

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

**IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS**

Be it remembered, that on this the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 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
Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

**ABSENT:**

Jose A. Solis	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
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**VISITORS:** Nellie Trevino, Roger Miller, Delia Mendoza, Jesse Rodriguez, Sammy Luera, Julie Duran, Cynthia L. Duran, Jason Duran, Ralph Trevino, Joe Pena, Delia Mendoza, Berta G. Lopez, Javier Alonso, and Brianna Y. Rendon.

**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, COMMISSIONER COURT CAPLAIN  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Fire Chief Daniel D. Arriaga reported that the Fire Department continues to test and vaccinate.

The Fire Department conducted 190 Moderna vaccines and 766 tests. They are vaccinating Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; first, second and third doses are being administered. Testing is done on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

CVS Pharmacy, Daniel's Pharmacy, and DSHS are also providing vaccines.

Judge Rathmell reported on the Covid-19 results as follows:

1759 positive	Vaccines:
17,803 negative	12+ 1 <sup>st</sup> dose 79.49%
131 active positive	12+ 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 67.42%
44 deaths	65+ 1 <sup>st</sup> dose 86%
	65+ 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose 77.65%

Judge Rathmell added that Congressman Cuellar will be in Zapata County on Thursday to announce \$10 Million for broadband connectivity for Zapata County.

A fishing tournament will be taking place later this week. It is being sponsored by San Antonio Metro.

Nellie R. Trevino announced that a Vaccine Clinic will be hosted on Wednesday.

#### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$1,402,005.03 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 Solis, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$1,402,005.03 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 \$4,587.82 for the month of August with a year-to-date total of \$100,721.68. Tax collections at a rate of 90.19% for a total base tax collected of \$86,966.66.

#### **ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2021 AS CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve a proclamation declaring September 2021 Childhood Cancer Awareness Month 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.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF ZAPATA COUNTY HEALTH YOUTH AMBASSADORS**

Jesse Rodriguez and Sammy Luera introduced the Zapata County Health Youth Ambassadors as requested by Jesse Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW AGRILIFE EXTENSION BLT AGENT – JAVIER ALONSO**

Jesse Rodriguez, Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Agent, introduced new AgriLife Extension BLT (Better Living for Texans) Agent- Javier Alonso.

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS PRESENTED AS A FORMALITY  
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN**

To certify the order for annual compensation for County Auditor, Assistant Auditors and Court Reporters as requested by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor.

Salaries are as follows:

Triunfo Gonzalez	\$65,040
Roberta Meza-Barrera	\$36,151
Dioni Hernandez	\$31,912
Court Reporter	\$12,842

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO USE 4-H ARENA AND  
WAIVER OF FEES FOR 4-H HORSE CLUB**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request to use the 4-H Arena and to waive fees for the 4- H Horse Club as requested by Jesse Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

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

**ORDER APPROVING EARNEST MONEY CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE  
OF ADDITIONAL ACREAGE ADJACENT TO EXPANSION  
OF SAN YGNACIO LANDFILL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve earnest money contract for the purchase of additional acreage adjacent to the expansion of the San Ygnacio Landfill; 177 acres for the purchase price of \$785,000 to be funded by Certificate of Obligation, closing date is December 17, 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.

**REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF 2020 REDISTRICTING PRELIMINARY  
DRAFT REPORT  
(NO ACTION WAS TAKEN)**

Review and discuss the 2020 redistricting preliminary draft report submitted by Rolando L. Rios & Associates, PLLC as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Precinct 1. Zapata County population dropped; 2020 population is 13,889. (Full report attached for the record.)

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION FOR SPEAKING  
ENGAGEMENT BY RETIRED ICE AGENT VICTOR AVILA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve request to use Zapata County Pavilion on September 28, 2021, for a speaking engagement by retired ICE agent Victor Avila on border security as requested by 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 THE FOLLOWING SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to promote Jacqueline Rodriguez from 10-560/#6 to 10-560/#8 at \$42,519.00, starting July 3, 2021, as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr.

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 to promote Aaron Solis (Patrol Sergeant) from 10-560/#13 to 10-560/#12 at \$38,198.00, starting August 8, 2021, as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr.

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 to promote Alejandro Barrera from 10-560/#8 to 10-560/#13 at \$35,000.00, starting August 8, 2021, as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr.

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 to promote Jesus Resendez from 10-567 /#19 to 10-560/#5 at \$35,000.00, starting September 13, 2021, as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr.

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 to promote David Moya (Lieutenant Inv.) from 10-560/#9 to 10-560/#6 at \$39,550.00, starting September 13, 2021, as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr.

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 to promote Adrian Lopez (Narcotics Inv.) from 10-560/#11 to 10-560/#9 at \$39,515.00, starting September 13, 2021, as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr.

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 to promote Ramon Arambula (Special Crimes Investigator) from 10-560/#11 to 10-560/#9 at \$39,515.00, starting September 13, 2021, as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr.

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 to promote Christopher Holt (K9 Inv.) from 10-560/#15 to 10-560/#11 at \$38,198.00, starting September 13, 2021, as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr.

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 to promote Ricardo Romo (Investigator) from 10-560/#5 to 10-560/#7 at \$38,198.00, starting September 13, 2021, as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, Jr.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO COMBINE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION TO FOUR PRECINCTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve request to combine the Constitutional Amendment Election to be held November 2, 2021, to four Precincts; polling places will be at Precinct 1 – County Courthouse, Precinct 2 – Zapata County Pavilion, Precinct 3 – Community Center, and Precinct 4 - Precinct 4 Annex Building, 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 ZAPATA COUNTY AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSPORTATION POLICY STATEMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Zapata County Americans with Disabilities Act Transportation Policy Statement as requested by Berta G. Lopez, Nutrition Center Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF MINI REFRIGERATOR, MICROWAVE AND MINI-ICE MAKER FOR SAN YGNACIO AND ZAPATA WATER PLANT OFFICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of a mini refrigerator, microwave and mini-ice maker for the San Ygnacio and Zapata Water Plant Offices, for the amount of \$297.98, 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.

**ORDER APPROVING TO SOLICIT COST OF RATES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to solicit cost of rates 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.

**ORDER APPROVING GPS FLEET TRACKING SYSTEM FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER VEHICLES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a GPS fleet tracking system for water and wastewater vehicles 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.

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO TRANSFER \$8,000 FROM TOBACCO FUND TO MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve request to transfer \$8,000.00 from the Tobacco Fund to Medical Supplies (10-543-460) as requested by Chief Daniel 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 REQUEST TO USE SOFTBALL FIELD IN PRECINCT #1 FOR LITTLE LEAGUE PLAY OFFS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve request to use the Softball Field in Precinct #1 for Fall Little League and Play Offs starting on October 4, 2021, as requested by Maria Longoria, Little League Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING FIRMS OF PREMIER ENGINEERING & CARLOS COLINA-VARGAS & ASSOCIATES TO PREPARE APPLICATION(S) FOR FUNDING FOR EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNTY ARENA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the firms of Premier Engineering and Carlos Colina-Vargas & Associates to prepare application(s) for funding for expansion and improvements to the County Arena as requested by Carlos Colina Vargas, Consultant.

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

**ORDER AWARDING CONTRACT TO SOUTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SERVICES, LLC (STARS, LLC) FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to award contract to South Texas Archeological Research Services, LLC (STARS, LLC) for an archeological survey of Los Ebanos Golf Course required by TPWD Project 46091 for base price of \$12,890.00, as requested by Carlos Colina-Vargas, Consultant.

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

**ORDER AWARDING CONTRACT TO PREMIER ENGINEERING FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR FALCON LAKE RAMP IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to award contract to Premier Engineering for engineering services for the Falcon Lake Ramp Improvements TPWD grant project as requested by Carlos Colina Vargas, Consultant.

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

**ORDER AWARDING CONTRACT TO CARLOS COLINA-VARGAS & ASSOCIATES FOR MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR FALCON LAKE RAMP IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to award contract to Carlos Colina Vargas & Associates for management services for the Falcon Lake Ramp Improvements TPWD grant project.

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 transfer to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Adult Probation	10-572-330	Fuel	\$780.00
<b>TO</b>	Adult Probation	10-572-310	Supplies	\$780.00

as requested by Jennifer Lozano, Adult Probation.

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
<b>FROM</b>	Sewer Plant	008-34160-602	Chlorine and Chemicals	\$3,000.00
<b>TO</b>	Sewer Plant	008-33660-602	Repairs and Maintenance Supply	\$3,000.00

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
<b>FROM</b>	Indigent	10-640-395	Indigent Care State	\$3,000.00
<b>TO</b>	Indigent	10-640-394	Indigent Care State	\$3,000.00

as requested by Lupita Garza, Indigent 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
<b>FROM</b>	County Attorney's Office	10-475-311	Postage Expense	\$250.00
<b>TO</b>	County Attorney's Office	10-475-392	Misc./Maint. Expense	\$250.00
<b>FROM</b>	County Attorney's Office	10-475-427	Travel Expense	\$900.00
<b>TO</b>	County Attorney's Office	10-475-392	Misc./Maint. Expense	\$900.00
<b>FROM</b>	County Attorney's Office	10-475-454	Vehicle Expense	\$980.00
<b>TO</b>	County Attorney's Office	10-475-392	Misc./Maint. Expense	\$980.00
<b>FROM</b>	County Attorney's Office	10-475-462	Vehicle Expense	\$950.00
<b>TO</b>	County Attorney's Office	10-475-392	Misc./Maint. Expense	\$950.00

as requested by Said A. Figueroa, County Attorney.

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
<b>FROM</b>	Constable Pct. 4	10-45755-550	Constable Pct. 4	\$1,000.00
<b>TO</b>	Constable Pct. 4	10-43055-550	Travel Pct. 4	\$1,000.00
<b>FROM</b>	Constable Pct. 4	10-31355-550	Supplies Pct. 4	\$105.00
<b>TO</b>	Constable Pct. 4	10-43055-550	Travel Pct. 4	\$105.00
<b>FROM</b>	Constable Pct. 4	10-20555-550	Uniforms Pct. 4	\$300.00
<b>TO</b>	Constable Pct. 4	10-31355-550	Supplies Pct. 4	\$300.00

as requested by Adrian Lopez, Constable Precinct 4.

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
<b>FROM</b>	Constable Pct. 3	10-550-312	Supplies Pct. 3	\$250.00
<b>TO</b>	Constable Pct. 3	10-550-429	Travel Pct. 3	\$250.00
<b>FROM</b>	Constable Pct. 3	10-550-456	Repairs Pct. 3	\$856.00
<b>TO</b>	Constable Pct. 3	10-550-429	Travel Pct. 3	\$856.00

as requested by Erika O. Martinez, Constable Precinct 3]

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION DECLARING WEEK OF OCTOBER 18-23, 2021 AS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEEK**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, to approve proclamation declaring the week of October 18-23, 2021 as Chamber of Commerce Week in Zapata County as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Precinct 1.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF US HWY 83 FOR ZAPATA COUNTY ISD HAWK FEST PARADE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution in support of the temporary closure of US Hwy 83 for the Zapata County ISD Hawk Fest Parade on September 29, 2021 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 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**

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

37./47. To discuss Personnel issues as requested by Ralph Trevino, Water Plant Director.  
*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 Mendoza, 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.

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JOSEPH RATHMELL, COUNTY JUDGE  
OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

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