

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 9th of August 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
Mary Jayne Villarreal- Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

VISITORS: Nellie R. Trevino, Roger Miller, Francisco Farias, Ramiro Hernandez, Daniel D. Arriaga, Jesse Rodriguez, Raymundo Del Bosque, Joseph Pena, Delia Mendoza, Anna Guerra, and Manuel Sanchez.

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

Fire Chief Daniel D. Arriaga reported that there were reporting issues with the state, however, as of Friday the 16th the testing is accurate and has started to reflect.

The Fire Department continues to vaccinate. They have administered 109 vaccines, 95 were 1st doses and 14 2nd doses. DHS will be in San Ygnacio on Thursday, as well as the National Guard in Zapata. The Fire Department is testing Tuesdays and Thursdays and plan to increase the days due to the new Delta variant.

Covid-19 cases continue going up even if you are vaccinated.

Commissioner Mendoza added that he has talked to local DHS, and he wants to set up a place for vaccinating in Lopeño and Falcon.

Fire Chief Arriaga stated that if someone is unable to go to the Fire Department, the Fire Department will go to them, if they have no means of transportation.

Commissioner Solis asked how the virus is affecting kids that are not vaccinated.

Fire Chief Arriaga responded that quite a few school kids under 12 are coming out positive. An increase was certainly seen in the under 12 age group. He is getting calls as to why he doesn't do anything, but if Gov. Abbott doesn't issue closure of school, there is nothing local government or school district can do.

Sheriff Del Bosque, things are going as follows, car chases have increase. Sheriff's office has seven positives, with one inmate as well, it could be due to contact with inmates. As of right now lobbies are shut down, will continue answering calls as usual. No visitors or outside agencies unless they are tested. He commended Chief Arriaga for being always there and constantly testing

the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Del Bosque asked for prayers for Commander Hernandez who is hospitalized very ill, he and now his significant other also tested positive. Numbers for the jail reflect what has been happening at the jail. Quarantine and testing are going on.

They received two Stone Garden units as well as two speed readers. New units are in order, chip situation is causing a back order. One Tahoe was recalled. New uniforms are also in place. He has been in contact with TDUM and will meet face to face with Gov. Abbott soon. He was selected to testify for Homeland Security Public Safety Committee.

Commissioner Mendoza commended the Sheriff for maintaining a strong presence on behalf of Zapata County with the Governor's office.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$1,343,262.75 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 Garza, 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 \$1,343,262.75 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 \$4,750.51 for the month of July with a year-to-date total of \$96,133.86. Tax collections are at a rate of 89.60% with collections in the amount of \$85,398.36.

UPDATE ON RAM'S FOOD PROGRAM.

Ramiro Hernandez, Independent Consultant gave a report on Ram's Food Program. School year has restarted for all school districts in Zapata County. The program has begun serving meals and are doing well. Meals are being served in Zapata, Falcon, Lopeño and Siesta Shores; trying to get the Community Center in San Ygnacio. Still providing propane gas for the nutrition center since the program uses the kitchen. They are using social distancing and all Covid-19 protocol. They clean after the kids are gone. They work around Zapata County schedule. The program is for infants 6-month-old – 21 years old, if disabled. The program was grab and go throughout the Covid-19 building closures.

ORDER APPROVING COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a Cooperative Agreement between Zapata County and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Service to formalize the manner in which extension and county government coordinate support for County Extension Programs 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 CORANDO GARZA, JR.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the transfer of Corando Garza, Jr from 15-012-slot #4 at \$9.98 per hour, effective August 5, 2021, 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 APPROVING TO TRANSFER HECTOR SALAZAR TO SLOT #6 AND
HIRING OF JAVIER O. TREVINO**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to transfer Hector Salazar to Labor/Maintenance in 15-012-slot #6 at \$9.48 per hour and hiring of Javier O. Trevino at \$9.00 per hour, effective August 5, 2021, 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ANNA GUERRA
REGARDING PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF SECURITY CAMERAS FOR
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 1 OFFICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Justice of the Peace Anna Guerra regarding the purchase and installation of security cameras for the Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Office as requested by Hon. Ana Guerra, Justice of the Peace Precinct 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 DESKTOP COMPUTER AND DOCUMENT
SCANNER FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT ONE OFFICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of a desktop computer and document scanner, for the purchase price of \$2,755.91, for the Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 office, out of the Technology Fund, as requested by Hon. Anna Guerra, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1.

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

**ORDER APPROVING IMPOSITION OF OPTIONAL FEES
CALENDAR YEAR (CY) 2022**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the imposition of Optional Fees Calendar Year (CY) 2022 as requested by Hon. Delia Mendoza, Tax Assessor Collector.

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

ORDER APPROVING TO TRANSFR FUND BALANCE OF \$350,000 FROM FARM TO MARKET FUND #16 TO SPECIAL ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND #15

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza seconded by Commissioner Garza, to transfer fund balance of \$350,000 from Farm to Market Fund #16 to Special Road and Bridge Fund #15 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 REQUEST TO USE ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION FOR CONTINUANCE USE OF SERVING MEALS PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve request to use Zapata County Pavilion for the continuance use of the serving meals program provided by Ram’s Food Program as requested by Ramiro Hernandez, Independent Consultant.

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

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

ORDER APPROVING THE REQUEST OF OFFICE SPACE TO RENDER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT SERVICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve request of office space to render behavioral health & substance use treatment services to members of the Zapata County Community, office space will be provided at Zapata Medical Clinic, as requested by Manuel Sanchez, LPC.

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

ORDER APPROVING LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Sewer Plant	008-31160-602	Postage	\$1,400.00
TO	Sewer Plant	008-33660-602	Repair and Maintenance Supply	\$1,400.00
FROM	Sewer Plant	008-31060-602	Office Supplies	\$1,600.00
TO	Sewer Plant	008-33660-602	Repair and Maintenance Supply	\$1,600.00
FROM	Sewer Plant	008-48860-602	Inspection Fees	\$4,000.00
TO	Sewer Plant	008-33660-602	Repair and Maintenance Supply	\$4,000.00

as requested by Ralph Trevino, Water Plant 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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the following line item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata Co. Water Plant	008-31060-600	Office Supplies	\$6,500.00
TO	Zapata Co. Water Plant	008-33660-600	Repair and Maintenance Supplies	\$6,500.00
FROM	Zapata Co. Water Plant	008-31060-600	Office Supplies	\$1,500.00
TO	Zapata Co. Water Plant	008-34260-600	Water Sampling	\$1,500.00

as requested by Ralph Trevino, Water Plant 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 GARZA,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

ORDER APPROVING TO ADOPT POLICIES FOR COMPENSATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AFFECTED BY COVID-19

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to adopt policies for compensation for first responders affected by Covid-19 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.

[Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 551, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.074(A)(B)} (Personnel Matters)]

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