

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 13th day of November 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
Pedro M. Morales	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Jose A. Solis	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Roberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Celica A. Rodriguez	Chief Deputy County Clerk

ABSENT:

Paco Mendoza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk

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 he hosted a movie night for kids; 400 people attended.

Commissioner Morales stated that the ground breaking for the Miraflores Park will be on Friday at 11:30 a.m.

Judge Rathmell commented that there was a tragic accident that claimed the lives of retired Zapata County employee Andres Botello and Joe Cepeda.
Veteran's Day ceremony was held on Friday; there was a great turn out.

Commissioner Solis stated that flag football was hosted by Boys and Girls Club as well as soccer for youth.

Judge Rathmell added that we got a generous rain of about 3-4" county wide.

Pope Gonzalez addressed the court and wanted to thank Agent Jaques for luncheon on Thursday for Veterans Day. They presented Veterans with a certificate and a coin.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices for \$802,399.04 with corrections 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 TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, 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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve checks issued from August 25 – September 7, 2023 in the amount of \$802,399.04 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

Tax Assessor/Collector's office reported Hotel-Motel tax collections in the amount of \$10,827.14 for the month of October with a year-to-date total of \$117,482.66. Net collections were \$4,150,318.16 with tax collections at a rate of 35.34%.

REPORT FROM JROTC PARENTS CLUB ON HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE EVENT HELD ON OCTOBER 31, 2023

Nellie Treviño reported on the JROTC Parents Club on Halloween Hunted House event held October 31, 2023. She reported that she was approached by Sheriff Del Bosque as well as the Villarreal family to participate in the Haunted House on the day of Halloween. They were able to raise \$1,745.00 from entry fees and donations given that night. They have been working very hard; they went to Fort Knox, Kentucky and competed over there.

PRESENTATION ON FUNDRAISER HELD BY SEVERAL ZAPATA HIGH SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Tania Castillo Benavidez reported that she is here representing the football fundraiser. The boys made \$955.00 on October 28 at the Villarreal Halloween Haunted House.

ORDER REQUIRING THAT ALL ZAPATA COUNTY VEHICLES HAVE A VISIBLE ZAPATA COUNTY LOGO OR IDENTIFICATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to require that all Zapata County vehicles have a visible Zapata County logo or identification 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 INVOICE FOR HERNANDEZ PEST CONTROL FOR WORK DONE AT LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve invoice from Hernandez Pest Control for \$615 for work at the Los Ebanos Golf Course, to be paid out of Golf Course Maintenance, 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 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AND FEE SCHEDULE WITH
WEBB COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER FOR AUTOPSY SERVICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve interlocal agreement and fee schedule with the Webb County Medical Examiner for Autopsy Services (FY 2024), for \$2,500.00 per autopsy, 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 SOLICIT ADMINISTRATIVE AND ENGINEERING RFP FOR
SHERIFF'S OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to solicit administrative and engineering RFP for the Sheriff's Office improvements funding from USDA 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 TABLE REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL TO SOLICIT RFP FOR
ADMINISTRATION FOR 2023 OPERATION STONEGARDEN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Judge Rathmell, to solicit RFP for administration for 2023 Operation Stonegarden Grant (OPSG) 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 HIRE CAPEX CONSULTING GROUP TO FACILITATE
ABATEMENT PROCESS FOR UPCOMING PROJECTS IN ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to hire Capex Consulting Group to facilitate the abatement process for upcoming projects in Zapata County 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 FY24/25 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN REGIONAL
PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE AND ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the FY24/25 interlocal agreement between the Regional Public Defender Office and Zapata County 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 CHANGE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR
ZAPATA COUNTY CEMETERY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to change hours of operation for the Zapata County Cemetery from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. as requested by Hon. Jose A. Solis, Commissioner Pct. 3.

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

**ORDER APPROVING CREATION OF NEW SIGNAGE FOR
ZAPATA COUNTY CEMETERY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve creation of new signage for the Zapata County Cemetery to reflect hours of operation change as requested by Hon. Jose A. Solis, Commissioner Pct. 3.

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

**ORDER APPROVING IMPLEMENTATION OF CATALIS PAYMENT SOLUTION FOR
TAX OFFICE AND COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the implementation of the Catalis Payment Solution for the Tax Office and County Clerk's Office 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.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES FOR CERVANTES TRUCK CENTER FOR MAJOR
REPAIRS TO ENGINE #105**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve invoices for Cervantes Truck Center for major repairs to engine #105 in the amount of \$23,367.95 from non-department as requested by Fire Chief Daniel Arriaga, Fire Department.

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

**ORDER AWARDING ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR VETERANS GENERAL
ASSISTANCE GRANT COMMISSION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to award administrative services for Veterans General Assistance Grant Commission as requested by Adolfo "Pope" Gonzalez, Veterans Service Officer.

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

**ORDER APPROVING GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN TXDOT AND
ZAPATA COUNTY FOR ROUTINE AIRPORT MAINTENANCE
AGREEMENT PROGRAM (RAMP)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve grant agreement between TXDOT and Zapata County for the Routine Airport Maintenance Agreement Program (RAMP) 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 ESTIMATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO COVERED PARKING
AREA AT ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve estimate for improvements to the covered parking area at the Zapata County Airport 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 ALLOWING COUNTY AUDITOR TO REQUEST A COUNTY CREDIT CARD AND APPROVE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION OF STARLINK ACCOUNTS FOR ZAPATA COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to allow county auditor to request a county credit card and approve purchase of equipment and monthly subscription of StarLink accounts for Zapata County. IT Department and San Ygnacio landfill as requested by Rene Garcilazo, IT Department.

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

ORDER APPROVING COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROGRAM CONTRACT AWARD TO TRINITY APPARATUS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Community Resiliency Program Contract Award to Trinity Apparatus in the amount of \$356,485.00 for (2) two type-3 ambulances for Zapata County Fire Department and Ambulance Service as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting LLC.

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

ORDER APPROVING MATCHING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,561 FOR AMBULANCES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve matching funds in the amount of \$32,561.00. Grant funds in the amount of \$323,924.00 and matching funds \$32,561.00 = Ambulance Bid \$356,485.00 as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting LLC.

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

ORDER APPROVING CONTINUED USE OF OFFICE SPACE AND UTILITIES TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request to continue use of office space and utilities to continue to provide prevention and treatment service to the community as requested by Magdalena Amesquita, SCAN.

NO ONE PRESENT FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEM:

11. Presentation from Upscale CDL Training as requested by Ramon Montes, Airport Manager.

ADJOURN

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