

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2022, 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 Commissioners Court

\ **VISITORS:** Ralph Trevino, Pope Gonzalez, Karran Westerman, Roger Miller, Delia Mendoza, Raymundo Del Bosque, Ramiro Hernandez, Carlos Colina-Vargas, Joseph Pena, and Monica L. Benavides.

**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 PASTOR ROGER MILLER, COMMISSIONERS COURT  
CHAPLAIN  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Judge Rathmell reported that Congressman Cuellar was here last week accompanied by IBWC officials to see when dredging would commence in Siesta Shores. IBWC equipment was brought to be used to allow better access to the water in Falcon Lake. Rain has brought up the lake about 3 feet, but it is not enough and river is still very low. Permitting is needed before dredging can begin, this should take about 3-4 weeks.

Karran Westerman reported on the Fourth of July Fireworks display. She received \$2000.00 from commissioners court and expenditures were \$2,000.32. She asked the court to consider increasing the amount by \$2,000.00 for next year. This would increase the display time.

Ms. Westerman also reported on the Zapata County Convention Visitors Bureau. Balance of \$4,156.73. They are trying to bring in a music festival. (Report attached for the record.)

Judge Rathmell commented that budget hearings would be going on this week.

Judge Rathmell gave the Covid-19 report:

+23 for a total of 2,528 positive

+48 for a total of 1,544 probable

No deaths have been reported since the last meeting.

### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices from August 5 – August 18, 2022, in the amount of \$1,274,646.08 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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve checks issued August 5 – August 18, 2022, in the amount of \$1,274,646.08 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 MINUTES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve pending minutes as presented 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 ACCEPTING COMMISSIONER JOSE A. SOLIS'S DECISION TO DECLINE APPOINTMENT TO BORDER REGION BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND APPOINT MARY PLATTNER TO SERVE AS COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE ON BORDER REGION BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER BOARD**

Motion was made by Judge Rathmell, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to accept Commissioner Jose A. Solis's decision to decline appointment to the Border Region Behavioral Health Center Board of Directors and to appoint Mary Plattner to serve as County Representative on the Border Region Behavioral Health Center Board 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.

### **NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON ITEM # 11 - TO DISCUSS THE SAFETY AND UPGRADE OF THE SHOOTING RANGE AS REQUESTED BY HON. OLGA M. ELIZONDO, COMMISSIONER PCT. 2**

Commissioner Elizondo stated that property owners have showed concerned about high power rifles being used by National Guard at shooting range; owners are requesting that the berm be higher. The county will be looking into upgrading shooting range by adding 6 – 8 additional feet.

### **REPORT ON RAM NUTRITION SERVICES FOR USDA (CACFP) CHILD ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM AND USE OF COUNTY FACILITIES FOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION**

Ramiro Hernandez reported they started the first day of school and are using the community center at Falcon and Lopeño, church at Siesta Shores and pavilion in San Ygnacio. The goal was to be self-sustained with the kitchen but it did not manifest because USDA was called and he had to defend himself. The misinformation was that Zapata County was going to be the

main sight and all funds would be coming back to Zapata County. The program is still steady, it has not grown and they are trying to pick up the pieces after Covid. The program is currently serving approximately 50 meals per day at the pavilion, Siesta Shores 60; Falcon 35; Lopeño 30; and San Ygnacio Community Center 50. Meals are served as sit-down meals and are pending USDA to allow grab and go. He talked to Berta Lopez, the director at the Nutrition Center; there are things they can do to help out. He is looking for doners for equipment and expanding nutrition center. Ram Nutrition Services and Zapata County will work on a written agreement for use of county facilities.

**ORDER APPROVING IMPOSITION OF OPERATIONAL FEES CALENDAR YEAR  
(CY 2023)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the imposition of Optional Fees Calendar Year (CY 2023) 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 TRANSFER OF SIXTO HINOJOSA, JR.  
FROM LABOR/MAINTENANCE TO GRAPPLE TRUCK OPERATOR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to transfer Sixto Hinojosa, Jr. from Labor/Maintenance from 15-013-slot #5 at \$11.74 per hour to Grapple Truck Operator 15-621-slot #3 at \$14.57 per hour 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.

**ORDER TO TRANSFER JOSE ANTONIO MARTINEZ  
FROM 15-013-SLOT #2 TO 15-013-SLOT # 5**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to transfer Jose Antonio Martinez, Labor/Maintenance from 15-013-slot #2 at \$10.00 per hour to 15-013-slot #5 at \$11.74 per hour 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.

**ORDER APPROVING TO HIRE ANGEL J. CHAPA, JR. AS  
LABOR MAINTENANCE IN SPECIAL ROAD AND BRIDGE PRECINCT 3**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to hire Angel J. Chapa Jr. as Labor/Maintenance in Special Road & Bridge Pct. 3 15-013-slot #2 at \$10.00/hour 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.

**ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF JUAN JOSE BENAVIDES  
FROM TRUCK DRIVER TO GRAPPLE TRUCK OPERATOR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to transfer Juan Jose Benavides from Truck Driver 10-004-slot #2 at \$11.48 per hour to Grapple Truck Operator 15-621-slot #6 at \$14.57 per hour 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.

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY NELLIE TREVINO, PERSONNEL DIRECTOR  
REGARDING REQUEST TO APPROVE REPAIRS TO EQUIPMENT IN  
ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Nellie Trevino, Personnel Director, regarding request to approve the repairs to equipment in the Road & Bridge Department.

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 ITEM #23 - TO REQUEST \$50,000  
ALLOCATED TO ZAPATA COUNTY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB FROM  
WINDFARM PROJECTS AS REQUESTED BY LESLIE VELA, CEO-ZAPATA  
CO. BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

**ORDER APPROVING LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS**

Motion was made by Commission Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	10-455-427	Workshop/Travel	\$450.00
TO	Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	10-455-461	Equipment Rental	\$450.00

as requested by Hon. Judge 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.

Motion was made by Commission Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Adult Probation	10-572-330	Fuel	\$750.00
TO	Adult Probation	10-452-310	Supplies	\$750.00

as requested by Monica L. Benavidez, 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 Commission Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	County Attorney	010-46247-475	Supplies	\$950.00
TO	County Attorney	010-39247-475	Misc. Maint. Exp.	\$950.00
FROM	County Attorney	010-31047-475	Postage Expense	\$150.00
TO	County Attorney	010-39247-475	Misc. Maint. Exp.	\$150.00
FROM	County Attorney	010-31147-475	Vehicle Expense	\$950.00
TO	County Attorney	010-39247-475	Misc. Maint. Exp.	\$950.00

as requested by Hon. Said Figueroa, County Attorney.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION CONFIRMING ZAPATA COUNTY'S  
COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING LOCAL 25% MATCH FOR  
FEMA GRANT FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Resolution confirming Zapata County's commitment to providing the local 25% match for the FEMA grant for the Emergency Operations Center, \$333,334.00 (25% match) to be paid out of the American Rescue Plan funds, as requested by the Office of the Governor 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.

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES AND  
REVIEW STATUS OF BOAT RAMP PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$12,000.00 payable to Premier Engineering.

Manuel Gonzalez reported on the status of boat ramp project and presented layout of plan with proposed improvements. (Attached for the record.)

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICES AND  
REVIEW STATUS OF ZAPATA COUNTY AND  
SIESTA SHORES RAW WATER INTAKE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$10,000.00 payable to Premier Engineering and invoices in the total amount of \$123,314.86 payable to Martinez Electric, Guzman Juarez Backhoe, RGV Industrial, Ferguson Materials and ISCO Pipe Supply. These invoices will be paid half by Zapata County and half by Siesta Shores, pending Memorandum of Understanding between Zapata County and Siesta Shores Raw Water Intake as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICES AND  
REVIEW STATUS OF CEMETERY SURVEY WORK**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices in the amount of \$6,692.00 payable to Premier Engineering, to be paid out of cemetery fund.

Mr. Gonzalez provided the court with a layout of Zapata County Cemetery exhibiting plotted available area, surveyed roads to be closed and additional plots. (Attached for the record.)

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICE AND  
REVIEW STATUS OF FALCON MESA PAVING PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoices in the total amount of \$22,000.00 payable to Premier Engineering for work on Falcon Mesa Paving project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that plans and specs are ready to go out for bids. Mr. Esser has already submitted for the environmental review, and we gotten comments back and should be ready to go out for bids in about 1 month. (Cardinal and Crane Streets in Falcon Mesa).

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICES AND REVIEW STATUS OF  
FLORES DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$1,500.00 payable to Guzman Juarez Backhoe and invoice in the amount of \$500.00 payable to Premier Engineering for work on Flores Drainage Improvements project and approve invoices as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

Guzman Juarez Backhoe have poured another section of the retaining wall and are lacking the center and 2 wings project is roughly 50% complete.

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

**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.

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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