

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 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 R. Trevino, Roger Miller, Joyce Currington, Ralph Trevino, Jesus Hinojosa, and Elizabeth Alonzo-Villarreal.

**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**

Judge Rathmell announced that there are programs available to assist ranchers with the drought condition. The farm service agency has livestock assistance program that is helpful with all spending on feed and hay, the program is ongoing and easy to apply.

He added that the lake level is at the 259-foot mark. It is a very serious situation.

Commissioner Elizondo announced that USDA is offering grant funds for home repairs. Sixty applications have been filled out and 17 have already been approved.

Delia Mendoza announced that qualifications have changed for applications for assistance with delinquent taxes. A property owner can apply if taxes are owed from 2016 – 2021. The judges office, library and a person at tax office is assisting with the applications for residents. So far \$20,000 have been collected.

Judge Rathmell reported on Covid-19, as follows:

25 additional Moderna vaccines were administered.

Curative will no longer be testing, last day was May 6, 2022. Fire department will continue testing.

CVS is still providing vaccines. National Guard will be at community center Tuesday only, but will demobilize on May 18, 2022. DHS is also providing vaccines.

### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from April 22 – May 5, 2022, in the amount of \$328,338.03 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 Mendoza, to approve checks issued from April 22 – May 5, 2022, in the amount of \$328,338.03 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 \$9,100.21 for the month of April with a year-to-date total of \$91,609.16. Net tax collections were \$230,121.24 with a rate of 87.45%.

### **UPDATE ON 2021 TXDOT CTIF PAVING NOTICE TO PROCEED**

Over \$200,000.00 were allocated for the 2021 TxDOT CTIF paving project. Notice to Proceed was received. All projects have been selected; three of the precincts need prep work; they will be milled and prepared. One precinct needs curb and gutter and will require an outside contractor. The other 3 will be done with county crews. 2<sup>nd</sup> street will require milling; precinct 2 Miraflores, 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Street will be milled and reset. Equipment will need to be rented; paving machine will cost approximately \$2,025 per week/\$6,045.00 per month. The project will start with Pelican and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. No report was provided for the record.

### **PRESENTATION FOR BORDER COLONIAS HOUSING REHAB PROGRAM FOR NEIGHBOR WORKS LAREDO**

Elizabeth Villarreal gave a presentation for Border Colonias Housing Rehab Program for Neighbor Works Laredo. Their main focus is home ownership; however, they offer various counseling options including foreclosure prevention classes, credit improvement program, home ownership counseling, rental options, among other counseling services. They provide County employees with affordable small dollar loans through payroll deduction. They also have online education that teaches consumers about the homeownership process and follow-up counseling services that prepare first time homebuyers for the responsibility of homeownership. No report was provided for the record.

### **PRESENTATION ON MHP SALUD**

Erika Sanchez, Community Health Worker III, gave a presentation on MHP Salud. MHP Salud bases its work on close collaboration with Community Health Workers (CHW) who improve the health of their communities with community-based health education and activities. Community Health Worker initiatives provide health education, case management, and application assistance to members of their communities. They help consumers submit applications for insurance coverage, financial assistance, Medicaid, CHIP, and QHP's. They offer virtual and in person appointments. CHW's lead outreach and education activities directly in the neighborhoods where underserved individuals live, work, and play. By removing barriers that prevent access to care, they ensure that communities receive the services that are essential to improving health outcomes. They also assist with 1095A tax reconciliation. No report provided for the record.

### **ORDER APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER COASTAL BEND HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER AND ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Memorandum of Agreement between Texas A&M University Health Science Center Coastal Bend Health Education Center and Zapata County to provide medication assistance services to the uninsured residents of Zapata County, rental space will be at the Zapata County Family Clinic, approval is pending review and approval by County Attorney, 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 DESIGNATION OF SLOT #3 AND SLOT #6 IN ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT AS GRAPPLE TRUCK OPERATION POSITIONS TO FACILITATE EACH PRECINCT HAVING ITS OWN ASSIGNED OPERATION AND EQUIPMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to designation of slot #3 and Slot #6 in Road and Bridge Department as Grapple Truck operator positions to facilitate each precinct having its own assigned operator & equipment 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 SAN YGNACIO POOL REPAIR INVOICE FROM LAREDO SHADES, LLC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the San Ygnacio Pool repair invoice from Laredo Shades, LLC, in the amount of \$5,700.00, to be paid out of non-department – building and maintenance, 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 PURCHASE AND PAYMENT OF AUTO SEAL MACHINE FOR TREASURER'S OFFICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the purchase and payment of an Auto Seal Machine for the Treasurer's Office, for the amount of \$5,870.00 (Litho Business Forms, Inc.) to be paid from non-department – supplies, 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 PURCHASE OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 1**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of surveillance cameras for \$9,532.82 for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, to be paid out of Justice of the Peace Technology Fund, as requested by Hon. Judge 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 TO HIRE CARLOS LOPEZ IN SLOT #7 – ZAPATA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve hiring of Carlos Lopez on Slot #7 at \$12.24 an hour as a heavy equipment operator at the Zapata County Environmental Department San Ygnacio landfill as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Department.

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

**ORDER APPROVING 2023 TCDRS PLAN ASSESSMENT AND CONTRIBUTION RATE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the 2023 TCDRS Plan Assessment and contribution rate as requested by Nellie R. 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 BEGIN ENGINEERING STUDY FOR PURPOSE OF WATER RECYCLING FROM ZAPATA COUNTY SEWER PLANT TO ZAPATA COUNTY WATER PLANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to begin engineering study for the purpose of water recycling from Zapata County Sewer Plant to Zapata County Water Plant 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 HIRE ISELA CHAPA AS CLERK 1 AT ZAPATA COUNTY WATER PLANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve hiring of Isela Chapa as Clerk 1 (Slot 29) at \$10.00 per hour effective May 2, 2022 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 TRANSFER OF JOSE PEÑA AS CLERK 1 TO ZAPATA COUNTY SEWER PLANT TREATMENT OPERATOR TRAINEE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve transfer of Jose Peña, Clerk 1 (Slot 29) at \$10.00 per hour to Sewer Plant Treatment Operator Trainee (Slot 7) at \$10.00 per hour effective May 2, 2022 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 OF \$2,000.00 FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY ON JULY 4, 2022**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request of \$2,000 for the fireworks display on Monday, July 4, 2022 as requested by Karran Westerman, Zapata County News.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PRIVATE BID FOR PROPERTY IN SIESTA SHORES SUBDIVISION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a private bid, in the amount of \$2,043, for a property in the Siesta Shores Subdivision as requested by Jaime E Gonzalez, Linebarger, Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLC.

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 Solis, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>LINE-ITEM</b>	<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>FROM</b>	Zapata County Public Library	10-650-427	Travel	\$500.00
<b>TO</b>	Zapata County Public Library	10-650-463	Books	\$500.00

as requested by Amalia G. Navarro, Librarian.

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 approve the following line item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>LINE-ITEM</b>	<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>FROM</b>	Auditor’s Office	10-495-310	Office Supplies	\$500.00
<b>TO</b>	Auditor’s Office	10-495-427	Travel	\$500.00

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 RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES FOR 2021 TEXAS CDBG PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER CFC21-0191**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve resolution to designate authorized signatories for the 2021 Texas CDBG program grant agreement number CFC21-0191 as requested by Christina Wirsching, Grant Works PM.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION ADOPTING REQUIRED CDBG CIVIL RIGHTS POLICIES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a resolution adopting required CDBG Civil Rights Policies as requested by Christina Wirsching, Grant Works PM.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a proclamation proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month. This proclamation will help to fulfill Fair Housing Activity obligations as required by the grant as requested by Christina Wirsching, Grant Works PM.

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