

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 26th of April 2021, 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
Jose A. Solis	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

ABSENT:

Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
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VISITORS: Nellie R. Treviño and Roger Miller.

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

Judge Rathmell stated that he is very happy with the COVID-19 vaccine progress. There have been many volunteers. We still have a lot of folks that need to come through and get vaccinated so we can put this virus behind us.

Commissioner Mendoza reported that Covid-19 vaccinations will take place the later part of the week; he also reported vaccination progress as follows:

61.02% at least 1 dose	65 +	79.52% at least 1 dose
16 + 47.69 fully vaccinated	65+	67.58% fully vaccinated

We are doing very well compared to other communities. Testing is being conducted Tuesday and Wednesday at the pavilion.

Judge Rathmell added that we don't have any positive active cases.

Commissioner Solis reported that the boat ramp project should be completed this week. Secondary boat ramp is currently being used.

Commissioner Elizondo stated that she's working on a community garden in San Ygnacio at the baseball field.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices in the amount of \$900,712.12 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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$900,712.12, 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.

NO ONE PRESENT FOR THE FOLLOWING REPORT

8. Boys & Girls Club Report as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1.

ORDER APPROVING REQUEST FROM ZAPATA COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR USE OF ZAPATA COMMUNITY CENTER FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR PROM

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the request from Zapata County Independent School District for the use of the Zapata Community Center on May 8, 2021 for the Junior and Senior Prom for this event only, 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 AGREEMENT BETWEEN SIESTA SHORES WCID AND ZAPATA COUNTY FOR INTERIM FINANCING TO BE PROVIDED BY ZAPATA COUNTY FOR WATER INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN ZAPATA WATERWORKS AND SIESTA SHORES WCID

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve an agreement between Siesta Shores WCID and Zapata County for interim financing to be provided by Zapata County for the water interconnection between Zapata Waterworks and Siesta Shores WCID, estimate of cost is \$99,660.00 pending confirmation by USDA, as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge. Siesta Shores bid out the project; project will be done by a local contractor. Once project is funded Zapata County will be reimbursed.

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

ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC TIME STAMP WITH DIGITAL CLOCK DISPLAY

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the purchase of an electric time stamp with digital clock display for the purchase price of \$829.75 as requested by Hon. Anna Guerra, Justice of the Peace Pct 1.

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

ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF A MINI-SPLIT FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT ONE OFFICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the purchase of a mini-split for Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 Office for the purchase price of \$600.00 as requested by Hon. Anna Guerra, Justice of the Peace Pct 1.

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

ORDER APPROVING RESTRICTION OF POLITICAL SIGNS, CAMPS, TENTS, FOOD SERVICE STATIONS, LARGE GATHERINGS PROMOTING A CANDIDATE/S OR PROPOSITION ON THE BALLOT AND/OR ANY OTHER FORM OF ADVERTISING IN WHATEVER FORM OR SHAPE FOR A POLITICAL CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATES OR PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT SEEKING TO INFLUENCE POTENTIAL VOTERS OF ANY KIND ON ALL COUNTY PROPERTY DURING ALL EARLY VOTING AND ELECTION DAYS. THIS ACTION IS SOUGHT TO ENCOURAGE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS WITHIN ZAPATA COUNTY AND IS SOUGHT TO REDUCE OR ERADICATE VOTER INTIMIDATION BY POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AT POLLING PLACES

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the restriction of political signs, camps, tents, food service stations, large gatherings promoting a candidate/s or proposition on the ballot and/or any other form of advertising in whatever form or shape for a political candidate or candidates or propositions on the ballot seeking to influence potential voters of any kind on ALL County property during all early voting and election days. This action is sought to encourage free and fair elections within Zapata County and is sought to reduce or eradicate voter intimidation by political campaigns at polling places as requested by 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 CHANGE ORDER NO. 4 AND CONTRACT AMENDMENT NO. 4 FOR ZAPATA COUNTY WWTP PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve change order No. 5 and contract amendment No.4 for the Zapata Co. WWTP Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. \$72,000 were left over, they are requesting lab equipment and return pipe between oxidation areas.

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

ORDER APPROVING WATER LINE INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN ZAPATA WATERWORKS AND FALCON RWSC

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to authorize Manuel Gonzalez to seek funding for waterline interconnection between Zapata Waterworks and Falcon RWSC 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 ADOPTING RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE APRIL
AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to adopt a resolution to designate April as Autism Awareness Month as requested by Nellie Trevino, HR 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 MENDOZA,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO GO OUT FOR BIDS AND HIRE JHS ARCHITECTS TO
PREPARE SPECS FOR ZAPATA COUNTY LIBRARY DAMAGES AND REPAIRS TO
BUILDING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to go out for bids and hire JSH Architects to prepare specs for the Zapata County Library on the extent of the damages and repairs to the building as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director.

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 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (A)(B) (Consultation with Attorney)

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

16./21. Update on Border Wall litigation involving the Bird Sanctuary as requested by Hon. Said Figueroa, County Attorney.

[Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (A)(B) (Consultation with Attorney)

17. /20. To take action regarding Personnel Matters pertaining to the Electronic Data Processing Department as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1.

[Closed Session/Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (A)(B) (Consultation with Attorney)

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, 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