

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 22nd 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:

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| 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 |
| Celica A. Rodriguez | Chief Deputy County Clerk |

ABSENT:

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| Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan | Zapata County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court |
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VISITORS: Roger Miller, Rachel Amaya, Ramon Montes, Jaime A. Guerra, Paul A. Yeagley, Ralph Treviño, Karran Westerman, Jesse Rodriguez, Joe Peña, Daniel Arriaga, Patricia Gonzalez, Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., and Delia Mendoza.

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 CELICA A. RODRIGUEZ, CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER,
COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell commented that Judge and Commissioners attended a meeting at South Padre Island. He also stated that Camp Kelly (the National Guard) would be leaving next month. He wrote a letter to Gov. Abbot requesting for them to stay longer.

Commissioner Morales stated that the Miraflores Park is looking nice.

Commissioner Solis stated that the Veleño Bridge was sprayed to be prepared for the upcoming freezing weather that is expected.

Fire Chief Arriaga added that the Zapata County Community Center and San Ygnacio Community Center are ready for emergency shelter, if needed.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from January 5, 2024 – January 18, 2024, in the amount of \$487,097.32 (amount is modified after deducting \$2,630.96 from \$489,728.28 for a cancelled invoice payable to Auto Alarm of Laredo for alarm system that was never installed) 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 checks issued from January 5, 2024 – January 18, 2024, in the amount of \$487,097.32 (amount is modified after deducting \$2,630.96 from \$489,728.28 for a cancelled invoice payable to Auto Alarm of Laredo for alarm system that was never installed) 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.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW PRESENTATION

Jesse Rodriguez, Agrilife Agent, gave his annual Texas A&M Agrilife Extension 2023 Year in Review presentation. A participation certificate was presented to Commissioner Garza for his participation.

PRESENTATION OF FUNDS RECEIVED FROM AUCTIONS CONDUCTED DECEMBER 14, 2023

Chief Joe Peña of Zapata County Sheriff's Office presented funds in the total amount of \$4,645.80 from auctions conducted on December 14, 2023.

ORDER APPROVING REIMBURSEMENT TO JORGE FLORES FOR EXPENSES MADE ON BEHALF OF LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve reimbursement to Jorge Flores in the amount of \$1,182.99 for expenses made on behalf of 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 AWARDING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR FY2023 FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to award engineering services for the FY2023 Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program to Premier Engineering 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 TABLE REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL
TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF GREEN MASTER 3150 -Q
FOR LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Judge Rathmell on item to consider the purchase of a Green Master 3150-Q for 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 THE TRAVEL MILEAGE RATE AT .67/PER MILE

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve travel mileage rate at .67/mile 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
PURCHASE MATERIALS FOR SITE PREP AND
REHABILITATION OF RIO GRANDE OVERLOOK
AT ARROYO SAN FRANCISCO**

Motion was made by Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoices in the amount of \$14,000.00 to purchase materials for site prep and rehabilitation of the Rio Grande overlook at Arroyo San Francisco. Reimbursement will come from awarded National Park Service grant as requested by Hon. Pedro M. 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 PROVISION OF \$500,000 IN IGT
FOR LAREDO MEDICAL CENTER FOR THE UC DY13 ADVANCE IGT
DUE FEBRUARY 2nd**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve provision of \$500,000 in IGT for Laredo Medical Center for the UC DY13 Advance IGT due on February 2nd as requested by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor.

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
SERGIO GUTIERREZ
FROM \$12.88 PER HOUR TO \$13.98 PER HOUR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve pay increase for Sergio Gutierrez from \$12.88 per hour to \$13.98 per hour (Slot#4). Mr. Gutierrez has met all educational TCEQ requirements and has achieved a wastewater Treatment Operator Class C License. Funds to come from 08-600-41110 License Stipends, 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 PARTICIPATION IN
ANNUAL TAC CYBERSECURITY TRAINING COURSE
AS MANDATED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 2054.5191
AND ALLOW HR DIRECTOR AND IT TECHNICIAN TO
BE ADMINISTRATORS FOR TRAINING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve participation in the annual TAC Cybersecurity training course as mandated by Texas Government Code 2054.5191 and allow the HR Director and IT Technician to be the administrators for training 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 PAYMENT FOR CONCRETE SLAB WORK
DONE AT ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment in the amount of \$10,500.90 for concrete slab work done at the Zapata County airport, RAMP funds to be utilized 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 PURCHASE OF BULLET RESISTANT
BODY ARMOR FROM GALLS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve purchase of Bullet Resistant Body Armor from Galls for \$147,267.50 from Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Program (BAGP) FY-2024 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 PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT
FOR TDHCA AMBULANCE CONTRACT AND APPROVE ESSER &
COMPANY CONSULTING LLC INVOICE #2**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Project Completion Report for TDHCA Ambulance Contract and approve Esser & Company Consulting LLC Invoice #2 in the amount of \$12,196.96 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 CERTIFICATE OF CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION
FOR ZAPATA COUNTY CDV 21-0307
CARDINAL & CRANE STREET IMPROVEMENT WITH
INVOICE FROM ESSER & COMPANY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve certificate of Construction Completion for Zapata County CDV 21-0307 Cardinal & Crane Street Improvement with invoice from Esser & Company in the amount of \$64,316.19 (final payment) and \$14,000.00 (for consulting service) 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 PAYMENT OF INVOICE AND
STATUS REVIEW ON
MIRAFLORES PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment to Mouflon Oilfield Services in the amount of \$30,796.24 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.

Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering, reviewed the status on the Miraflores Park Improvement. He stated three gazebos have been put up, water lines have been installed. The sprinkler system is not part of the project. The park will be seeded with Bermuda grass. They have brought in thirty trucks of field dirt. Changed material from asphalt to concrete on sidewalk. Commissioner Morales added that there is a landscaping individual that is willing to donate the work, if the county buys materials for sprinkler system, after the project is complete.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICE AND
STATUS REVIEW ON MIRAFLORES PAVING PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoice in the amount of \$9,110.50 for items that have been completed on the Miraflores Paving 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.

Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering, reported on the Miraflores Paving Project. He stated that the project is from 10th St. to 13th St. The contractor has been working on paving and has already relocated water lines. Taps and connections have been made and are moving along quick.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICES FOR WORK ON
PELICAN PAVING PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve payment in the amount of \$37,262.32 payable to Mouflon Oilfield Services, for work on Pelican Paving Project, as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

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

STATUS REVIEW ON SHERIFF'S OFFICE PROJECT

Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering, stated that the project was awarded to Premier Engineering. Survey work has already been done. No existing plans were available, so all existing offices have been surveyed, in order to reconfigure the dispatch area to meet Sheriff's Office needs. There is a requirement to get an ACBM report for asbestos.

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF ZAPATA COMMUNITY CENTER
ON FEBRUARY 13, 2024, FOR FORUM SPONSORED
BY ZAPATA COUNTY NEWS AND AMISTAD HOME HEALTH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the use of the Zapata Community Center on February 13, 2024, for a Forum sponsored by Zapata County News and Amistad Home Health as requested by Karren Westerman, Zapata County News.

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

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF ZAPATA COMMUNITY CENTER
FOR WINTER TEXAN AND SENIOR CITIZEN APPRECIATION DAY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the Zapata Community Center for the Winter Texan and Senior Citizen Appreciation Day sponsored by Zapata County Chamber of Commerce; rental fee is \$900.00. Doors will open at 9 a.m. as requested by Karren Westerman, Zapata County News,

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO USE
ROMEO T. FLORES PARK
APRIL 13, 2024, FOR LOW GEAR BENEFIT CAR SHOW**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve request to use the Romeo T. Flores Park April 13, 2024, for Low Gear benefit car show as requested by Ely Zepeda, Member.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO USE HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDS
FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FAIR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve request to use Hotel/Motel Funds in the amount of \$28,450.00 for the Zapata County Fair as requested by Jaime Guerra & Rafael Garcia Zapata, Co. Fair Assoc.

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

ORDER APPROVING STREETLIGHTS

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

- a. 21st and Delmar St.
- b. 25th and Alamo St.
- c. 27th and Brazos St.

as requested by Hon. Pete 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 THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS AS
REQUESTED BY CHIEF JOE PEÑA FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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

- i. Resolution in support of Frontline Wellness Program FY-2025
- ii. Resolution in support of Operation Mindguard FY-2025
- iii. Resolution in support of Victims Crime Program FY-2025
- iv. Resolution in support of Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Program (BAGP) FY-2024

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.

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