

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, A.D., 2017, 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
Paco Mendoza	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:** Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Maria I. Gutierrez, Roger Miller, Aaron Cruz, Jose F. Mendoza, Luis Lauro Gonzalez, Juana Maria B. Gutierrez, and Laura 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 REV. ROGER MILLER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Martinez and Judge Rathmell commended Commissioner Mendoza for work done at the Romeo T. Flores Park.

Commissioner Elizondo thanked the Laredo Food Bank. Commissioner Elizondo, Commissioner Garza and JP Benavides distributed food last week. Over 600 homes received distributions.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, 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 Mendoza, 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.

**ORDER APPROVING FIREWALL AND FIVE YEAR SECURITY LICENSE  
FOR ZAPATA COUNTY COURTHOUSE COMPUTER SYSTEM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve a firewall and five years security license for the Zapata County Courthouse computer system at quoted price of \$8,712.22 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 EXPERIENCE WORKS  
EMPLOYEE CELICA ARIAS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to hire Experience Work employee Celica Arias at the Zapata County Nutrition Center for 4 hours per day for 90 days 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 TRANSFER OF JORGE HUGO FLORES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the transfer of Jorge Hugo Flores from 15-011 slot #5 (welder) to 15-621 slot #7 (Equipment Operator) at the rate of \$13.59 per hour to replace Daniel Solis as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, 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 TRANSFER OF ENDY MELGOZA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the transfer of Endy Melgoza from 10-001 slot#1 (Labor/Maintenance) to 15-011 slot #5 (Labor/Maintenance) at the rate of \$10.34 per hour. Please note that the title in 15-011 slot #5 will change as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, 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 TO HIRE JUAN ALEJANDRO GARCIA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve to hire Juan Alejandro Garcia, as a permanent employee in 10-001 slot #1 as (Labor/Maintenance) at the rate of \$9.92 per hour as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1.

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 J.P. GUTIERREZ**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to table request by Hon. Juana Maria Gutierrez, Justice of the Peace, regarding the purchase a scanner and laptop from the Technology Fund as requested by Hon. Juana M. Gutierrez, Justice of the Peace Pct 2.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO HIRE TEMPORARY SECRETARY AT  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to hire Javier Gutierrez, as temporary secretary for 80 hours at the rate of \$9.00 per hour from line item 10-543-106. Money has been deposited as requested by Chief J.J. Meza, Fire Department.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REPAIR WORK AT ZAPATA COUNTY  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to hire of FigCo Steel Buildings to do repair work at the Zapata County Fire Department, at the cost of \$24,417.00, as requested by Chief J.J. Meza, Fire Department.

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

**ORDER DESIGNATING MARCOS GONZALEZ AS  
DEPUTY RESERVE CONSTABLE FOR PRECINCT ONE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the designation of Marcos Gonzalez as Deputy Reserve Constable Pct.1. as requested by Mario Garcia, Constable Pct. 1.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF RAUL RAMIREZ**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the transfer of Raul Ramirez from slot #9 to slot #10 at the San Ygnacio Landfill as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Department.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF ARMANDO GONZALEZ**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the transfer of Armando Gonzalez from slot #5 to slot #9 at the San Ygnacio Landfill as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Department.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO HIRE ROEL GUZMAN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve to hire Roel Guzman in Slot #5 at the San Ygnacio Landfill as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Department.

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

**ORDER RESCINDING PRIOR ORDER TO TABLE AND  
ORDER TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF SCANNER AND LAPTOP  
AS REQUESTED BY J.P. GUTIERREZ**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to rescind prior order to table request by Hon. Juana Maria Gutierrez, Justice of the Peace.

Motion was made by Commissioner, Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve purchase of a scanner and laptop from the Technology Fund as requested by Hon. Juana M. Gutierrez, Justice of the Peace Pct 2.

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

**ORDER APPROVING FUNDING FOR  
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BASS CLUBS TOURNAMENT AND  
SAN ANTONIO METRO LEAGUE OF BASS CLUBS TOURNAMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve funding for the Texas Association of Bass Clubs Tournament scheduled for September 30 - October 1, 2017 and the San Antonio Metro League of Bass Clubs Tournament currently scheduled for October 7-8, 2017. A total of \$16,000 will be funded (\$8,000 per tournament), \$6,000 to be used out of what was allotted to the Convention Visitors Bureau and the remaining \$10,000 out of Hotel Motel Tax funds as requested by James Bendele, Convention Visitors & Bureau.

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

**ORDER APPROVING LINE ITEM TRANSFER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>LINE ITEM</b>	<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	Constable Pct. 2	10-550-331	Fuel	\$130.00
<b>TO:</b>	Constable Pct. 2	10-550-311	Supplies	\$130.00

as requested by Daniel Arriaga, Constable Pct. 2.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF  
A TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION  
TO TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT FUND AND AUTHORIZING COUNTY JUDGE TO ACT AS  
COUNTY'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a Resolution authorizing the submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant Application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the Community Development Fund and authorizing the County Judge to act as the county's executive officer and authorized representative in all matters pertaining to the county's participation in the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program 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.

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

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

**ORDER APPROVING ZAPATA COUNTY AT-RISK CACFT PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Zapata County At-Risk CACFP Program (USDA program) 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 FINALIZATION OF ALL USDA DOCUMENTATION  
INCLUDING SITE/SITES, LOCATIONS AND COMPENSATION POLICY TO  
ANNOUNCE JOB OPENINGS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve and proceed with finalization of all USDA documentation to include sites/sites, locations and compensation policy to announce job openings with our local newspaper and Texas Workforce Office. Once approved by USDA, the program will start immediately 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 USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER FOR USE  
DURING BASS TOURNAMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve use of the Zapata County Community Center for the Texas Association of Bass Clubs Tournament scheduled for September 30- October 1, 2017 and the San Antonio Metro League of Bass Clubs tournament currently scheduled for October 7-8, 2017 as requested by James Bendele, Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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

**UPDATE WAS GIVEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING  
CAUSE NO. 5:15 CV 288 TOVAR VS. ZAPATA COUNTY  
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN**

An update was given during executive session regarding Cause No. 5:15 CV 288 Tovar vs. Zapata County; no action was taken as requested by Alonso M. Lopez, Sheriff.

**ORDER AUTHORIZING JUAN J. CRUZ & ASSOCIATES TO PROCEED WITH  
LAW SUIT AGAINST SHADY HAVEN, LLC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve and authorize Juan J. Cruz and Associates, to proceed with law suit against Shady Haven

to enforce a debt owed to Zapata County through the Waterworks Department by Shady Haven, LLC., as requested by Fortunato G. Paredes, J. Cruz & Associates, LLC.

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

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, 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