

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023, 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
Pedro Morales	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Jose A. Solis	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Roberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

**VISITORS:** Roger Miller, Baldemar Montes, Jorge Montes III, Amparo Montes Gutierrez, Ileana Montes, Edna M. Montes, Karran Westerman, Olga M. Bruni, Veronica Alanis, Ruben J. Cardenas, Patricia A. Gonzalez, Mike Chapa, Joseph Peña, and Manuel Gonzalez, Jr.

**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 COMMISSIONERS COURT  
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER, COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION HONORING JORGE AND EDNA  
MONTES ON 70 YEARS OF MARRIAGE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve proclamation honoring Jorge & Edna Montes on 70 years of marriage 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.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Solis announced that Congressman Cuellar was here to award \$1.1M for Fire Department.

Judge Rathmell commented that a ceremony was held at cemetery honoring Civil War Veteran Matias Salinas.

The County Fair is coming up and trail ride is on March 1.

Commissioner Morales stated that the Winter Texas event was a great success.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Hon. J.P. Bruni addressed the Court and stated that she was working on a Warrant Round up. She added that Justices of the Peace now magistrate women pursuant to Operation Lone Star. She is requesting purchase of printer and scanner out of computer non-department line item.

## **ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from January 6 – January 19, 2023 in the amount of \$3,304,323.637, plus an \$3,600 for Mr. Refugio Garcia for airport fencing, and removal of \$6,500.00 duplicate payment, 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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from January 6 – January 19, 2023 in the amount of \$3,304,323.637, plus an \$3,600 for Mr. Refugio Garcia for airport fencing, and removal of \$6,500.00 duplicate payment, 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.

## **MOTION DIES ON REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL TO AMEND ZAPATA COUNTY BUDGET TO REFLECT SALARY INCREASE OF EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION LONE STAR**

Motion was made by Judge Rathmell to amend Zapata County budget to reflect salary increase of employees participating in Operation Lone Star. Motion dies for lack of a second.

## **ORDER APPROVING TO ISSUE REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFPs) FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQs) FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO 2023 COLONIA FUND-CONSTRUCTION (CFC) ADMINISTERED BY TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (TDA)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to issue requests for proposals (RFPs) for administrative services and requests for qualifications (RFQs) for engineering services related to the 2023 Colonia Fund-Construction (CFC) administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) 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 TERMINATION OF CONTRACT WITH INDIGENT HEALTH CARE SOFTWARE (IHS) USED BY INDIGENT HEALTH CARE PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve termination of contract with Indigent Health Care Software (IHS) used by the Indigent Health Care 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 TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR SLOT #7 AT  
LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to accept applications for slot #7 at \$10.00 at the Los Ebanos Golf Course 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 TO REQUEST QUALIFICATIONS FOR GRANT WRITER /  
GRANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING  
COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE STATION OUT  
OF USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to request Qualifications for Grant Writer / Grant Administrator for the Congressionally Directed Spending Community Facilities (CDSCF) Grant for the Zapata County Fire Station out of USDA Rural Development, 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 THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

17. To approve payment of two change orders to the San Ygnacio Water Plant Fence Project that include office improvements, change orders total \$6,550.00 as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

**ORDER APPROVING TO PAY REP & P FOR WORK DONE AT LOS EBANOS GOLF  
COURSE INCLUDING REPAIRS TO MAIN WATER PUMP AND INSTALLATION OF  
MASTER PUMP SWITCH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to pay REP & P Inc. for work done at the Los Ebanos Golf Course, including repairs to the main water pump and the installation of a master pump switch, total material, and labor equals \$4,150.00 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.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT TO VERONICA GUERRA FOR  
WINDSHIELD REPAIRS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of \$312.48 to Veronica Guerra for windshield repairs 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 PURCHASE OF PRINTER AND SCANNER ONLY FOR  
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT #2 - ZAPATA COUNTY OFFICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve purchase of printer and scanner (excluding monitor) for Justice of the Peace, Precinct #2

- Zapata Office for \$1,376.00 to be paid out of non-department – computer line-item as requested by Hon. Judge Olga Bruni, Justice of the Peace Pct. 2.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES TO MARTINEZ ELECTRICAL SERVICES FOR REPAIRS DONE AT ZAPATA COUNTY ARENA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoice of \$1,591.17 to Martinez Electrical Services for repairs done at the Zapata County Arena as requested by Hon. Pedro Morales, Commissioner Pct. 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 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR SIESTA SHORES PARK**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of playground equipment for the Siesta Shores Park for \$85,138.00 from Fun Abounds. To be paid from monies allocated from Hilcorp employee donations 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 PAYMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO CT BRANNON CORPORATION FOR AIRPORT FUEL FARM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the payment for Professional Services to the CT Brannon Corporation for the Airport Fuel Farm project 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 DENYING REQUEST BY NELLIE TREVIÑO TO APPROVE QUOTE FOR PENDING PURCHASE THROUGH CERTIFICATE OF OBLIGATION, SERIES 2021 DUE TO NEW QUOTE PROVIDED FOR NEW 2023 PURCHASE PRICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to deny request by Nellie Treviño, to approve the quote for pending purchase through the Certificate of Obligation, Series 2021, due to a new quote being provided for new 2023 purchase price 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 THREE-YEAR RENEWAL WITH SHI GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS, INC. FOR COUNTY NETWORK FIREWALL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a three-year renewal with SHI Government Solutions, Inc. for county network firewall. Renewal includes equipment, firewall, software, content filtering, VPN software updates, licenses, and support for a total cost of \$14,616.00 as requested by Rene Garcilazo, IT 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:**

26. To approve Cardinal and Crane Street invoices to be paid out of County Funds as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICES FOR UTILITY RELOCATION FOR FALCON MESA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to pay invoice for \$27,351.66 payable to Ferguson for materials, and invoice for \$5,000.00 payable to Mouflon Oilfield Services for work performed on utility relocation for Falcon Mesa and approve invoices 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 USDA DOCUMENTS FOR RAW WATER INTAKE GRANT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve USDA Documents for Raw Water Intake Grant Project as follows:

- Grant Resolution
- RD 400-1 Equal Opportunity Agreement
- RD 400-4 Assurance Agreement
- List of current Commissioners Court Members
- Copy of current County Insurance Policy
- SF 3881 Ach Vendor/Miscellaneous Payment Enrollment Form

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 ADVERTISEMENT, PLANS, AND SPECS TO BID OUT ZAPATA COUNTY CFC21-0191 NORTHWEST ZAPATA COLONIA PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve advertisement, plans, and specs to bid out Zapata County CFC21-0191 Northwest Zapata Colonia 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 ITEMS:**

30. to review and consider paving street sections Falcon Lane from Cuellar Lane to Grande Lane 510' x 24' in Siesta Shores as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

31. To review and consider paving street sections Falcon Lane from Carrizo Lane to Juan Lane South half of street 550' x 12' in Siesta Shores as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

32. To review and consider paving street sections Davis Lane from Monterrey Lane to Weslaco Lane 755' x 24' as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

**ORDER APPROVING MONEY FOR KIDS' PROJECTS FROM WINDFARM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve money for the kids' projects from the windfarm as requested by Rafael Garcia, Zapata County Fair Association.

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

**ORDER APPROVING STREET LIGHTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the following street-lights:

- a. 914 Bravo Street
- b. 20th & Kennedy
- c. 16th & Bravo

as requested by Hon. Pedro Morales, Commissioner Pct. 2.

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 ZAPATA COUNTY CATTLE RANCHERS CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL WATER BOUNDARY COMMISSION GRAZING LEASES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution in support of Zapata County Cattle Ranchers continuing International Water Boundary Commission Grazing leasing as requested by Hon. Joseph 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 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE SOUTH TEXAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND APPOINTMENT OF JUDGE RATHMELL AND COMMISSIONER ROBERT GARZA AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNTY OF ZAPATA, TEXAS TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF STDC FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2022 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 AND PAYMENT OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve resolution to support and participate in the South Texas Development Council and appointment of Judge Rathmell and Commissioner Robert Garza (to replace Retired Com. Norberto Garza) as representatives from the County of Zapata Texas, to serve on the Board of Directors of STDC for the period of October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023 and for the payment of annual membership dues 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 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLOSING STATE  
RIGHT OF WAY FOR ANNUAL ZAPATA COUNTY FAIR PARADE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve resolution in support of closing state right of way for the annual Zapata County Fair Parade as requested by Joe Pena, Zapata Co. Chamber of Commerce.

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 MENDOZA,  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,  
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER AUTHORIZING COUNTY JUDGE TO ENTER INTO A 312 TAX  
ABATEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ALTAMIRA SOLAR, LLC, DESERT VINE  
SOLAR, LLC AND REDONDA SOLAR, LLC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to authorize County Judge to enter into a 312 Tax Abatement agreement with Altamira Solar, LLC., Desert Vine Solar, LLC., and Redonda Solar, 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.

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

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mendoza, 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