

**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 March, A. D., 2011, 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, Audie Hernandez, Carlos Treviño, Jr., Juan J. Meza, Brian Martinez, Roger Miller, Bobbie Meza, Jose F. Mendoza, Mario Elizondo, Victor J. Gonzalez, Rolando Villarreal, Laura A. Vela, Marco A. Serna, Craig Bigler, Peggy Umphres Moffett, George Altgelt, and Steve Jones.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ORDER APPROVING MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2011

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to approve the Minutes of February 14, 2011 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.

ZAPATA COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER'S MONTHLY REPORT

Dr. Edmundo Garcia, Zapata County Medical Group, presented Commissioners' Court his monthly report. The clinic saw 879 patients in February and numbers continue to be constant. An average of \$118.87 is charged per patient and private insurance continues to provide coverage. (Financial Report attached for the record.)

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell congratulated and thanked everyone who participated in the Zapata County Fair and stated that the event was a great success.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to approve invoices as presented by Doroteo N. Garza, County Auditor.

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 Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Treasurer's Report as presented by Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer. (Report attached for the record.)

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

PRESENTATION OF THE "RANCHERS FOR THE HUNGRY" PROGRAM FROM THE SOUTH TEXAS FOOD BANK

Pancho Farias is now working for the South Texas Food Bank. Over 90 families are participating in the program. Steers are converted to ground beef. This month hogs will be converted to sausage. The program provides 60# bags of groceries. Local church organizations have helped by adopting families. Funds from the Lilia and Guadalupe Martinez Foundation are also used to adopt families in need.

PROGRESS AND STATUS REPORT ON AMUSEMENT REDEMPTION MACHINE ORDINANCE APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT ON JANUARY 10, 2011 AND PLACED INTO EFFECT ON FEBRUARY 1, 2011

Brian Martinez, Zapata County Judge's Office, reported on the Amusement Redemption Machine Ordinance. All machines have to be registered by March 3, 2011. There are seven locations and 866 machines for a total of \$433,400 which include an overpayment from one establishment which will be credited for 2012 payment. All known establishments have complied. The appraisal district will now be able to tax on inventory.

ORDER DESIGNATING BRIAN MARTINEZ AND ZARAGOZA RODRIGUEZ IV TO IMPLEMENT A SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ZAPATA COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to designate Brian Martinez and Zaragoza Rodriguez IV to implement a safety training program for Zapata County employees as requested by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

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

ORDER APPOINTING JUDGE JOSEPH RATHMELL AND BRIAN MARTINEZ AS ZAPATA COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE I-69 SEGMENT 5 COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to appoint Judge Joseph Rathmell and Brian Martinez as Zapata County representatives for the I-69 Segment 5 Committee as recommended by the Texas Department of Transportation as requested by Hon. Joseph 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 BIDS FOR CONTRACT SERVICES TO MAINTAIN ZAPATA COUNTY LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS LOCATED IN PRECINCTS ONE AND FOUR

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to solicit bids for contract services to maintain the Zapata County Little League Fields as requested by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

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

ORDER APPOINTING COUNTY ATTORNEY SAID A. FIGUEROA AND COUNTY TREASURER ROMEO SALINAS TO CONTACT ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTRACT SERVICES AND MAINTAIN CONCESSION STANDS AT ZAPATA COUNTY LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to appoint County Attorney Said A. Figueroa and County Treasurer Romeo Salinas to contact organizations to contract services to maintain the concession stands at the Zapata County Little League Fields as requested by Hon. Joseph 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 PROPOSAL FORM RABBA-KISTNER CONSULTANTS, INC. TO PREPARE PRELIMINARY STUDY FOR PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL PORT OF ENTRY

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve proposal from Rabba-Kistner Consultants, Inc. to prepare a preliminary study for a proposed International Port of Entry for \$23,200 to be paid from line item #10-409-730 consulting fees as requested by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

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

ORDER AMENDING COMMISSIONERS' COURT ORDER REGULATING ON-SITE SEWAGE FACILITIES

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to amend the Commissioners' Court order regulating On-Site-Sewage Facilities as requested by Hon. Joseph 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 APPROVE FEE SCHEDULE FOR ON-SITE SEWAGE FACILITIES

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge, to approve a fee schedule for On-Site-Sewage Facilities.

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 APPROVE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR ZAPATA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to table request by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge, to approve new Board of Directors for the Zapata County Economic Development as requested by Hon. Joseph 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 APPROVE SCHEDULED QUARTERLY PAYMENT FOR ZAPATA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Villarreal, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to table request by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge, to approve the scheduled quarterly payment for the Zapata County Economic Development.

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 APPROVE PAYMENT OF 2006 INVOICE FROM ZAPATA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to table request by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge to approve payment of 2006 invoice from the Zapata County Economic Development Center.

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 PEGGY UMPHRES MOFFETT, ZCEDC, FOR APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND ZAPATA COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Peggy Umphres Moffett, ZCEDC, for approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Zapata County Economic Development Corporation and Zapata County.

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

ORDER APPROVING MEMBERS TO ZAPATA COUNTY BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following members to the Zapata County Beautification Committee:

- a. Arturo Martinez
- b. Diana Ruiz
- c. Sergio Lozano
- d. Darlene Butler (Brown)

as requested by Hon. Joseph 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 REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL TO APPROVE PIXL STUDIOS WEB PAGE DEVELOPMENT FOR MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONERS COURT

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to deny request by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge, to approve Pixl Studios web page development for members of the Commissioners Court .

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

ORDER DENYING REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL TO APPROVE PIXL STUDIOS TO CONVERT ZAPATA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING VIDEOS FOR WEB STREAMING WEBSITE

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to deny request by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge, to approve Pixl Studios to convert Zapata County Commissioners' Court meeting videos for a web streaming website.

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

**ORDER TO RATIFY ACTION DATING BACK TO 2006 APPOINTING
MR. CARLOS RAMOS AS ZAPATA COUNTY WATER PLANT
DEPARTMENT FIELD SUPERVISOR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Villarreal, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to ratify action dating back to 2006 appointing Mr. Carlos Ramos as Zapata County Water Plant Department Field Supervisor as requested by Hon. Jose Emilio 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 AUTHORIZING CARLOS TREVIÑO, JR., WATER PLANT MANAGER, TO
NEGOTIATE UTILITY EASEMENT ADJOINING FALCON SHORES SUBDIVISION
TO EXTEND A WATERLINE CONNECTION TO A RESIDENTIAL SITE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to authorize Carlos Treviño, Jr., Water Plant Manager, to negotiate a utility easement adjoining Falcon Shores Subdivision to extend a waterline connection to a residential site as requested by Hon. Jose Emilio 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 APPROVING ADVERTISEMENT FOR VACANT POSITION
FOR GRADER/HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR AT ZAPATA COUNTY
MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve advertising for vacant position for grader/heavy equipment operator at Zapata County Maintenance Department as requested by Hon. Jose Emilio 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 APPROVING PRECINCT ONE APPOINTEES TO ZAPATA COUNTY
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following Precinct 1 appointees to the Zapata County Beautification Committee:

- a. Amanda Salinas - Falcon Park
- b. Lourdes M. Lopez - Lopeño Park
- c. Mario Alvarez - Romeo Flores Memorial Park
- d. Paco Mendoza - County Plaza

as requested by Hon. Jose Emilio 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 APPROVING PRECINCT THREE APPOINTEES TO ZAPATA COUNTY
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following Precinct 3 appointees to the Zapata County Beautification Committee;

- a. Johnny Rathmell
- b. Eddie Martinez
- c. Sam Padgett - Texas Parks & Wildlife

as requested by 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.

**ORDER APPROVING PRECINCT FOUR APPOINTEES TO ZAPATA COUNTY
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to approve the following Precinct 4 appointees to the Zapata County Beautification Committee:

- a. Anna Holcomb
- b. Dora Brandes
- c. Karran Westerman

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 ALLOWING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SOUTH TEXAS DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL AND ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to allow a memorandum of understanding for interoperable communications between the South Texas Development Council and Zapata County as requested by John Keiser, South Texas Development Council.

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

**ORDER ALLOWING ZAPATA COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO PARTICIPATE IN
ANNUAL "SHOW YOUR PRIDE" DAY TO BENEFIT JIMMY FOUNDATION FOR
CANCER RESEARCH IN CONJUNCTION WITH ESPN TO JIMMY V. FOUNDATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to allow Zapata County Employees to participate in the Annual "Show Your Pride" day to benefit the Jimmy Foundation for Cancer Research. In conjunction with ESPN to the Jimmy V. Foundation on March 26, 2011 (Donation: \$5.00) as requested by Brian Martinez, Zapata County Judge's Office.

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

**ORDER AWARDING CONTRACT TO LOWEST BIDDER ON PRECINCT TWO,
PHASE FOUR STREET IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Villarreal, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to award contract to REIM Construction, being the lowest bidder on Precinct 2, Phase 4 street improvements, with a bid of \$494,448, as requested by Brian Martinez, Zapata County 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 OSWALDO H. AND JUANITA G. RAMIREZ EXHIBIT
HALL FOR SEPTEMBER 23 AND 24 FOR TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BASS CLUB
FISHING TOURNAMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the use of the Oswaldo H. and Juanita G. Ramirez Exhibit Hall for September 23 and 24 for the Texas Association of Bass Club Fishing Tournament to be used as follows:

- a. September 23 - Registration
- b. September 24 - Banquet

as requested by Karran Westerman, ZCCVB.

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

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF OSWALDO H. AND JUANITA G. RAMIREZ EXHIBIT
HALL OF SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 1 AND OCTOBER 2 FOR SAN ANTONIO
METRO FISHING TOURNAMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the Oswaldo H. and Juanita G. Ramirez Exhibit Hall of September 30, October 1 and October 2 for the San Antonio Metro Fishing Tournament to be used as follows:

- a. September 30 - Registration
- b. October 1 - Banquet
- c. October 2 - Award Ceremony

as requested by Karran Westerman, ZCCVB.

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

ORDER APPROVING ZAPATA COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY PLAN

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve the Zapata County Criminal Justice Community Plan as requested by Roger Miller, Juvenile Probation Officer.

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

ORDER APPROVING USE OF FRONT OF ZAPATA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ON APRIL 30 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. BY DEA AS DROP OFF FOR UNUSED PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve the use of the front of the Zapata County Courthouse on April 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. by the DEA as a drop off for unused prescription medication as requested by Fina Villarreal, SCAN.

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

ORDER APPROVING AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND SERVING CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN NEED, INC. (SCAN)

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve an agreement by and between Zapata County and Serving Children and Adolescents in Need, Inc. (SCAN) as requested by Fina Villarreal, SCAN.

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 light in Precinct 3:

a. 306 Cardinal (to be taken from 2011-2012 security light allotment)
as requested by 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the installation of the following street light in Precinct 4:

a. 911 on 10th and Ramireño
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 PROCLAMATION TO STRONGLY OPPOSE REDUCTION OF INTEREST RATE OF TEXAS COUNTY AND DISTRICT RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Villarreal, to approve proclamation to strongly oppose the reduction of the interest rate of the Texas County and District Retirement System as requested by Hon. Joseph 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 PROCLAMATION TO OPPOSE UNFUNDED MANDATES
SENT DOWN TO STATES FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve proclamation to oppose unfunded mandates sent down to states from the federal government as requested by Hon. Joseph 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 SUBMISSION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE ALTERNATIVE
GRANT TO OFFICE OF GOVERNOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve submission of the Juvenile Justice Alternative Grant to the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division as requested by Roger Miller, Juvenile Probation Officer.

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

**ORDER APPROVING SUBMISSION OF OPERATION BORDER STAR - ZAPATA
COUNTY (TASK FORCE) PROJECT NUMBER 1982104 GRANT APPLICATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the submission of Operation Border Star - Zapata County (Task Force) Project number 1982104 grant application as requested by Mario Elizondo, 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 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF
AN EFFECTIVE ACCIDENT PLAN IN AGREEMENT WITH TEXAS ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTIES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve a resolution supporting the implementation of an effective accident plan in agreement with the Texas Association of Counties as requested by 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY CHARLIE AVARITT, ZAPATA COUNTY
AIRPORT MANAGER AND ROMEO SALINAS, COUNTY TREASURER,
REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to table request by Charlie Avaritt, Zapata County Airport Manager and Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer, regarding personnel matters.

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 Vela, 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