

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 11th day of September 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 M. Morales	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Jose A. Solis	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Roberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	Zapata County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

**VISITORS:** Delia Mendoza, Roger Miller, Veronica Alanis, Daniel D. Arriaga, Jesse Rodriguez, Raymundo Del Bosque, Joseph Peña, Angie Osterman, Alex C., Leonardo Gonzalez, Rebecca Gutierrez, Olga Bruni, Patricia A. Gonzalez, and Becky Gutierrez.

**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 HON. MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN, COUNTY CLERK AND  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF COMMISSIONERS COURT**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Solis reported that Precinct 3 will start working on Ebanos Road today.

Rebecca Gutierrez invited the public to put up booths at the 1st Annual Spooktacular Monster Mash on October 4 at the community center.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from August 25 – September 7, 2023 in the amount of \$628,086.44 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 Solis, 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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve checks issued from August 25 – September 7, 2023 in the amount of \$628,086.44 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 \$6,486.41 for the month of August with a year-to-date total of \$91,490.72. Net collections were \$163,425.84 with tax collections at a rate of 89.62%.

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

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

**ORDER APPROVING 25 YEAR CONTRACT WITH AEP TEXAS, INC.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a 25-year contract with AEP Texas, Inc, its successors and assigns a non-exclusive franchise to construct, maintain, and operate lines and appurtenances and appliances for conducting electricity in over under and through the streets, avenues, alleys, and public places of Zapata County, Texas, renewable every 5 years, 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 WITHDRAW CONTEMPT OF COURT CHARGES AGAINST  
ZAPATA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Judge Rathmell, to withdraw the contempt of court charges against the Zapata Chamber of Commerce as a result of substantial satisfaction of the Zapata County Commissioners Court request for production of records as requested by Hon. Judge Rathmell, County Judge.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of Commissioner Garza, and Judge Rathmell. Commissioners Mendoza, Solis, and Morales abstained. Motion carried.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICE TO ZAPATA Q.A. INC.,  
FOR ELECTRICAL WORK ON LIFELINE MOBILE VETERANS BUS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$2,800.00 to Zapata Q.A. Inc. for electrical work on the Lifeline Mobile Veterans bus 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 ISSUE LOCAL ORDER FOR 2023 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SPECIAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve to issue a local order for the 2023 Constitutional Amendment Special Election on November 7, 2023 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 FY2024 STATEWIDE AUTOMATED VICTIM NOTIFICATION SERVICE (SAVNS) MAINTENANCE GRANT CONTRACT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the FY2024 Statewide Automated Victim Notification Service (SAVNS) Maintenance Grant Contract between the Office of the Attorney General and 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 USE OF FORMER PROJECT OFFICE FOR VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER AND VA GRANT STAFF**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Judge Rathmell, to approve the use of the former Project Office for the Veterans Service Officer and VA grants staff 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 USE OF COMMUNITY CENTER FOR TAC RMP CYBERSECURITY WORKSHOP**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the use of the Community Center on October 10, 2023 for a TAC RMP Cybersecurity workshop. Zapata County was selected to host workshop which will include surrounding counties 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.

**TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO BORDER POOLS MAINTENANCE & SUPPLY FOR REPAIRS TO GUADALUPE & LILIA MARTINEZ SWIMMING COMPLEX (MOTION DIES FOR LACK OF SECOND)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment to Border Pools Maintenance & Supply for repairs to the Guadalupe & Lilia Martinez Swimming Complex in the amount \$10,7600.00 as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1.

Motion dies for lack of second.

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS TO APPROVE \$7,000 FOR INSTALLATION OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Judge Rathmell, to table request by Commissioner Solis, to approve \$7,000.00 for Precinct 3 Parks for the installation of playground equipment at Siesta Shores Park.

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

**ORDER APPROVING SALARY ADJUSTMENTS WITHING SPECIAL ROAD & BRIDGE PCT. 4 DUE TO VACANCY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve salary adjustments within Special Road & Bridge Pct. 4 due to the vacancy in an operator/labor slot as requested by Hon. Roberto C. Garza, Commissioner Pct. 4.

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

**ORDER APPROVING OR DENYING INDIVIDUAL CHANGES TO PROPOSED FY 2023 - 2024 ZAPATA COUNTY BUDGET**

The following individual changes to the proposed budget were voted on individually as follows:

	Proposed	Requested	Difference	
County Clerk Election Expense	\$40,000.00	\$50,000.00	+\$10,000	Motion to deny by Solis/Rathmell
District Clerk Salary Official Salary	\$42,000.00	\$50,000.00	+\$8,000.00	Motion to deny by Mendoza/Rathmell
County Attorney Increase General Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$6,000.00	+\$2,000.00	Motion to approve by Mendoza/Solis
Reduce Repairs & Maint.	\$6,000.00	\$4,000.00	-\$2,000.00	
Tax Collector/Assessor Increase Equip. Maint.	\$25,000.00	\$34,125.00	+\$9,125.00	Motion to approve by Mendoza/Garza
Fire Department New Slot	\$0	\$42,057.00	+\$42,057	Motion to deny by Solis/Rathmell
Increase all employee salaries by \$1.00	\$789,880.00	\$805,211.00	+58,195.00	Motion to deny by Mendoza/Solis
Assistant Fire Chief @ \$45,000 (former DEA slot)	\$39,000.00	\$45,000.00	+6,000.00	Motion to approve by Mendoza/Solis
(DEA OT -\$19,000) saving \$13,000				
Juvenile Probation Correct Benefits total	\$130,425.00	\$128,222.00	-2,203.00	
Correct Contract Serv.	\$9,200.00	\$16,500.00	+\$7,300.00	Motion to approve by Mendoza/Solis
			+\$5,097.00	
Adult Probation Repairs & Maint. (new line item)	\$0	\$300.00	+\$300.00	
Reduce Fuel &				

Lubricants	\$1,000.00	\$700.00	-\$300.00	Motion to approve by Rathmell/Solis
Environmental Supervisor Salary	\$28,483.00	\$27,983.00	-\$500.00	Motion to approve by Soils/Garza
Indigent Care				
Reduce Indigent Care	\$553,352.00	\$527,618.00	-\$25,734.00	
Increase State	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00	+\$20,000.00	
Increase Terp	\$3,000.00	\$5,000.00	+\$2,000.00	Motion to approve by Mendoza/Solis
Capital outlay				
New Ambulance	\$0	\$89,000.00	+\$89,000.00	Motion to deny by Mendoza/Solis
Van for Sheriff's Office	\$0	\$35,000.00	+\$35,000.00	Motion to approve by Mendoza/Garza
Pct. 1 Pct. Trucks				
Lease Pmt \$0	\$30,000.00	+\$30,000.00		
			+\$154,000.00	
Justice of the Peace				
Rental	\$0	\$3,000.00	+\$3,000.00	Motion to approve by Mendoza/Solis

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

**ORDER APPROVING ANNUAL FLU SHOT CLINIC AT COURTHOUSE ROTUNDA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the annual flu shot clinic at the Courthouse Rotunda on September 21, 2023 as offered by CVS Pharmacy as requested by Nellie 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 TERMINATE CONTRACT WITH INDIGENT HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to terminate contract with Indigent Health Care Solutions as requested by Patricia Gonzalez, Indigent Director.

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

**ORDER ALLOWING FOR PROCEEDS OF RECENT AUCTIONS HELD BY CM AUCTION ON BEHALF OF ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT BE ALLOCATED BACK TO FIRE DEPARTMENT REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to allow the proceeds (\$12,132.00) of the recent auctions held by CM Auction on behalf of the Zapata County Fire Department. be reallocated back to the Fire Department Repairs & Maintenance Line Item (10-543-43430) and General Supplies Line Item (10-543-42610) as requested by Chief Daniel 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 REPLAT OF LOT 102 AND LOT 10 BLOCK 21 LINCOLN AVENUE INTO LOT 102A AND 102B BLOCK 21**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the replat of 102 and Lot 103 Block 21 Lincoln Ave. into Lot 102A, 102B & 103A Block 21 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 AWARDING MIRAFLORES PARK IMPROVEMENTS CONTRACT TO MOUFLON OILFIELD SERVICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to award the Miraflores Park Improvements Contract to Mouflon Oilfield Services with a bid of \$149,850.13 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 LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata Tax Office	010-499-42610	General Supplies	\$570.81
TO	Zapata Tax Office	010-499-42618	Postage/Freight	\$570.81
FROM	Zapata Tax Office	01-499-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$3,984.36
TO	Zapata Tax Office	010-499-42618	Postage/Freight	\$3,984.36
FROM	Zapata Tax Office	010-499-43440	Rentals	\$791.63
TO	Zapata Tax Office	010-499-43580	Travel & Training	\$791.63

as requested by Hon. Delia R. Mendoza, Tax Assessor.

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 Garza, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Indigent Health Care	010-640-43580	General Supplies	\$500.00
TO	Indigent Health Care	010-640-43210	Travel & Training	\$500.00
FROM	Indigent Health Care	01-640-42610	General Supplies	\$1,770.00
TO	Indigent Health Care	010-640-43210	Travel & Training	\$1,770.00

as requested by Patricia A. Gonzalez, Indigent Care Director.

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 Garza, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Indigent Health Care	010-640-43580	General Supplies	\$500.00
TO	Indigent Health Care	010-640-43210	Travel & Training	\$500.00
FROM	Indigent Health Care	01-640-42610	General Supplies	\$1,770.00
TO	Indigent Health Care	010-640-43210	Travel & Training	\$1,770.00

as requested by Patricia A. Gonzalez, Indigent Care Director.

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 Garza, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	County Attorney	010-475-43440	Rentals	\$1,000.00
TO	County Attorney	010-475-42610	General Supplies	\$1,000.00
FROM	County Attorney	010-475-42618	Postage Expense	\$200.00
TO	County Attorney	010-475-42610	General Supplies	\$200.00
FROM	County Attorney	010-475-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$3,100.00
TO	County Attorney	010-475-42610	General Supplies	\$3,100.00
FROM	County Attorney	010-475-43580	Travel & Training	\$400.00
TO	County Attorney	010-475-42610	General Supplies	\$400.00

as requested by Hon. Said A. Figueroa, County Attorney.

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

### **ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2023 HUNGER ACTION MONTH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve proclamation declaring September 2023 Hunger Action Month in Zapata County as requested by the South Texas Food Bank.

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 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