

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 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 the Commissioners Court

**VISITORS:** Nellie Trevino, Roger Miller, Ralph Trevino, Aaron Cruz, Rene Pena, Daniel D. Arriaga, Delia Mendoza, Luis Gonzalez, Armando Guerra, Raymundo Del Bosque and Joe Pena.

**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, COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Fire Chief Danny Arriaga reported that he had bad news because Curative will not start testing today, the issue is there are no Covid-19 test kits available. They don't know when they will start. Daniel's Pharmacy does not have any test kits.

Judge Rathmell stated that a local church reached out and said that Vara Health came and tested a congregation of over 300 tests. They are willing to come every Saturday to test. There are agencies that want to come to the community and the county will try to accommodate them. Chief Arriaga added that these entities are being paid by the government and should not charge the community. Some entities are charging. The demand is high so we need to get as many companies as we can as long as they are approved by the state.

Judge Rathmell stated that there are local clinics in town that are testing, but there is a charge.

Commissioner Solis asked if school results reflect in the state numbers. Chief Arriaga stated that the school numbers are in fact reflected in the state numbers.

Chief Arriaga reported on the vaccine, 246 vaccines, 20 1<sup>st</sup> doses, 8 2<sup>nd</sup> doses, 3 3<sup>rd</sup> doses, and 215 boosters. CVS, DSHS, and National Guard are also vaccinating. Curative is not a rapid test, they will reach out and give the patient the results.

Judge Rathmell stated that there are many companies that are willing to come.

Commissioner Elizondo asked if these companies have to get commissioners court approval. Chief Arriaga stated that if they are going to set up in county property they have to go through commissioners court to get approval to assure that they are approved by the state and meet other requirements. If they are setting up in private property, they still have get vetted and go through Mercy Management.

Sheriff Del Bosque handed out the jail revenue report to the court. He reported income in the amount of \$579,728.00, including male and female jails.

#### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices in the amount of \$2,043,090.54 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 Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$2,043,090.54 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 \$33,593.99 for the month of December with a year-to-date total of \$51,683.17. Tax collections were \$555,438.00 with a rate of 63.0%.

#### **ORDER APPROVING HIRING OF GUILLERMO REYNA, CPA FOR PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING SERVICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the hiring of Guillermo Reyna, CPA, for professional accounting services at the rate of \$125.00 per hour for CPA and \$50.00 for accountant 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 in the following item**

11. To approve a security light on county road/Park Street in Falcon Lake Estates West as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

#### **ORDER TO APPROVE CONTRACT FOR COVID-19 TESTING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a contract for Covid-19 testing between Zapata County and St. Jude Laboratories, LLC 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL TO ADDRESS DISRUPTION/BLOCKAGE OF COUNTY EASEMENT**

**AT 1803 RAMIRENO**

Motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by County Judge to address disruption/blockage of county easement at 1803 Ramireno 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 COLLABORATION WITH EZ TESTING  
FOR COVID -19 TESTING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a collaboration with EZ testing for COVID-19 testing, pending review and approval by county attorney, as requested by Hon. Olga M. Elizondo.

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

**ORDER TO AWARD BID TO ESCAMILLA DEALERSHIP FOR  
11 PATROL UNITS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve bid award to Escamilla Dealership for 11 patrol vehicles, for the amount of \$502,000.00 for 11 unites 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.

**ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF A HGAC-CM02-21 DIESEL PUMP  
FOR WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the purchase of a HGAC CM02-21 Diesel Pump for the Wastewater Department, through the Certificate of Obligation, Series 2022, in the amount of \$43,119.50 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 PAY INCREASE FOR MARK CHAPA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a pay increase for Mark Chapa from \$10.00 per hour to \$11.02 per hour (Slot #22) Mr. Chapa has met all educational TCEQ requirements and has achieved a Class D Water Operator License. Funds to come from 80-600-227 (License Stipends) 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.

**No action was taken on the following item**

18. to collaborate with Daniel's Pharmacy for COVID-10 testing in Zapata County as requested by Fire Chief Daniel D. Arriaga.

**ORDER TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF INVOICES FOR JAIL REPAIR PROJECT  
FOR MATERIALS ON HAND**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$7,200.00 for jail repairs project for materials on hand as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

**ORDER APPROVING FUNDING ASSISTANCE TO SIESTA SHORES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve funding assistance in the amount of \$65,500.00 to Siesta Shores for material cost increase, to be paid out of the Fund Balance 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.

**No action was taken on the following item**

21. to discuss regarding rental fees as Zapata Community Center as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,  
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER APPROVING AND AWARDING PROPOSAL FOR DAILY  
OPERATION OF THE LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve and award proposal for the daily operation of the Los Ebanos Golf Course to Andres Omar Gonzalez, for one year with the option to renew, as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

*Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney).*

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

**No action was taken in the following item**

23. Personnel matters regarding Environmental Department as requested by Nellie R. Trevino, Personnel Director.

*Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney).*

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE TDHCA COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITY -EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE VEHICLE FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Resolution authorizing the submission of the TDHCA Community Resiliency Program Grant Application Public Service Activity -Emergency Medical Service Vehicle for Zapata County Fire Department and Ambulance Service, with a bid in the amount of \$161,962.00. The Resolution designates Joe Rathmell, Zapata County Judge, as the Authorizing Official, and the Signatory Agent of the Application – Zapata County for all documents related to application and contract. The grant is administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (CDBG-CARES Act, as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting LLC.

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