

**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 April 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
Celica A. Rodriguez	Chief Deputy County Clerk

ABSENT:

Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court
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VISITORS: Rachel Amaya, Roger Miller, Delia Mendoza, Christopher Rincón, Rene Salinas, Diana Salazar, Nelda Barrera, Josefina Villarreal, Adolfo González, Jr., Verónica Alanís, Manuel González, Jr., María Barragán, Frank Barragán, and Belinda Bravo.

WHEREUPON, the following Orders and Proceedings were had by said Court, to-wit:

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:05 A.M.

**ROLL CALL BY CELICA A. RODRIGUEZ, CHIEF DEPUTY 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 the solar eclipse will be at 12:09 – 2:51 p.m. our zone will have 85-90% visibility. The next occurrence will be 20 years from now. Eagle Pass will have the highest visibility. He added that the Autism Walk took place, the weather was good and there was a great turn out.

Commissioner Morales stated that a bingo was held at San Ygnacio, they also expect to have other upcoming events.

Commissioner Solis stated that all sports teams are advancing and are doing very good. Golf course is coming along. An annual Easter hunt took place at Siesta Shores. He thanked donors and sponsors.

Diana Salazar of Border Region presented the court with gifts. She stated that their goal is to increase wellness in Zapata County.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices from March 23 – April 4, 2024, in the amount of \$244,340.00 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 Morales, 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 March 23 – April 4, 2024, in the amount of \$244,340.00 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 \$11,574.20 for the month of February with a year-to-date total of \$66,898.64. Net collections were \$328,866.90.

PRESENTATION ON TXDOT PROJECTS

Francisco J. Cantu and Daniel Flores of TxDOT discussed ongoing projects in Zapata County. They are currently working on the divided highway South of Zapata on Hwy 83 to Chihuahua, completion is expected by 2026. They are also working on the plans and design phase of a project of divided highway South of San Ygnacio and Uribeño to Ramireño. Upcoming projects will also include South of Lopeño to county line and FM 496.

ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT TO R.E.P. & P., INC.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of \$278.92 to R.E.P. & P., Inc. 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 PREMIER ENGINEERING TO PERFORM
AN ASSESSMENT ON CURRENT STREET CONDITIONS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to hire Premier Engineering to perform an assessment on current street conditions, with a budget of \$10,000 for study, 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
SOLUTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ON OPERATION LONE STAR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve final payment of contract to Rodriguez Professional Business Solutions for administrative services on Operation Lone Star, in the amount of \$24,920.00 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 REQUEST TO USE SAN YGNACIO PLAZA FOR
CINCO DE MAYO FUNDRAISER FESTIVAL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve request to use the San Ygnacio Plaza for Cinco de Mayo fundraiser festival on May 4, 2024, 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 TRANSFER OF ISMAEL MORALES FROM SLOT #5
TO SLOT #7 IN ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve transferring of Ismael Morales from slot #5 to slot #7 at \$12.72 per hour in the Environmental 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 HIRING OF BRANDON VAUGHN ON SLOT #3 IN
ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve hiring of Brandon Vaughn on slot #3 at \$10.66 per hour in the Environmental 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 GRANT FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT'S
ACQUISITION OF TRAINING AIDS THROUGH TEXAS FOREST SERVICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve grant approval for the Zapata County Fire Department's acquisition of training aids through the Texas Forest Services, aimed at enhancing our emergency response capabilities. The grant involves departmental purchase with subsequent reimbursement, not to exceed \$10,000.00 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 PAYMENT FOR INVOICE FROM
FRANK'S CONSTRUCTION FOR WATER LEAK REPAIRS AND
ELEMENTS AT REGIONAL JAIL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment for invoice from Frank's Construction for several leak repairs and elements at regional jail for \$4,350.00 from non-department as requested by Chief Carlos Q. Ramirez, Sheriff's Office.

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

**ORDER AWARDING CONTRACT FOR ZAPATA COUNTY CFC21-0191
NORTHWEST ZAPATA COLONIA PROJECT TO FRANK'S CONSTRUCTION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to award the contract for the Zapata County CFC21-0191 Northwest Zapata Colonia Project to Frank's Construction with a bid of \$795,000 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 REPLAT OF LOT 23A & 24A MADISON AVENUE
INTO LOT 23-A1 AND 24-A1**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the replat of Lot 23A & 24A Madison Avenue into Lot 23-A1 and 24-A1 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 REPLAT OF TRACT 2, 3 AND PARCEL G, H,
INTO TRACT 2A AND PARCEL 2GH ON
MIRAFLORES AND MOHOGANY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the replat of Tract 2, 3, and Parcel G, H into Tract 2A and Parcel 2GH on Miraflores and Mahogany as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineer.

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

**ORDER APPROVING ADOPTION AND DESIGNATION OF
ZAPATA COUNTY STETSON RENEWABLE HOLDINGS
REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER 1**

Motion was made Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve adoption and designation of the Zapata County Stetson Renewable Holdings Reinvestment Zone Number 1 pursuant to the county's guidelines and criteria under the Property Development and Tax Abatement Act, Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code as requested by Jeff Snowden, Capex Consulting.

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

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF ZAPATA COMMUNITY CENTER FOR
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH EVENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve use of the Zapata Community Center on May 8, 2024, for a Mental Health Awareness Month event as requested by Jessica Hurtado, Border Region Behavioral Health Center.

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 to meet departmental needs:

	Department	Line-Item	Fund	Amount
From	Veteran's Financial Asst.	230-415-41110	Salaries & Wages/Fringe	\$4,300.00
To	Veteran's Financial Asst.	230-415-43126	Client Services	\$4,300.00

as requested by Adolfo Gonzalez, Veterans Service Officer.

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 transfer to meet departmental needs:

	Department	Line-Item	Fund	Amount
From	Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	010-455-42611	General Supplies	\$1,000.00
To	Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	010-455-43441	Rental Pct. 1	\$1,000.00

as requested by Judge Anna M. Guerra, Justice of the Peace. Pct. 1.

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.

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