

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 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
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

**ABSENT:**

Pedro M. Morales	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
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**VISITORS:** Chance Waid, Olga Bruni, Daniel D. Arriaga, Roger Miller, Rachel Amaya, Adolfo Gonzalez, Jr., Joseph Peña, Veronica Alanis, Pricilla Pantoja, and Brad Johnson.

**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 stated that his crew trimmed 90 palm trees at Bravo Park, in house, and saved about \$7,000 - \$8,000. A lift was rented from Jenco; they will be upgrading the lights and are waiting for the equipment to clear out the pond. He added that they are also working on the entrance to Penguin Street; added a 24' x 50' concrete slab to fix potholes. Paving will also start this week.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Attorney Rick Godines spoke on behalf of Dora Flores on item #16. He stated that possession had been taken in 2020.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices from January 19 – February 8, 2024, in the amount of \$761,404.35 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 Mendoza, to approve checks issued from January 19 – February 8, 2024, in the amount of \$761,404.35 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 \$7,170.73 for the month of January with a year-to-date total of \$43,711.69. Net collections were \$1,314,515.70 with tax collections at a rate of 75.60%.

#### **ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF PENDING INVOICES TO ESSER & COMPANY CONSULTING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE WORK ON AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of pending invoices in the amount of \$32,280.00 to Esser & Company Consulting for administrative work on the American Rescue Plan 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 SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES COUNTY INFORMATION RESOURCES AGENCY (CIRA) FOR STANDARD WEBSITE PACKAGE FOR HOSTING ZAPATA COUNTY WEBSITE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a Service Agreement with Texas Association of Counties County Information Resources Agency (CIRA) for the Standard Website Package for hosting of the Zapata County website at the rate of \$1,550.00 for the year 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 ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS  
TO THE 49<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COURTROOM A/V UPGRADES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve additional modifications to the 49th District Courtroom A/V upgrades in the amount of \$25,175.95 to be paid out of OLS 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 RODRIGUEZ PROFESSIONAL  
BUSINESS SOLUTION FOR PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
ON OPERATION LONE STAR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment to Rodriguez Professional Business Solution for professional administrative services on Operation Lone Star- 2nd payment in the amount of \$17,800.00 to be paid out of OLS. 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 HERNANDEZ PEST CONTROL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment to Hernandez Pest Control for \$4,700.00. 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 PURCHASE OF CEILING TILE FOR  
ZAPATA COUNTY NUTRITION CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve purchase of ceiling tile for the Zapata County Nutrition Center in the amount of \$2,771.37 out of non-department 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 ITEM #16**

16. To reinstate the taxes that were removed by the then TAC Adriana Figueroa on 12/20/2020 for PID #9055 for Dora Flores. A Tax Certificate was issued in May 2022 under the above-mentioned circumstances. Let it be known that there have been other Tax Certificates issued on other such accounts. as requested by Hon. Delia Mendoza, Tax Assessor.

### **ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF IPAD**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of an iPad for office use for the price of \$641.00 from Non-Department Computer line item as requested by Hon. 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 TO AMEND ZAPATA COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL TO ADOPT POLICY REGARDING CANINE PAY FOR K-9 HANDLERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to amend the Zapata County Personnel Policy Manual to adopt a policy regarding Canine Pay for K-9 Handlers to add compensation of \$100 per pay period per K-9 handler, effective October 1, 2023, 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 REQUEST TO TRANSFER \$20,000 FROM TOBACCO FUND TO MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve request to transfer \$20,000.00 from Tobacco Fund (67-800-43800) to Medical Supplies (10-543-42611) as requested by 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 PURCHASE OF APX6500 MOBILE RADIOS FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the purchase of APX6500 mobile radios for the Zapata County Fire Department for the price of \$331,667.50 from Operation Lone Star funds. as requested by 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 PURCHASE OF 5 LIFEPAK 15 DEFIBRILLATORS USING OPERATION LONE STAR FUNDS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of 5 LifePak 15 defibrillators for a total of \$75,925.00 using Operation Lone Star funds. as requested by: 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 PURCHASE OF STRYKER  
POWER LOAD STRETCHERS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of 4 Stryker Power Load Stretchers for a total of \$68,000.00 using Operation Lone Star funds as requested by 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 PROPOSAL FROM ZAPATA Q.A.  
TO REPLACE CONDENSER COIL WITH NEW LIQUID LINE FILTER  
AND NEW R22 REFRIGERANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve proposal from Zapata Q.A. to replace condenser coil with new liquid line filter and new R22 refrigerant with 1 year warranty on parts and labor for the amount of \$3,500.00, or replace complete system with Trane Package unit with 5-year warranty on compressor and 1 year warranty on parts and labor for the amount of \$9,728.00 for the Regional Jail as requested by Carlos Q. Ramirez, Sherriff'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 INVOICE AND  
STATUS REVIEW OF MIRAFLORES PAVING PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$1,900.00 payable to Mouflon Oilfield Services for work performed 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 reported that contractor has relayed a new line that conflicted with the construction. Services were placed on both sides of the street.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICE AND  
STATUS REVIEW OF MIRAFLORES PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment in the amount of \$27,303.55 payable to Mouflon Oilfield Services for work performed on the Miraflores Park Improvement 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.

Manuel Gonzalez reported that the project is 86% complete. Walking trail is installed, four feet fence and gate are installed. Added concrete at the bottom of the fence to avoid gaps. Playground equipment and grass seeding are pending.

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment in the amount of \$29,210.56 payable to Mouflon Oilfield Services for work performed on the Pelican 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 reported that contractor had to relocate a water line that was in conflict. A manhole was also installed. There will be sewer on the North side of the street that is being paved so they will not be cutting the street. They are missing the prime coat, hot mix, and valley gutter and had one adjusted driveway.

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY CHANCE WAID  
OF SECURE TECH SYSTEMS ON PROPOSAL FOR  
SECURE TECH SYSTEMS CRITICAL INCIDENT**

**NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR ZAPATA COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Chance Waid of Secure Tech Systems on proposal for Secure Tech Systems Critical Incident Notifications System for the Zapata County Courthouse.

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 ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION  
FOR TINY TROLLS UNITE A GIRL SCOUT'S ADVENTURE EVENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve request to use the Zapata County Pavilion on Sunday, April 14th for Tiny Trolls Unite A Girl Scout's Adventure event to be hosted by the Girl Scouts of South Texas as requested by Priscilla Pantoja, Recruitment Specialist.

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

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST FOR DONATION OF  
MEDICAL BED FOR MIGRANT CLINIC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request for the donation of a medical bed for the migrant clinic as requested by Magda Flores.

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

### ORDER APPROVING STREETLIGHT

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

- a. Tepozan Road Subdivision Entrance- Highway 83 South Zapata
  - b. 102 Tepozan Rd. (Ranchito Tepozan, Lot 1 A 36)
- 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 LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the following line-item transfer:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff's Office	010-560-33540	Computer Expense/Consultant	\$16,000.00
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff's Office	010-560-42610	General Supplies	\$16,000.00
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff's Office	010-560-33540	Computer Expense/Consultant	\$8,000.00
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff's Office	010-560-42430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$8,000.00
<b>FROM</b>	Sheriff's Regional	010-567-43431	Equipment Maintenance	\$2,200.00
<b>TO</b>	Sheriff's Regional	010-567-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$2,200.00

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.

### ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTIONS

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

- i. Resolution in support of Zapata County's application to the Texas Comptroller's Office SB22 Rural Sheriff's Office Grant for FY2024
- ii. Resolution in support of Zapata County's application to the Texas Comptroller's Office SB22 Rural Prosecutor's Office Grant for FY2024

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 RENEWAL OF DISASTER DECLARATION  
OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER RELATED  
TO SURGE OF MIGRANTS UNLAWFULLY CROSSING  
TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve renewal of disaster declaration of local state of disaster related to surge of migrants unlawfully crossing Texas-Mexico border 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  
OPERATION STONEGARDEN (OPSG) FY-2023**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve Resolution in support of Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) FY-2023 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 AUTHORIZING PERSONNEL DIRECTOR TO  
FOLLOW SAME METRICS USED WITH THE  
PREVIOUS K-9 HANDLER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to authorize Personnel Director, Nellie R. Treviño, to follow the same metrics used with the previous K-9 Handler with Dominique Madrid, on matters regarding K-9 handler pay 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.

*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 Garza, 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