

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 10th of May 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
Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Celica A. Rodriguez	Chief Deputy County Clerk

VISITORS: Lauro Guerra, Ramiro Hernandez, Roger Miller, Daniel D. Arriaga, Delia Mendoza, Victor Uvalle, Jr., Karran Westerman, Javier & Debbie Zapata, Craig Bigler, Jimmy Mendoza, and Carlos Q. Ramirez.

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 CELICA A. RODRIGUEZ, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell informed the court that Congressman Cuellar will be at the Gateway Clinic at 1:00 p.m. to announce grant of \$7,000,000 which will allow them to significantly improve medical services in our county.

Danny Arriaga reported that they continue to do vaccine drives and continue to try to vaccinate everyone in our county. Those that want the vaccine have already gotten it; the small percentage of people that haven't gotten it are those that don't want it. Covid-19 testing continues twice a week. Mary Plattner is vaccinating people in her clinic; walk ins are welcome. 2nd dose will be done in San Ygnacio, 1st doses are welcome.

Judge Rathmell reported that 63.96% of those 16+ have gotten at least 1 dose, 54.40% have gotten the 2nd dose, and 80% of those 65+ are fully vaccinated. He thanked all the volunteers who have helped get this done.

Danny Arriaga added that the county has an abundance of vaccines and there is no reason why people would have to go elsewhere. Local clinics have vaccines. If anyone is homebound, all they need to do is call the fire department and arrangements will be made.

Adriana Figueroa from the Zapata County Sheriff's Office reported revenues for the month of April. The Regional Jail collected an estimated amount of \$121,550.00 and County Jail \$30,195.95, for a total of \$151,745.94. Bond fees - males \$225.00 and females \$31.00 for a total of \$256.00.

Karran Westerman has a complaint on taxes, one property went up \$30,000.00. Everyone is struggling.

Mr. Guerra addressed the court regarding little league. He wanted to raise awareness on what's going on. Laredo has always been in charge. Parents were calling and there are three things they want to do. One thing was that they want to change is to raise the fee, which was \$65.00,

second, they wanted to make kids travel to Laredo every other week and the third is to take control, for Zapata to be in charge of Hillside Little League. Ramiro Hernandez added that what they were wanting to do was trying to run Zapata at a Laredo chapter. Under the rules they do not control Zapata Little league, only the chapter. Steps must be met for a child to play; they have to have insurance. Ramiro Hernandez recommended an in-house league. Election will be held on Saturday for new board of directors. Parents will be refunded fees. Release of liability forms will be signed. They will remain in community for use of fields, so fields can be prepared and ready. New account will be opened once new board is elected.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices in the amount of \$1,019,026.17 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 Solis, 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 in the amount of \$1,019,026.17 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 \$5,370.73 for the month of March with a year-to-date total of \$74,673.23. Tax collections at a rate of 85.71% for a total \$150,460.47 collected.

REPORT ON 2021 PROPERTY VALUATION

Amada Gonzalez, Chief Appraiser, explained that values went up; the appraisal district is in charge to appraise property at market value. Every year the comptroller's office looks at property values and in 2018 the values were found invalid, which means that they were too low. She had a two-year grace period to bring values up. The comptroller arrives at the numbers by looking at sales. The values are still low. Values have not been accurate because of the mineral values. Commercial properties were at 74%. The values raised were land values. Businesses that were incorrectly categorized have been corrected. If any person is not in agreement, they can file a notice of protest and go to the appraisal district and discuss the individual property, and if they don't agree to a value, they are taken before the review board.

PRESENTATION ON 2021 TAC RMP EMPLOYEE SAFETY EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

Victor Uvalle, Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Consultant, reported that we are members of the Risk Management Pool and Workers Comp Coverage, and by having safety programs and equipment, they were able to give monies back to counties. The county is getting

back \$3,170.00 for road and bridge department and the same amount has been given to the sheriff's office for buying safety equipment. Both are separate account, and this program will be good for 3 years. Must be current members.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM – IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN NEXT YEARS BUDGET IF MONIES ARE AVAILABLE

12. To solicit bids for a San Ygnacio Open Pavilion Project as requested by Hon. Olga M. Elizondo, Commissioner Precinct. 2.

ORDER APPROVING TO NAME BASEBALL FIELD AND PARK BEHIND CATHOLIC CHURCH, NORBERTO GARZA BASEBALL FIELD AND PARK

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve to name the baseball field and the park behind the Catholic Church, Norberto Garza Baseball Field and Park as requested by Hon. Olga M. Elizondo, Commissioner Precinct. 2.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioners Solis, Elizondo, and Mendoza, Commissioner Garza abstained. Judge Rathmell voted against. Motion carried.

ORDER APPROVING QUOTE TO REMOVE AND REPLACE MINI-SPLIT WITH NEW 2-TON SYSTEM AT ZAPATA COUNTY PRECINCT 2 OFFICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve quote to remove & replace mini-split with a new 2-ton system at the Zapata County Precinct 2 office as requested by Hon. Olga M. Elizondo, Commissioner Precinct. 2.

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

ORDER AWARDING BID FOR ZAPATA COUNTY HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, by Commissioner Solis, to award bid for the Zapata County Helping Hand Food Pantry to Santos Castillo Construction for \$68,5000 to be paid out of Covid-19 Relief Funds 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 INVOICE TO SHI GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS FOR CLOUD MANAGED ADVANCE SECURITY AND WIRELESS ACCESS POINT SUBSCRIPTION LICENSE PURCHASED

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoice to SHI Government Solutions for \$2,093.83 for Cloud Managed Advance Security and wireless access point subscription license purchased as requested by Hon. Ramon Benavides, Justice of the Peace Pct.4.

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

ORDER ACCEPTING RESIGNATION FROM CARLOS C. LEIJA

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to accept resignation from Carlos C. Leija (Slot #25) effective 5-05-21 as requested by Daniel D. Arriaga, Fire Chief.

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

ORDER APPROVING PAY INCREASE FOR JOHAN J. ALVARADO

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a pay increase for Johan J. Alvarado from \$13.21/hour to \$13.42/hour (Slot #24-General Order 543). Mr. Alvarado is now a Paramedic/Firefighter as requested by: Daniel D. Arriaga, Fire Chief.

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

ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF iDOCKET INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of iDocket invoices #327649 from 6/13/16 of \$1,500.00, #311724 from 8/18/15 of \$1,500.00 and #293164 from 4/16/14 of \$3,000, for a total of \$6,000.00, 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 PAYMENT FOR WEBB COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER AUTOPSIES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment for Webb County Medical Examiner autopsies for JP Precinct 4. There were 15 autopsies performed over a span of 3 years at \$1,700.00 each, totaling \$25,500.00, 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 QUOTE FOR LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL FIELD SCOREBOARD IN PRECINCT 4 DUE TO STORM DAMAGES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve quote in the amount of \$6,511 from Spectrum Scoreboards for scoreboard, and the amount of \$2,650 from Martinez Electrical, LLC for labor for the Little League Baseball field scoreboard in Precinct 4, due to storm damages 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.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES FOR SOFTBALL FIELD LIGHTING FOR MARTINEZ ELECTRICAL SERVICES, LLC

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices for the softball field lighting for Martinez Electrical Service, LLC, in the amount of \$25,740.36, 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.

ORDER TO APPROVE/RATIFY RESOLUTION FOR TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF STATE RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR ZCISD SENIOR PARADE 2021

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve/ratify the Resolution for the Texas Department of Transportation Agreement for the Temporary Closure of State Right-of-Way for the ZCISD Senior Parade 2021, which was held on May 6, 2021, as requested by ZCISD and Zapata County 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.

ORDER AWARDING BID FOR FENCE REPAIRS AT ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION PARK AREA PRECINCT 2

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to award bid to lowest bidder, being Jorge Javier Flores, for the amount of \$6,500, for labor only, for the fence repairs at the Zapata County Pavilion Park area in Precinct 2 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.

ORDER ACCEPTING UPCOMING RETIREMENT OF MS. ROSALINDA S. GONZALEZ

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to accept the upcoming retirement of Ms. Rosalinda S. Gonzalez, Information & Assistance Director at the Zapata County Nutrition Center 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.

ORDER TO APPROVE TO ADVERTISE FOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE DIRECTOR POSITION FOR ZAPATA COUNTY NUTRITION CENTER AND TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO INTERVIEW

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to advertise for the Information & Assistance Director position for the Zapata County Nutrition Center and order appointing Rosalinda S. Gonzalez, Nellie R. Trevino, and Triunfo Gonzalez, as the committee to interview, as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director. Job description is ready and advertisement will be published this week.

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

ORDER AWARDING BID FOR NEW ICE MACHINE FOR ZAPATA COUNTY SHOP

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to award bid to Ralph's Refrigeration, being the lowest bidder, with a bid of \$4,500, for a new ice machine for the Zapata County Shop as requested by Jose Mendoza, County Shop Supervisor.

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

28. To appoint Lauro Guerra as Zapata County Little League Coordinator/President for 2021 as requested by Lauro Guerra, Zapata resident.

ORDER APPROVING ADDITIONAL \$9,500 FOR BOAT RAMP EXPANSION PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve additional \$9,500 out of Hotel Motel Tax Fund for the boat ramp expansion project approved on April 12, 2021, as requested by Hon. Jose A. Solis, Commissioner Pct. 3.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioners Mendoza, Garza, and Elizondo and Judge Rathmell, Commissioner Solis abstained. Motion carried.

ORDER APPROVING LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	I & A Program	37-645-330	Fuel & Lubricants	\$5,000.00
TO	Nutrition CI	38-647-336	Raw Food	\$5,000.00

as requested by Rosalinda S. Gonzalez, Nutrition Center.

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 Garza, to approve the following line item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Sheriff's Department	010-560-429	Prisoner Transport	\$1,000.00
TO	Sheriff's Department	010-560-405	Psychological/Medical Employee	\$1,000.00
FROM	Sheriff's Department	010-560-456	Equipment Maintenance	54.10
TO	Sheriff's Department	010-560-462	Rentals	54.10

as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque.

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 SOLIS,
TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**ORDER APPROVING TO ACQUIRE/PURCHASE ADDITIONAL ACREAGE
ADJACENT TO ZAPATA COUNTY CEMETERY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of additional acreage adjacent to the Zapata County Cemetery for the purchase price of \$35,000.00 as requested by: Honorable Joseph 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 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 {B} {Consultation with Attorney}

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Garza, 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