

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 10th day of August, A.D., 2020, 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:

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| 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, Monica Alanis, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Roger Miller, Jose Solis, Raymundo Del Bosque, Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., and Ralph Treviño.

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 mentioned that the Back to School Backpack give away took place and they gave away 500 backpacks to local children. Some sponsors were set up and giving away goodies. It was an exceptionally good event.

Chief Meza reported that COVID-19 testing will take place on August 10, 11, 12 and 25, and 26 at the Zapata Community Center. They increased the testing to 600 tests per day. Our numbers are going up and down depending on testing. He also reported that Daniel D. Arriaga is doing better.

Judge Rathmell reported on the COVID-19 testing as follows: 174 positive results, 132 released from isolation, 42 active cases, 9 pending results and 12 deaths.

Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer, reported that 1 of his employees tested positive for COVID-19; the rest all tested after 5 days and are all negative. He also stated that there will be no “in person” contact for cemetery plots.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$751,131.91 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 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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$751,131.91 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 \$7,404.87 for the month of July with a year-to-date total of \$81,208.59. Tax collections at a rate of 86.16% for a total base tax collected of \$5,599,171.98.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM

10. To approve measures to address surge in local COVID-19 cases as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. **MEASURES WILL REMAIN IN PLACE.**

ORDER APPROVING ABATEMENT AMENDMENT NO. 2 BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND RELOJ DEL SOL WINDFARM LLC

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Abatement Amendment No. 2 between Zapata County and Reloj Del Sol Wind Farm, LLC, until June 30, 2021, 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 INSTRUCTING COUNTY AUDITOR AND COUNTY TREASURER TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE REVIEW OF ALL FUEL EXPENDITURES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to instruct County Auditor and County Treasurer to conduct a complete review of all fuel expenditures by County Elected Officials and employees that have county issued fuel cards 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 DISCONTINUE AUTOMATIC PAYMENT DEDUCTIONS FROM EMPLOYEE PAYROLL ACCOUNTS FOR WATER PAYMENTS TO ZAPATA COUNTY WATER WORKS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve to discontinue automatic payment deductions from employee payroll accounts for water payments to Zapata County Water Works 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 APPOINTING COMMISSIONER PACO MENDOZA AS BOARD MEMBER TO BORDER REGION BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to appoint Commissioner Paco Mendoza as a board member to the Border Region Behavioral Health Center 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 REQUEST OF PROPOSAL FOR REPAIRS OF ZAPATA COUNTY FAIR PAVILION AND CONTRACT WITH PREMIER ENGINEERING TO DO SCOPE OF WORK

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request proposal for the repairs of the Zapata County Fair Pavilion and contract with Premier Engineering to do scope of work 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 ELECTION SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND ZAPATA COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR UPCOMING ELECTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the Election Services Contract between Zapata County and Zapata County Independent School District for the upcoming November 3, 2020. General Election to include School Board Election for ZCISD as requested by Hon. 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.

ORDER APPROVING TO RATIFY MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED ON JULY 27, 2020

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to ratify monthly Treasurer's Report as presented on July 27, 2020 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 2020-2021 HOLIDAY CALENDAR FOR ZAPATA COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the 2020-2021 Holiday Calendar for Zapata County, with the addition of Election Day - November 3, as requested by Nellie Trevino, Personnel Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING FY 2020-2021 TAC BCBS RATES FOR ZAPATA COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the FY 2020-2021 TAC BCBS rates for Zapata County, as proposed, as requested by Nellie Trevino, Personnel Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING FY 2020-2021 RATES FOR DENTAL/VISION PLAN

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the FY 2020-2021 rates for Dental/Vision Plan as requested by Nellie Trevino, Personnel Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING FY 2020-2021 RETIREMENT RATES AS PRESENTED BY TCDRS FOR ZAPATA COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the FY 2020-2021 retirement rates as presented by TCDRS for Zapata County as requested by Nellie Trevino, Personnel Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR AN AMBULANCE DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO COVID-19

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve request for proposals for an ambulance due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Covid-19 disease and all related matters thereto; as requested by Nellie Trevino, Personnel Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING REPLAT OF 199 MADISON AVENUE

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Re-Plat of 199 Madison Avenue into 3 – 70 x 140 lots and 1 – 60 x 180 lot. They are in compliance with all model subdivision rules 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 INVOICE AND STATUS REVIEW FOR ZAPATA COUNTY JAIL REPAIRS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$8,518.43 payable to Deep South Haulers LLC for Zapata County Jail as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Work is 78% complete.

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

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF STREETLIGHT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the installation of a street light at the following address:

- a. 2114 Kennedy St.
- b. 1207 Falcon Ave.
- c. 203 Miraflores Ave.

as requested by Hon. Olga M. Elizondo, Commissioner Pct. 2.

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 MENDOZA,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER TO DENY REQUEST FOR HAZARD PAY FOR
FIRE DEPARTMENT/EMS EMPLOYEES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to deny request for Hazard Pay for Fire Department/EMS employees due to COVID-19 related hazardous duties funded from Coronavirus Relief Fund as requested by Nellie Trevino, Personnel Director.

Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.074 (B) (Personnel Matters).

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 FAMILIES FIRST ACT FOR WORKING
PARENTS DURING FY 2020-2021 SCHOOL CLOSURE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to continue with the Families First Act for working parents during the FY 2020-2021 school closures from August 10, 2020- October 2, 2020, due to COVID-19, as requested by Nellie Trevino, Personnel Director.

Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.074 (BJ) (Personnel Matters).

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**

- 32. To address personnel matters as requested by Nellie Trevino, Personnel Director.

Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.074/551.071 (A)(B) (Personnel Matters) (Consultation with Attorney).

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

33. Discussion and action on consultant fees for TxCDBG project 7215085 also known as Truman Phelps, as requested by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor.

Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (A)(B) (Consultation with Attorney).

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-BONOAN,
COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO
CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS
COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS