

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 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:** Kristina Vela, Zahra Galvan, Mindy Flores, Aileen Campos, Michelle Martinez, Diego Gonzalez, Jr., Maria Isabel Guzman, Irma Guerra, Rogelio Gonzalez, Dr. Roberta Treviño, Daniel Arriaga, Ramon E. Montes, Joseph Peña, Nereida Garza, Veronica Alaniz, Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., and Patricia A. Gonzalez.

**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**

Judge Rathmell congratulated the school district on the start of another school year.

He also stated that Congressman Cuellar was here last Friday to announce \$1.1 Million for new roof and facilities for rodeo arena.

He added that we had fires this past week.

Commissioner Solis stated that a plate sale held for the benefit of J.J. Benavides and Romeo Benavides raised \$10,510.00.

Lansham Israel blessed the court for what they do.

Patricia Gonzalez announced that there will be a health and wellness fair at the library on August 16, from 2 – 6 p.m.

Dr. Roberta Treviño, ZCISD Superintendent, addressed the court and stated that the biggest challenge they face as a district is attendance. State average is approximately 95% and out district runs at 89.2%; attendance affects funding. They will be pushing hard on communicating with parents to promote attendance.

**ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION OF SEPTEMBER 2023 AS  
ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve proclamation of September 2023 as Attendance Awareness Month as requested by Irma I. Guerra, PEIMS Director. Irma I. Guerra read proclamation. Dr. Roberta Treviño approached the Court again and emphasized the importance of school attendance.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from July 21 – August 10, 2023 in the amount of \$634,897.72 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 Solis, 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 Mendoza, to approve checks issued from July 21 – August 10, 2023 in the amount of \$634,897.72 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 \$9,068.12 for the month of July with a year-to-date total of \$93,563.90. Net collections were \$158,206.25 with tax collections at a rate of 89.16%.

**REPORT BY FIRE CHIEF DANNY ARRIAGA ON BRUSH FIRE IN  
CENTRAL ZAPATA COUNTY**

Fire Chief Danny Arriaga reported on a large brush fire at the Jennings Ranch located in central Zapata County. The fire was due to a vehicular fire. Texas Forest Services were called in. WCID located water services. There were numerous fire department issues. Written report is attached for the record.

**ORDER APPROVING TO SOLICIT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)  
FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FORESTATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to solicit a request for qualifications (RFQ) for engineering services for the Zapata County Forestation 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 AMENDMENT TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOR 2022 TXCDBG COLONIA FUND PLANNING & NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve an amendment to Interlocal Agreement between Zapata County and the Texas Department of Agriculture for the 2022 TxCDBG Colonia Fund Planning & Needs Assessment 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 A SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
ZAPATA COUNTY AND TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY COLONIAS PROGRAM FOR  
TXCDBG COLONIA FUND PLANNING AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT GRANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve a subrecipient agreement between Zapata County and Texas A&M University Colonias Program for TxCDBG Colonia Fund Planning and Needs Assessment 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 2024 SHERIFFS' AND CONSTABLES' FEES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve 2024 Sheriffs' and Constables' Fees 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 ESTIMATE OF \$4,120.00 TO REP & P INC TO  
REMODEL ZAPATA COUNTY SHOP RESTROOM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the estimate of \$4,120.00 to REP & P INC to remodel the Zapata County Shop restroom 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 HIRE CAPEX CONSULTING GROUP TO  
FACILITATE ABATEMENT PROCESS FOR UPCOMING SOLAR PROJECT AND  
APPOINT COUNTY ATTORNEY FIGUEROA AS CONTACT PERSON**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to hire Capex Consulting Group to facilitate the abatement process for an upcoming solar project, and appoint County Attorney Figueroa as contact person, as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TXDOT AVIATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS GRANT  
FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT AT  
A 90/10 SPLIT OF \$673,630.00 WITHIN A 4-YEAR SPAN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve TxDOT aviation capital improvements grant for the rehabilitation of the Zapata County Airport at a 90/10 split of \$673,630.00 within a 4-year span, 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 OF INVOICE TO RODRIGUEZ PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES FOR PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION SERVICES  
OF OPERATION LONE STAR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$32,500.00 to Rodriguez Professional Services for professional administration services on Operation Lone Star final closeout for FY2022 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 REINSTATE BURN BAN FOR ALL ZAPATA COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to reinstate burn ban for all 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 INVOICE TO REP & P INC FOR REPAIRS TO F  
ALCON NUTRITION CENTER IN PRECINCT #1**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoice to REP & P INC. in the amount of \$1,135.00 for repairs to Falcon Nutrition Center in Precinct #1 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 PAYMENT OF INVOICE TO MARTINEZ ELECTRICAL  
SERVICES LLC FOR WORK DONE AT ZAPATA COUNTY SHOW BARN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of an invoice in the amount of \$1,607.81 to Martinez Electrical Services LLC for work done at the Zapata County show barn 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 TO HIRE BRIANA JUAREZ AT COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE  
UNDER OPERATION LONE STAR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve to hire Briana Juarez at the County Clerk's Office under Operation Lone Star at \$10/hr. effective immediately as requested by Hon. Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, County Clerk.

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:**

23. To approve submission of a TxDOT aviation grant as requested by Ramon Montes, Airport Director.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICE TO TOMAS CHAPA FOR  
CONCRETE SLAB AT ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve payment of an invoice for \$7,000.00 to Tomas Chapa for a concrete slab at the Zapata County Airport utilizing RAMP funds as requested by Ramon Montes, Airport Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO PROCESS PAYMENT FOR  
PENDING INVOICES FOR INDIGENT PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve additional funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 (out of general fund) to process payment for pending invoices for the Indigent Program 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 APPROVING PAY INCREASE FOR RUBEN PEÑA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve pay increase for Ruben Pena from \$16.51 per hour to \$17.93 per hour (Slot #14), Mr. Pena has his Water Operator License B and has taken on more responsibilities at the San Ygnacio 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 PAY INCREASE FOR BALDEMAR CANTU**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve pay increase for Mr. Baldemar Cantu from \$17.93 per hour to \$18.42 per hour (Slot #11). Mr. Cantu has his Water Operator License B and has been acting supervisor at both Zapata and San Ygnacio Water plants 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 INCREASE OF \$7,217.22 FOR PREVIOUSLY APPROVED  
PURCHASE OF TWO PATROL UNITS FROM RELIABLE CHEVROLET**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve an increase of \$7,217.22 for the previously approved purchase of two (2) Patrol Units from Reliable

Chevrolet, previously approved on Commissioners' Court held on May 22, 2023 for \$135,302.78 Current invoiced amount \$142,520.00. as requested by Chief Joe Pena, Sheriff's Office.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT TO COPSTOP**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve payment to CopStop for \$47,581.00 from Operation Lone Star Grant for uniforms as requested by Chief Joe Pena, Sheriff's Office.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INCREASE OF \$3,333.00 FOR PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PURCHASE OF LAPTOPS FOR PATROL UNITS WITH TICKET WRITES FROM PEACEMAKER TECHNOLOGIES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve an increase of \$3,333.00 for the previously approved purchase of Laptops for Patrol Units with ticket writes from Peacemaker Technologies, previously approved on Commissioners' Court held on January 23, 2023 for \$248,427.00, current invoiced amount \$251,760.00, to be paid out of Lone Star Border Counties Grant, as requested by Chief Joe Pena, Sheriff's Office.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICES FOR CARDINAL AND CRANE PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment of invoices for \$49,870.00 payable to Mouflon Oilfield Services for work performed on Cardinal and Crane Streets, contingent on Mr. Esser receiving all close out documents. Project is complete, contractor will provide one-year warranty letter and letter stating that all bills are paid, 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 TO ADVERTISE FOR CONTRACTORS FOR MIRAFLORES PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Morales, to approve to advertise for contractors for the Miraflores Park Improvements Project 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 TO AWARD CONTRACT TO FRANK'S CONSTRUCTION FOR ZAPATA COUNTY REGIONAL JAIL PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to award contract to Frank's Construction for \$22,380.00, for the Zapata County Regional Jail Project 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 PRELIMINARY REPLAT OF 408 LINCOLN (LOT 102)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve preliminary replat of 408 Lincoln (Lot 102) 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 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR E911 PUBLIC ANSWERING POINT SERVICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a Interlocal Agreement for E911 Public Answering Point Services, subject to approval by Sheriff’s Office and County Attorney, as requested by Luis Ortiz, Ill, 911 Program Specialist.

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

|             | DEPARTMENT           | LINE ITEM     | FUND     | AMOUNT     |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------|----------|------------|
| <b>FROM</b> | Justice of the Peace | 010-455-42623 | Fuel     | \$1,500.00 |
| <b>TO</b>   | Justice of the Peace | 010-455-42613 | Supplies | \$1,500.00 |

as requested by Hon. Fernando Muñoz, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3.

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

|             | DEPARTMENT           | LINE ITEM     | FUND                | AMOUNT     |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| <b>FROM</b> | Zapata County Clerk  | 010-403-42610 | General Supplies    | \$1,866.75 |
| <b>TO</b>   | Justice of the Peace | 010-403-43580 | Travel and Training | \$1,866.75 |

as requested by Hon. Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, Zapata County Clerk.

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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, 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