

**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 December, 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 and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

VISITORS: Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, Jr., Monica Alanis, Roger Miller, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Maria I. Gutierrez, Enrique Gallegos, Carlos Zaffirini, Jorge Leal, John Sharp, Adriana Villarreal, Elva Gonzalez, Jose F. Mendoza, Larry Link, Irma Richter, Luis L. Gonzalez, Florence Chambers, Aida R. Garcia, Carlos Treviño, Jr., Henry Garcia, Ramiro Hernandez, Sandy J. Pippin-Gomez, Delia Mendoza, Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Aaron Canales, and Juan Jose Garza

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

Judge Rathmell announced that he was unable to attend the annual Quinceañera Dance because he became a grandpa for the first time and was out of town.

Commissioner Vela commended the Historical Commission for their hard work in the planning of the Quinceañera Dance.

Romeo Salinas added that a flatbed of produce had been made available for the entire community.

Dr. Alma Perez addressed the court and stated that she has just released her 2nd book. She presented the court with plaques and a complimentary copy of the book.

Ramiro Hernandez updated the Court on the Boys and Girls Club and the pool. Breaker boxes at the pool were unsecured and the power was shut off. He recommended a movement sensor.

The Boys and Girls Club is open again. Alex Martinez, with Henry Cuellar's office, will be here this afternoon to assist with the grant writing.

The Kid's Café received \$13,000 of the Lupe Martinez fund which will be used to modify the kitchen. Commissioner Vela donated a stove. Mr. Hernandez was promoted to Chief Executive Officer. The club was awarded a grant of \$20,000.00.

**ORDER APPROVING COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES
OF OCTOBER 13, 2015**

Motion was made by Judge Rathmell, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve Commissioners Court Minutes of October 13, 2015 as presented by Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court.

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

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, 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 TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, 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 Vela, 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 \$14,374.88 and tax collections in an amount of \$3,675,314.07.

UPDATE ON LAREDO MEDICAL CLINIC

Carlos Zaffirini introduced Mr. Gallegos. He stated that they have been in operation since 2012. They have suffered significant budget cuts. Hours of operation will be changed from 24 hours to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. commencing on December 26. Nurse practitioners will be available. Commissioner Vela stated that constituents have concerns with the clinic not being open 24 hours. Commissioner Martinez asked for a report in order to have a better understanding of what revenues are coming in.

**PRESENTATION ON SEEKING QUALIFIED RETAIL ELECTRIC PROVIDERS
(REPs) FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE TO THE COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

Mr. Briseño gave a presentation on seeking qualified Retail Electric Providers (REPs) for electric service to the County of Zapata. He stated that he is a local and is readily available. Mr. Briseño indicated that wholesale programs are cheaper than retail rates. The court was presented with a revised Forward Budget Report showing usage, commodity rate, and projected electricity

costs based on consumption patterns. The report shows current contracted rate through the end of 2016 and projected a lower rate for 2017-2019 with GLO-Cavello. (Report is attached for the record.)

ORDER APPROVING ACQUISITION OF ESTIMATE ON EXPANSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER TO LANDFILL SITE

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the acquisition of an estimate on expansion of electrical power to landfill site 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.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM:

To approve the rescheduling of the December 28, 2015 Commissioners Court meeting as requested by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

ORDER APPROVING FISCAL YEAR 2014 SINGLE AUDIT BY CANALES, GARZA, & BAUM, PLLC

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Fiscal Year 2014 Single Audit by Canales, Garza & Baum, PLLC 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.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION REGARDING COUNTY EMPLOYEES OVERTIME PAY AND COMPENSATORY TIME AS INSTRUCTED BY TAC STAFF

Romeo Salinas gave the court an update and discussion regarding county employees overtime pay and compensatory time as instructed by the TAC Staff on their last visit providing a special training workshop as requested by Hon. Jose E. Vela, Commissioner Pct. 1.

ORDER ACCEPTING RETIREMENT OF DAVID GONZALEZ

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to accept the retirement of David Gonzalez from the Special Road & Bridge Department Pct.4, 15-014 slot #5, effective 11/30/2015 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 PERSONNEL CHANGES AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER GARZA

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following personnel changes:

Promote Baldomero Flores, Jr. to Crew Leader 15-014-slot #5 at \$13.59 per hour.

Promote Raul Ontiveros to Asst. Crew Leader, 15-014-slot #1 at \$12.59 per hour. 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 THE ADDITION OF 19 ELECTED OFFICIALS
TO THE WORKERS COMPENSATION POLICY WITH
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the addition of 19 Elected Officials to the Workers Compensation policy with the Texas Association of Counties, for the annual amount of \$3,995, effective January 1, 2016, 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 AUTHORIZING ZAPATA COUNTY AUDITOR TO SOLICIT REQUEST FOR
QUALIFICATIONS (“RFQ”) NO 2015-001 FOR DESIGN BUILD SERVICES FOR
PHASE III REMEDIATION WORK AT ZAPATA COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to authorize Zapata County Auditor to solicit Request for Qualification (“RFQ”) No. 2015-001 for Design Build Services for Phase III remediation work at the Zapata County Courthouse 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 USED 2001 CHEVROLET PICKUP
FOR PURCHASE PRICE OF \$4,700 FUNDING TO BE OBTAINED FROM
WASTE WATERLINE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve the purchase of a used 2001 Chevrolet pickup for purchase price of \$4,700.00, funding to be obtained from the waste waterline item (08-1002-336) 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 HIRING OF ROBERTO RAMIREZ, JR. FOR
POSITION OF WASTE WATER OPERATOR TRAINEE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve the hiring of Roberto Ramirez Jr. for the position of waste water operator trainee. Mr. Ramirez will occupy slot #8 at a starting salary of \$10.25 per hour 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 ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF IVAN GARZA AND ALLOW
FIRE CHIEF TO HIRE A FIRE FIGHTER/PARAMEDIC OR PARAMEDIC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to accept the resignation of Ivan Garza and allow Fire Chief to hire a Fire Fighter/Paramedic or Paramedic 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.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Discussion and possible action to approve Memorandum of Understanding with Siesta Shores WCID to assist with temporary funding while the District applies for insurance, grants and loans to repay temporary funding from Catastrophic Fund as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

Consultation with attorney and possible action to enter into possible negotiations on the land where the Gateway Clinic is situated as requested by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

Consultation with County Attorney and possible action to address property damage caused to a home as a result of an alleged Zapata County water leak as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Manager.

ORDER APPROVING LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line item transfer:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM:	ZAPATA CO. BRANCH LIBRARY	10-651-310	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$1,500.00
TO:	ZAPATA CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY	10-650-463	BOOKS	\$1,500.00
FROM:	ZAPATA CO. BRANCH LIBRARY	10-651-463	REPAIR MAINTENANCE	\$1,000.00
TO:	ZAPATA CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY	10-650-463	BOOKS	\$1,000.00

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 GARZA,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VELA,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
WITH SIESTA SHORES WCID TO ASSIST WITH TEMPORARY FUNDING
WHILE THE DISTRICT APPLIES FOR INSURANCE, GRANTS AND
LOANS TO REPAY TEMPORARY FUNDING FROM
CATASTROPHIC FUND AND PAY INVOICES DUE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve Memorandum of Understanding with Siesta Shores WCID to assist with temporary funding while the District applies for insurance, grants and loans to repay temporary funding from Catastrophic Fund and pay invoices due as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO CONTINUE WITH NEGOTIATIONS
OF AND LAND ACQUISITION AND HIRE APPRAISER FOR LAND WHERE
GATEWAY CLINIC IS SITUATED**

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to continue with negotiations of land acquisition and hire appraiser for land where the Gateway Clinic is situated as requested by Hon. Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.072 (Real Property) and Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney).

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

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY NELLIE R. TREVIÑO REGARDING DISCUSSION
TO ADDRESS PROPERTY DAMAGE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to table request by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Manager, regarding discussion to address property damage caused to a home as a result of an alleged Zapata County water leak.

[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.072 (Real Property) and Section 551.071 (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 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
OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

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