

**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 June 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, Ralph Trevino, Joseph Pena, Delia Mendoza and Henry Enns.

**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 commented that this meeting is taking place today instead of the normal Monday meeting because the Judge and Commissioners will be attending their annual meeting.

Judge Rathmell stated that the last few weeks have been very busy with the rainstorm that occurred almost 3 weeks ago. Some precincts were affected with flooding with water up to 13'. He commended the first responders and volunteers who came forward and assisted with water rescues.

Approximately 20 homes were severely damaged, one manufactured home was swept away and many vehicles were lost.

Rain was beneficial to farmers and ranchers. Falcon Lake came up about two feet. The damages will not be covered by FEMA due to a high threshold. Those that were affected were housed at hotels because county buildings were being used for the ongoing election.

Commissioner Garza added that there were no fatalities, however, nurse Jeannie Granger Cooper, who was also a volunteer was available and assisted an injured person.

Commissioner Elizondo commented that the grapple trucks are in and Commissioners need to decide who is getting the equipment. Commissioner Garza will get the old grapppler and remaining commissioners will draw to see who gets the two new grapplers. One grapppler is being repaired. Commissioner Garza will share the old grapppler with the other commissioner precincts.

Judge Rathmell reported on Covid-19, as follows:

No new Covid-19 cases were reported. Home test results are not being reported.

3 probable cases.

### **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices from May 20 – June 9, 2022, in the amount of \$1,456,296.96, including additional invoice in the amount of \$4,658.47 for grapple trucks 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 May 20 – June 9, 2022, in the amount of \$1,456,296.96, including additional invoice in the amount of \$4,658.47 for grapple trucks 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 \$16,934.04 for the month of May with a year-to-date total of \$108,543.20. Net tax collections were \$189,386.44 with a rate of 88.35%.

Mrs. Mendoza reported on the Texas Home Owners Fund which was established through the American Rescue Plan. Eighty-seven applications have been submitted, 37 have been approved and some have been denied. Taxes from 2016 have to be paid in order to qualify. A total of \$82,856.84 were paid through May; \$41,303.98 have been paid in June for a total of \$123,873.82

### **FIRE HYDRANT REPORT BY RALPH TREVIÑO**

Ralph Treviño, Water Plant Director, reported on the Fire Hydrants. Fire Hydrants have been inspected; there are a total of 213 in Zapata and 21 in San Ygnacio all are in working order, except for 5 that have faulty parts and will be repaired as soon as parts are received. Report attached for the record.

### **ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT TO OSO BLANCO LODGE FOR PROVIDING SHELTER TO FLOOD VICTIMS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment of \$782.63 to Oso Blanco Lodge for providing shelter to flood victims, pending local declaration of disaster, 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 HIRING OF PREMIER ENGINEERING TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDY ON RECYCLING WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve hiring of Premier Engineering to conduct a feasibility study on recycling water management

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 PAYMENT FOR ZAPATA COUNTY LIBRARY BIBLIONIX SOFTWARE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of \$1,700.00 for the Zapata County Library Biblionix Software, to be paid out of non-department -computer program fund (010-33540-409, 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 DENYING REQUEST BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA TO TRANSFER ENDY MELGOZA TO GRAPPLE OPERATOR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to deny request by Commissioner Mendoza to transfer Endy Melgoza to Grapple Operator, 15-621-slot #3 at \$15.07 per hour from 15-621- slot #8.

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

**ORDER DENYING REQUEST BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA TO TRANSFER ALFONSO ARAIZA TO GRAPPLE OPERATOR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to deny request by Commissioner Mendoza to transfer Alfonso Araiza to Grapple Operator, 15-621- slot #6 at \$14.48 per hour from 15-621- slot #9 as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct .1.

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

**ORDER APPROVING FUNDING FOR PURCHASE OF SEWER FITTINGS TO BE INSTALLED ON WEST 27<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE AND HWY 83**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve funding for the purchase of sewer fittings to be installed on West 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Hwy 83 in the amount of \$3,057.49 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 PAYMENT FOR PARTS TO REPAIR SPRINKLER SYSTEM FOR SAN YGNACIO PLAZA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of \$1,568.32 for parts to repair the sprinkler system for the San Ygnacio Plaza 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 OF TURF TIGER 61” VELOCITY PLUS MOWER AND TURF TIGER 72” VELOCITY PLUS MOWER FOR PRECENT 2**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of 1 Turf Tiger 61" Velocity Plus Mower and 1 Turf Tiger 72" Velocity Plus Mower for Precinct 2 in the amount of \$28,546.00 from the Certificate of Obligation Series 2021 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 ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONER NORBERTO GARZA FROM SERVING ON ZAPATA COUNTY APPRAISAL BOARD**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to accept the resignation of Commissioner Norberto Garza from serving on the Zapata County Appraisal Board. Resignation to be effective May 23, 2022 as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner Precinct 4.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF TURF TIGER 61” VELOCITY PLUS MOWER FOR PRECINCT 4**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the purchase of a Turf Tiger 61" Velocity Plus Mower for Precinct 4 in the amount of \$17,182.00 from the Certificate of Obligation Series 2021 as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner Precinct 4.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT FOR LIFT STATIONS FROM CERTIFICATE OF OBLIGATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment for lift stations from the Certificate of Obligation Series 2021 to Sable Pump Repair and Machine Shop LLC in the amount of \$7,094.00, and to Martinez Electrical Services LLC, in the amount of \$5,841.12, 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.

**STATUS REPORT ON FALCON MESA PAVING PROJECT AND APPROVAL OF INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment in the amount of \$22,000.00 to Premier Engineering as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Mr. Gonzalez reported that paving plans are ready. Easements are being identified and will try to acquire lands that are undeveloped and are in drainage ways. Lands may be designated as park area. No report was submitted for the record.

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

## STATUS REVIEW ON COLONIA DRAINAGE PROJECT

Mr. Manuel Gonzalez of Premier Engineering gave a status review on the Colonia Drainage Project. He is working with Grant Works on getting a standard form for easement acquisition, and because the county is getting funding a particular language needs to be included. Some property owners have been approached and they are willing to work with the county to donate easements for the drainage improvement. There is an existing 15” sewer line on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Project will go 1 block North of Hwy 16 and 4 blocks South of Hwy 16 which is the last block on Costa Rica Subdivision. Border Region has cleared a section of property. Only the bottom of the drainage project will be concrete to keep vegetation from growing. Some of the willow trees will be saved. No report was submitted for the record.

Commissioner Mendoza stated that he put in a request with TxDOT and they will be here today cleaning the sidewalks on Hwy 16 due to residual debris from heavy rains.

## ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION TO TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR 2022 TXCDBG COLONIA FUND CONSTRUCTION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AND DESIGNATE COUNTY JUDGE AND COUNTY CLERK AS COUNTY’S AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES FOR GRANT RELATED ACTIVITIES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the 2022 TxCDBG Colonia Fund Construction Block Grant Program and designate the County Judge and County Clerk as the County's authorized signatories for grant related activities as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting LLC.

## ORDER APPROVING AGREEMENT BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS FOR 2022 TXCDBG COLONIA FUND CONSTRUCTION GRANT APPLICATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve agreement between Zapata County and Zapata County Waterworks for the 2022 TxCDBG Colonia Fund Construction Grant Application 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.

## ORDER APPROVING LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfer, with corrected amount, to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINE/ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	County Judge	010-46240-400	Rentals/Maintenance	\$50.00
<b>TO</b>	County Judge	010-42740-400	Workshop/Travel	\$50.00

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINEITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Commissioner Precinct 1	10-001-392	Parks Precinct 1 Supplies	\$282.00
<b>TO</b>	Commissioner Precinct 1	10-001-427	Travel Precinct	\$282.00

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINEITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Commissioner Precinct 2	10-002-392	Parks Precinct 2 Supplies	\$98.00
<b>TO</b>	Commissioner 2 Precinct	10-002-428	Travel Precinct 2	\$98.00

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINEITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Commissioner Precinct 4	010-31000-004	Supplies Precinct 4	\$1,966.42
<b>TO</b>	Commissioner Precinct 4	010-43000-004	Travel Precinct 4	\$1,966.42

as requested by Hon. Norberto Garza, Commissioner 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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs.

	DEPARTMENT	LINEITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-310	Officer Supplies	\$1,200.00
<b>TO</b>	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-427	Travel Exp & Workshop	\$1,200.00
<b>FROM</b>	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-312	Communications & Programs	\$200.00
<b>TO</b>	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-427	Travel Expenses & Workshops	\$200.00
<b>FROM</b>	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-313	Membership Dues	\$400.00
<b>TO</b>	Texas A&M Agrilife Ext.	10-665-427	Travel Expenses & Workshop	\$400.00

as requested by Jesus F. Rodriguez, Agrilife Extension Agent

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 LOCAL BORDER SECURITY  
PROGRAM FY 2023**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve a Resolution in support of Local Border Security Program FY-2023, submitted for \$75,000.00, as requested by Sheriff Raymundo Del Bosque, County Sheriff.

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 Elizondo, 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