSETS AND ADD SAN YGNACIO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT TO ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to authorize County Attorney to prepare documents to transfer all property and accept existing assets and add San Ygnacio Municipal Utility District to Zapata County, this will include property vehicles given as per San Ygnaico MUD Board of Directors as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director. *[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 552.071, Consultation with attorney.]*

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

**ORDER AUTHORIZING CARLOS TREVIÑO, WATER PLANT MANAGER, TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS REGARDING STATE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to authorize Carlos Treviño, Water Plant Manager, to take necessary action regarding personnel matters regarding state licensing requirements for Waste Water Department as requested by Carlos Trevino, Water Plant Manager. *[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 552.071, Consultation with 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 OF ZAPATA COUNTY,  
TEXAS

ATTEST:

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