

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 11th day of December, 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: Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Daniel Arriaga, Roger Miller, Dr. Roberto Nuñez, Fortunato Paredes, Laura Garza, Guillermo Saenz, Tavy Villarreal, Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Beatriz Posada Noriega, Cesar G. Rodriguez Duran, Eduardo Gonzalez Martinez, Sandy J. Pippin-Gomez, and Dellanira Prado.

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 Mendoza stated that the Christmas parade was rescheduled for this evening due to weather conditions.

Judge Rathmell commented that everyone was excited over the snow in Zapata last week.

Commissioner Elizondo commented that the house tour, parade and lighting of the plaza was a success last week in San Ygnacio.

Danny Arriaga, Constable Pct. 2, informed the Court that he was approached by Lilonee Garza of Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, LLP regarding delinquent tax accounts and he has been processing tax warrants. Some have paid off the delinquent accounts and two have made arrangements.

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 TREASURER’S REPORT

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

The Tax Office reported collections of Motel-Hotel Tax in an amount of \$12,837.39 and tax collections in the total amount of \$2,149,082.60 for 62.73% total collections.

REPORT ON RSL GARBAGE COLLECTIONS CONTRACT

The merging of accounts is taking longer than anticipated and the implementation will be delayed.

REPORT ON SURPLUS COMPUTERS

Surplus computers were gathered and delivered as donation to Nueva Ciudad Guerrero officials as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

**ORDER APPROVING MEDICAL OFFICE SPACE LEASE RENEWAL AND
ADDENDUM WITH LAREDO MEDICAL CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the medical office space lease renewal and addendum with Laredo Medical Center 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 HIRE JUAN GONZALEZ
AT RECYCLING DEPARMTNET**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to hire Juan Gonzalez, slot #2 Recycling Department as requested by Guillermo, Saenz, Environmental Director.

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

**PROGRESS REPORT AND APPROVAL OF INVOICES FOR ZAPATA COUNTY
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$401,375 and payment to Premier Engineering in the amount of \$14,079.76 for the Zapata County Wastewater Treatment Plant project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Sealed slabs for clarifier are in progress. Judge Rathmell recommended that the road be worked on.

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

**PROGRESS REPORT AND APPROVAL OF INVOICE FOR ZAPATA COUNTY
TRUMAN PHELPS SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment #9 and change concrete to asphalt to reconstruct street 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 ENTER INTO DISCUSSION WITH SIESTA SHORES WCID
TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT OF ACQUISITION WITH APPROVAL OF USDA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to enter into discussion with Siesta Shores WCID to enter into agreement of acquisition of the Siesta Shores WCID with approval of USDA as requested by Siesta Shores WCID Board of Directors. Siesta Shores WCID has received a grant, however, they have not decided whether to repair the plant or connect with Zapata County.

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

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF SPEED HUMP

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve the installation of a speed hump at the following location:

a. 1713 11th Street (Zapata town site, Block 100, Lot 1 & 2) 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.

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

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

ORDER APPROVING PAY INCREASE FOR MELITON VALADEZ

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a pay increase for Meliton Valadez from \$13.50 per hour to \$15.25 per hour. Mr. Valadez has fulfilled all requirements of the State of Texas and is authorized to practice as a Class C Wastewater Treatment Operator. Funding to be obtained from line item 08-602-227 (License Stipends) 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.

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM
DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

18./24. To determine the logistics of recognizing retroactively the employment of a former County Juvenile Referee from 2000 through 2007 as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, Personnel Director.

Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 4 Chapter D, Section 551.071(A)(B) Consultation with Attorney and Note 3 Government Code Ann 551.074, Personnel Matters.

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION WHERE ZAPATA COUNTY ELECTS TO
BECOME ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN TAX ABATEMENTS AS AUTHORIZED
BY CHAPTER 312 OF THE TEXAS TAX CODE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a Resolution where Zapata County elects to become eligible to participate in tax abatements as authorized by Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code, and any matters incident thereto, 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.

Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 4 Chapter D, Section 551.071(A)(B) Consultation with Attorney and Note 3 Government Code Ann 551.074, Personnel Matters.

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION ADOPTING TAX ABATEMENT GUIDELINES
AND CRITERIA FOR ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS, PERSUANT TO CHAPTER 312 OF
THE TAX CODE AND WAIVER REQUIREMENTS OF PUBLIC HEARING TO
DECLARE ZAPATA COUNTY A REINVESTMENT ZONE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a Resolution Adopting Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria for Zapata County, Texas, pursuant to Chapter 312 of the Tax Code and waive the requirements of a public hearing to declare Zapata County a Reinvestment Zone given Zapata County has been designated as an Enterprise Zone which is also considered a designation of a Reinvestment Zone for Tax Code Chapter 312 purposes as provided under Government Code Section 2303.507, with changes, as discussed in executive session 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.

Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 4 Chapter D, Section 551.071(A)(B) Consultation with Attorney.

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.

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