

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 8th day of January 2024, 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: Karran Westerman, Roger Miller, Daniel Arriaga, and Joseph Peña.

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 commented that he was looking forward to a successful new year, all is looking good for now.

Commissioner Solis stated that he has started building 4' x 12' canopies at school bus stops to keep children safe during bad weather. He thanked Hot Ready Mix for donation of concrete.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from December 20, 2023 – January 4, 2024, in the amount of \$478,434.38 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 Mendoza, 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 December 20, 2023 – January 4, 2024, in the amount of \$478,434.38 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 \$19,628.02 for the month of December with a year-to-date total of \$25,210.85. Net collections were \$1,011,952.23 with tax collections at a rate of 64.80%.

ORDER APPROVING CONTRACT PROPOSAL FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR FIRE STATION ADDITION AT ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND BRIEF REPORT ON SAID PROJECT AND ORDER APPROVING INVOICE BY PREMIER ENGINEERING

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve contract proposal for architectural services for the Fire Station addition at the Zapata County Fire Department submitted by Juan Homero Sanchez Architect (JHS Architects) for the cost of 10% of project cost, pending review by County Attorney, and order approving payment of invoice from Premier Engineering for the amount of \$22,500.00, as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

Mr. Gonzalez gave a brief report on Fire Station addition project. Report attached for the record.

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

ORDER APPROVING TO MOVE PRECINCT 2A POLLING PLACE FROM GABRIEL VILLARREAL SENIOR CITIZENS NUTRITION CENTER TO HENRY MARTINEZ COMMUNITY CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Judge Rathmell, to approve to move Precinct 2A polling place from the Gabriel Villarreal Senior Citizens Nutrition Center to Henry Martinez Community Center 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.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT TO TOMAS CHAPA
FOR WORK DONE AT ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment to Tomas Chapa in the amount of \$4,900.00 for work done at the Zapata County Airport 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 APPROVING PAYMENT TO JOSE ROMERO
FOR WORK DONE AT ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment to Jose Romero for work done at the Zapata County Airport, payment not to exceed \$10,050.00, 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 APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,431.53
TO DOGETT HEAVY MACHINERY SERVICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$7,431.53 to Doggett Heavy Machinery Services to be paid from the Non-Department as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Director.

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 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,346.22
TO ANDERSON EQUIPMENT COMPANY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$4,346.22 to Anderson Equipment Company to be paid from the non-department as requested by Guillermo Saenz, Environmental Director.

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 budget requirements:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Fire Department	010-543-42611	Medical Supplies	\$11,470.66
TO	Fire Department	010-400-42610	General Supplies	\$11,470.66
FROM	Fire Department	010-543-432135	Contracted	\$7,406.81
TO	Fire Department	010-543-42610	General Supplies	\$7,406.80

as requested by Fire Chief Daniel Arriaga, Fire Department.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION REQUESTED BY
CHIEF JOE PEÑA, SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the following resolutions:

1. Resolution in support of Operation Body Cameras FY-2025
 2. Resolution in support of Operation Iron Shield Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program FY-2025
 3. Resolution in support of Project Safe Neighborhoods FY-2025 as requested by Chief Joe Peña, Sheriff's Office.
 4. Resolution in support of Local Border Security Program (LBSP) FY-24
 5. Resolution in support of Operation Iron Shield FY-2025
- as requested by Chief Joe Peña, Sheriff's Office.

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 AT 9:40 A.M.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA,
TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION AT 10:18 A.M.**

**ORDER APPROVING COMPENSATION TO CHRISTOPHER HOLT FOR HIS
SERVICE AS OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR K-9 DOG**

Motion was made by Judge Rathmell, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to compensate Christopher Holt for his service as officer responsible for a K-9 dog in the amount of \$5,000.00 in backpay out of 010-560-41110 and reimbursement for dog food in the amount of \$2,532.41 out of 010-560-42610 for a total of \$7,532.41, 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. [Requested by: Lisa M. Paul, J. Cruz & Associates, LLC.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, 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.

JOSEPH RATHMELL, COUNTY
JUDGE OF ZAPATA COUNTY,
TEXAS

ATTEST:

MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-
BONOAN, COUNTY CLERK AND EX-
OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
COMMISSIONERS COURT OF
ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS