

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 25th of April 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: Nellie R. Treviño, Ramon E. Montes, Roger Miller, Ralph Treviño, Dr. Thomas Galliguez, Debbie Esser, Carl Esser, Calixto Rodriguez, Lynna Rodriguez, Jennifer Rodriguez, Carlos Alcocer, Delia Mendoza, Manuel Gonzalez, Ray Del Bosque, Daniel D. Arriaga, and Joseph Peña.

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

Commissioner Solis together with Zapata County News held an Easter egg hunt. It was a great success; he thanked Nereida Garza, a reporter with Zapata County News for her assistance. Judge Rathmell commented that the parks were filled to capacity in celebration of Easter. Karran Westerman thanked the court for the use of the community center for the JROTC event.

Judger Rathmell reported on Covid-results:
2,103 total positive cases with an increase of 14
2,188 probables
5+ 1st dose 76%
5+ fully vaccinated 65%
65+ 1st dose 91.43%
65+ fully vaccinated 82%

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices in the amount of \$1,098,157.82 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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve checks issued in the amount of \$1,098,157.82 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.

NO ONE PRESENT FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEM

8. Presentation for Border Colonias Housing Rehab Program to Neighbor Works Laredo as requested by Judge Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION HONORING CENTENARIAN JUANITA FIGUEROA ON HER 103rd BIRTHDAY

Presentation of Proclamation Honoring Centenarian Juanita Figueroa on her 103rd Birthday as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

PRESENTATION ON SURGICAL SERVICES TO COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND PROSPECTIVE URGENT CARE

Dr. Thomas Galliguez, MD CEO – Laredo Surgical Center gave a presentation on providing surgical services to county employees and to explore a prospective urgent care clinic.

PRESENTATION BY ESSER & COMPANY

A check presentation was made by Esser & Company recognizing Zapata County Commissioners Court \$350,000.00 TxCDBG Community Development Fund CDV21-0307 Contract Award for Street Improvement for Cardinal and Crane Streets. This project may be used as model for advertising and promoting community development, as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

PRESENTATION BY ESSER & COMPANY

A check presentation was made by Esser & Company recognizing Zapata County Commissioners Court \$349,837.92 CDBG Community Resiliency Program Award from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the purchase of 2 new ambulances. Zapata County ranked #4 out of 42 applicants, as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

ORDER APPROVING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FROM MANUEL GONZALEZ PREMIER ENGINEERING FOR ZAPATA COUNTY TXCDBG CDV21-0307 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve professional engineering services agreement from Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering for Zapata County TxCDBG CDV21-0307 Street Improvement Project for Cardinal and Crane Streets, fees to paid out of grant, 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 PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION SERVICES
AGREEMENT FROM CARL ESSER, ESSER & COMPANY CONSULTING LLC FOR
ZAPATA COUNTY TXCDBG CDV21-0307 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve professional administrations services agreement from Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting LLC for Zapata County TxCDBG CDV21-0307 Street Improvement Project for Cardinal and Crane Streets, fees to be paid out of grant, 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 PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION SERVICES
AGREEMENT FROM CARL ESSER, ESSER & COMPANY CONSULTING LLC FOR
ZAPATA COUNTY CDBG COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROGRAM AWARD**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve professional administrations services agreement from Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting LLC for Zapata County CDBG Community Resiliency Program Award, fees to paid out of grant, 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 ZAPATA COUNTY TXCDBG CDV 21-0307 CIVIL RIGHTS
RESOLUTION COMPLIANCE ATTACHMENTS FOR ZAPATA COUNTY TXCDBG
CDV21-307 STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Zapata County TxCDBG CDV 21-0307 Civil Rights Resolution and Compliance Attachments for the Zapata County TxCDBG CDV21-0307 Street Improvements Project 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 TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FORM 1027
SECTION 3 GOAL AND CONCEPTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve Texas Department of Agriculture Form 1024 Section 3 Goal and Concepts as required for the TxCDBG Zapata County's CDV21-0307 Street Improvement Project 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 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATION
FUNDING EXEMPT LEVEL OF REVIEW FOR ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY
RESILIENCY PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Environmental Review for Administration Funding Exempt Level of Review for Zapata County Community Resiliency Program for ambulance and administration 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 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR PURCHASE FUNDING EXEMPT LEVEL OF REVIEW FOR PURCHASE FUNDING EXEMPT LEVEL OF REVIEW FOR ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Environmental Review for Purchase Funding Exempt Level of Review for Zapata County Community Resiliency Program 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 SUBMISSION OF PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST TO CONGRESSMAN CUELLAR FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIRE STATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve submission of a project funding request to Congressman Cuellar for the construction of a new Fire Station for Zapata County, 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 PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING REQUEST BUDGET FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve proposed Congressional Funding Request Budget for Zapata County Fire Department Station 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 AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH TEXAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND ZAPATA COUNTY FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD WEATHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve an agreement between the South Texas Development Council and Zapata County for the Low-income Household Water Assistance Program 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 REDUCTION OF LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIRED TO LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND MERIT ENERGY TO APPRAISED VALUE OF PROPERTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve liability insurance required to the lease agreement between Zapata County & Merit Energy to appraised value of property, 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 EXTENSION OF RAILS OUTSIDE COURTHOUSE FOR \$1,920.00 WITH ADVANCE OF PAYMENT FOR MATERIALS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the extension of the rails outside the Courthouse for \$1,920.00 with an advance payment \$1,200.00 for materials 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 ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS REGARDING MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION OF FIRE HYDRANTS OPERATING UNDER ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS SERVICE AREA AND REQUIRE MONTHLY REPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Zapata County Waterworks procedures and protocols regarding the maintenance and inspection of fire hydrants operating under Zapata County Waterworks service area, and require monthly report, 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 REQUEST FOR A WRITTEN REPORT FROM ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS MANAGER EXPLAINING FAILURE OF SEVERAL FIRE HYDRANTS DURING RECENT HOUSE FIRE ON 1605 MIER IN MEDINA ADDITION SUBDIVISION

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request for a written report from Zapata County Waterworks manager explaining the failure of several fire hydrants during a recent house fire on 1605 Mier in the Medina Addition Subdivision 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 AGREEMENT WITH IDOCKET.COM LLC FOR CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY COURT TO LICENSE JUDGES BENCH SOFTWARE FOR OPERATION LONE STAR

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve an agreement with iDocket.com LLC for the Constitutional County Court to license the Judges Bench software for Operation Lone Star 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 LOCAL ORDER OF SPECIAL ELECTION FOR MAY 7, 2022 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION AS ORDERED BY GOVERNOR

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Garza, to approve a local order of Special Election for the May 7, 2022 Constitutional Amendment Election as ordered by the governor 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 COMMISSIONER ELIZONDO REGARDING USE OF FAIRGROUNDS FOR BOXING EVENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to table request by Commissioner Elizondo regarding use of the Fairgrounds for a boxing event to be held by Alcocer Entertainment.

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

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF TIMERS FOR SPRINKLER SYSTEM FOR \$2,964.44

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the installment of timers for the sprinkler system for \$2,964.44, to be paid from Certificate of Obligation Series 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 all members of the Court.

ORDER APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH EDMUNDS GOVTECH FINANCIAL SOFTWARE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve agreement with Edmunds GovTech Financial software as requested by Hon. Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer. Cost for conversion is \$54,650 and annual rate of \$28,150.00, to be paid out of professional services.

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

ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER OF \$30,000 FROM TOBACCO FUND TO REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE (10543-457)

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the transfer of \$30,000.00 from the Tobacco Fund to Repairs and Maintenance (10543-457) 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 TO OPEN AND POST BID REQUESTS FOR REPAIRS ON ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS TANKS TOWERS AND VESSELS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to open and post bid requests for repairs on Zapata County Waterworks Tanks Towers and Vessels 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 ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND C.T. BRANNON CORPORATION FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES AT ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, approving to enter into an agreement between Zapata County and C. T Brannon Corporation for engineering services at the Zapata County Airport, pending review and approval by County Attorney, as requested by Ramon Montes, Airport Manager.

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

ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF ZAPATA FEED AND RANCH SUPPLIES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment for Zapata Feed & Ranch Supplies in the amount of \$3,392.00 for Vat 3 Materials 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 PROPOSAL FROM SCS ENGINEERS FOR AERIAL SERVICES FOR SAN YGNACIO LANDFILL

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve proposal from SCS Engineers for Aerial Services for the San Ygnacio Landfill. Total cost amount of \$16,000.00 is requested from Certificate of Obligation Series 2021 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 HOSTING AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH NET DATA CORPORATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve hosting and service agreement with Net Data Corporation 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 INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN SULPHUR SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT, FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND ZAPATA COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve Inter-Local Agreement between Sulphur Springs Police Department, Franklin County Sheriff's Office and Zapata County 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 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF US HWY 83 TO HOST ZAPATA RYDERZ 2ND ANNUAL CYCLE DE MAYO EVENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the temporary closure of US HWY 83 to host the Zapata Ryderz 2nd Annual Cycle de Mayo event on May 07, 2022 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.

**ORDER APPROVING TO KEEP EXISTING EASEMENT ON
FLORES SHORES DRIVE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve existing easement on Falcon Shores Drive and keep at 20 feet, 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.

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A FY2023 COMMUNITY
PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST WITH CONGRESSMAN HENRY CUELLAR'S
OFFICE FOR NEW FIRE STATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a resolution supporting a FY2023 Community Project funding request with Congressman Henry Cuellar's office for a new fire station 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 TXDOT RESOLUTION FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY CLOSURE

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve TxDOT Resolution for Right of Way Closure 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.

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