

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 13th day of May 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 | County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court |

VISITORS: Nellie R. Treviño, Christopher Dávila, Ralph Treviño, Roger Miller, Rebecca Y. Gutierrez, Daniel D. Arriaga, Karran Westerman, Delia Mendoza, Laura Caballero, Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Veronica Alanis, and Magda Flores.

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 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 due to low water levels, the secondary ramp is being used at the boat ramp.

Judge Rathmell added that lake levels are now below conservation levels. México is behind on the water treaty water release.

Commissioner Garza suggested that children be current with immunization requirements.

Judge Rathmell stated that preliminary appraisals for 2024-2025 indicate substantial loss in valuations. There is less money coming in. Fund balance is almost depleted. He anticipates 15 – 20% budget cuts across the board.

Commissioner Mendoza added that ARM Ordinance will help, but most game room establishments are closed.

Christopher Davila approached the court and introduced himself. He is a local engineer, moved back to Zapata. He is available for event and city planning.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Becky Gutierrez, Olga V. Figueora Library Librarian, informed the court that there are 120 applicants for the summer reading program. The program will be open June 3 – June 27, Monday – Thursday.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from April 19 – May 9, 2024, in the amount of \$729,653.45 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 April 19 – May 9, 2024, in the amount of \$729,653.45 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 \$9,856.60 for the month of April with a year-to-date total of \$76,755.14. Net collections were \$232,169.91; tax collections are at a rate of 84.54%.

ORDER APPROVING REQUEST OF \$2,000 FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY ON JULY 4, 2024

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the request of \$2,000 for the fireworks display on Monday, July 4, 2024, each commissioner will contribute \$500 from their budget as requested by Karran 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 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND IDOCKET TO PROVIDE
DISTRICT CLERK LICENSE TO UTILIZE QUARTZ CLOUD JUDICIAL
CASE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Professional Services Agreement between Zapata County and iDocket to provide the District Clerk a license to utilize the Quartz Cloud judicial case management software, for the price of \$19,500.00 annual to be paid out of Operation Lone Star funds, 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 AND SIGN INTERLOCAL
COOPERATION CONTRACT FAILURE TO APPEAR PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve to renew and sign the Interlocal Cooperation Contract Failure to Appear Program as requested by Hon. Judge 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.

**ORDER APPROVING PARTICIPATION AND RESOLUTION IN
THE TIPS PURCHASING COOPERATION OFFERED BY
REGION VIII EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve participation and resolution in the TIPS Purchasing Cooperation offered by Region VIII Education Service Center 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 TO CONTINUE LETTER OF CREDIT TO
ESTABLISH STAND BY TRUST FUND FOR FINANCIAL
ASSURANCE FOR CLOSURE AND POST CLOSURE OF
SAN YGNACIO LANDFILL NO. 783 AND
CLOSED ZAPATA LANDFILL NO. 1528**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve to continue the Letter of Credit to establish stand by trust fund for the financial assurance for the closure and post closure of San Ygnacio Landfill No. 783 in the amount of \$674,059 and closed Zapata Landfill No. 1528 in the amount of \$339,382 as requested

by TCEQ, Deborah Wisenski, Financial Analyst, 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 TO TABLE REQUEST TO SET VIOLATION FEES FOR
VIOLATIONS TO ZAPATA COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION
AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN RESTRICTIONS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request to set violation fee at \$100 per offense for violations to the Zapata County Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan Restrictions as per Section 4 G of the Zapata Water System Ordinance as requested by Ralph Treviño, 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 TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM TOBACCO
FUND TO MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND TO
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve request of \$25,000.00 from Tobacco Fund (67-800-43800) to Medical Supplies (10-543-42611) and request of \$10,000.00 from the Tobacco Fund (67-800-43800) to Repairs and Maintenance (10-543-43430) 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 PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT
FOR CDBG DCV 21-0307 CARDINAL AND CRANE STREET
IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the Project Completion Report for CDBG CDV 21-0307 Cardinal and Crane Street Improvements 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 FINAL INVOICE FOR
ESSER & COMPANY CONSULTING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the final invoice for Esser & Company Consulting for CDBG CDV 21-0307 Cardinal and Crane Improvements, for \$3,500.00, 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 UPDATE
OF CFC 21-0191 NORTHWEST COLONIA BOOSTER STATION
AND DRAINAGE CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment to Frank's Construction in the amount of \$57,000 for CFC 21-0191 Northwest Colonia Booster Station and Drainage Channel Improvement Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering. Mr. Gonzalez reported that a preconstruction meeting was held, and site has been cleared. Report attached.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO ALTER ALIGNMENT AT
END OF BOAT RAMP AND STATUS REVIEW ON
BOAT RAMP ALIGNMENT CHANGE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve altering alignment at end of boat ramp as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

Mr. Manuel Gonzalez, of Premier Engineering, reported on boat ramp alignment change. No report attached.

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

STATUS REVIEW ON RAW WATER INTAKE

Mr. Manuel Gonzalez, of Premier Engineering, reported on raw water intake; authorize bid with USDA approval. Plans have been completed, they have done concrete fill and dredging. No report submitted for the record.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICE FOR
FIRE STATION AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$18,750.00 (S.O. \$7,500.00 + F.D. \$11,250.00) payable to Juan Homero Sanchez Architect, for fire station and sheriff's office projects 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.

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION
FOR 8TH GRADE BANQUET**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the use of the Zapata County Pavilion on May 22, 2024, for the 8th grade banquet at 6:30 p.m. as requested by Marlen Guerra, Zapata Middle School Principal.

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

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF STREETLIGHT

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

a. 801 Fresno Street (Zapata townsite, Block 45, Lot 5)
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 transfers to meet departmental needs:

| | DEPARTMENT | LINE-ITEM | FUND | AMOUNT |
|------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| FROM | Zapata Water Plant | 080-600-43617 | Chlorine Chemicals & | \$52,700.00 |
| TO | Zapata Water Plant | 080-600-43430 | Repairs Maintenance & | \$52,700.00 |
| FROM | Sewer Plant | 008-602-43617 | Chlorine Chemicals & | \$8,000.00 |
| TO | Sewer Plant | 008-602-34530 | Repairs Maintenance & | \$8,000.00 |

as requested by Ralph Treviño, Water Plant Director.

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 |
|------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------|
| FROM | Texas A&M AgriLife Ext. | 10-665-42610 | General Supplies | \$900.00 |
| TO | Texas A&M AgriLife Ext. | 10-665-43580 | Workshop & Travel Exp. | \$900.00 |
| FROM | Texas A&M AgriLife Ext. | 10-665-42610 | Membership Dues | \$40.00 |
| TO | Texas A&M AgriLife Ext. | 10-665-43580 | Workshop & Travel Exp. | \$40.00 |

as requested by Jesse Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension Agent.

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 RALPH TREVIÑO,
WATER PLANT DIRECTOR, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION OF
ZAPATA COUNTY WATERWORKS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Ralph Treviño, Water Plant Director, for approval of resolution of the Zapata County Waterworks requesting stage three & mandatory water use restrictions, and the approval of violation fees.

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

ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION FOR LUPUS DAY

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Proclamation for Lupus Day as requested by Magda Flores, Texas A&M University Health.

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