

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 12th day of August 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
Anna G. Molina	Deputy County Clerk

ABSENT:

Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court
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VISITORS: Nereida Garza, Daniel D. Arriaga, Jesse Rodríguez, Raquel Martínez, Sofia Paredes, Jessica Paredes, Ralph Treviño, Manuel González, Jr., and Olga M. Bruni.

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 ANNA G. MOLINA, DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER,
COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Solis stated that a back-to-school movie night was held in Siesta Shores Park; approximately 200 people attended. Movie night was hosted by Commissioner Solis and Sheriff Elect Ramon Montes.

Judge Rathmell informed the public that Congressman Cuellar will be here at 1:30 p.m. for presentation of Water and Wastewater Improvement Grant.

He also expressed condolences to the family on the passing of Juanita Figueroa who died on August 6, 2024, at the age of 105.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve invoices from July 19 – August 8, 2024, for \$1,130,780.97 as presented by Triunfo

Gonzalez. \$1M was received from Operation Lone Star Grant – Border Star Grant ended July 31, 2024.

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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, 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 Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve checks issued from July 19 – August 8, 2024, for \$1,130,780.97 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 for \$7,564.15 for July with a year-to-date total of \$100,992.32. Net collections were \$276,490.34; tax collections are at a rate of 88.14%.

RECOGNITION OF ZAPATA COUNTY 4-H MEMBER SOFIA PAREDES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE 2024 TEXAS STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW

Jesse Rodriguez, AgriLife Agent, recognized Sofia Paredes for her participation in the 2024 Texas State 4-H Horse Show. Sofia was presented with the Achievement Service Award; she also placed 12th in barrel racing at state level.

ORDER APPROVING APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER ROBERTO GARZA AS COMMISSIONERS COURT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BORDER REGION BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER BOARD

Motion was made Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the appointment of Commissioner Roberto Garza as Commissioners Court representative to the Border Region Behavioral Health Center Board 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 FY2025 TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES OPTIONAL FEES

Motion was made Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the FY2025 Texas Department of Motor Vehicles optional fees 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 SOLICIT RFP'S FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
TO ASSIST WITH USDA APPLICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO
ZAPATA COUNTY 4-H ARENA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to solicit RFP's for administrative services to assist with USDA application for improvements to the Zapata County 4-H arena 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 SOLICIT RFQ'S FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES
TO ASSIST WITH USDA GRANT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO
ZAPATA COUNTY 4-H ARENA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve to solicit RFQ's for engineering services to assist with a USDA grant for improvements to the Zapata County 4-H arena 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
2008 CHEVROLET SILVERADO PICKUP TRUCK
FROM JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve purchase of a 2008 Chevrolet Silverado Pickup truck from the Juvenile Probation Department for \$5,000 out of capital outlay for Martin Saenz, Environmental 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 THE FOLLOWING ITEM

16. To address an incident that occurred on Friday, July 26, 2024, where pack of stray dogs attacked a 15-year-old child while jogging on Highway 16 and to recognize the need for a much stricter enforcement of the Animal and Fowl Ordinance as requested by Hon. Paco Mendoza, Commissioner Pct. 1.

Discussion: Residents are not becoming responsible for ownership of dogs. Martin Navarro suggested spaying and neutering. Also ask for help from Sheriff's Office to help with stray dogs.

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF LAND ADJACENT TO
ZAPATA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS FOR DE LUNA CIRCUS ON
SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2024**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the use of the land adjacent to the Zapata County Fairgrounds for a circus on September 27-29, 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 PAYMENT TO ACE HARDWARE OF
ZAPATA FOR PURCHASE OF HOLIDAY DECORATIONS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve payment to Ace Hardware of Zapata for \$235.99 for the purchase of holiday decorations as requested by Hon. Olga M. 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 PAYMENT OF INVOICE AND REVIEW OF
SAN YGNACIO WATER PLANT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment to Mouflon Oilfield Services for \$81,750.00 for 8% of project, for work at the San Ygnacio Water Plant Improvement Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that project is 10% overall complete. Will bring cost estimate for new pipes. No report 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 PAYMENT OF INVOICES AND REVIEW
OF SHERIFF'S AND FIRE STATION PROJECTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoices to JHS Architects in the amount of \$24,750.00 (Fire Department) and invoice in the amount of \$25,000.00 (Sheriff's Office) for a total payment of \$49,750.00 for work on Sheriff's and Fire Station projects as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that he met with both Sheriff's Office and Fire Department. He has submitted plans for both projects with notes from both departments. This project will be relocating sheriff's office, break room, hall, and personnel offices, investigator wing, and other rooms; plans will be presented to Sheriff for approval. They are changing dimensions to maximize space. The fire department will be getting a new building facing Dr. Ike's.

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

**ORDER APPROVING AMENDMENT OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
WITH SIESTA SHORES FOR INTERCONNECTION LINE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve amendment of interlocal agreement with Siesta Shores for interconnection line as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

ORDER TO MOVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales to move the following item to Executive Session for consultation with attorney:

22 To allow STX Golf Management to host all types of fund-raising tournaments at the Los Ebanos Golf Course as requested by Rene Piña, Golf Course Management.

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 SOLIS,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:15 A.M.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GARZA,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA,
TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION AT 10:53 A.M.**

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY RENE PIÑA,
GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT TO ALLOW
STX GOLF MANAGEMENT TO HOLD ALL TYPES OF
FUND-RAISING TOURNAMENTS AT THE LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Rene Piña, Golf Course Management, to allow STX Golf Course Management to host all types of fund-raising tournaments at the Los Ebanos Golf.

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

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM
DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

23. To discuss and take possible action regarding damages to a personal property claim as requested by Jose A. Solis, Commissioner Pct. 3.

ORDER APPROVING LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1	010-455-43581	Travel & Training Pct. 1	\$300.00
TO	Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1	010-455-43441	Rentals Pct. 1	\$300.00

FROM	Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1	010-455-43581	Travel & Training Pct. 1	\$900.00
TO	Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1	010-455-42611	Rentals Pct. 1	\$900.00

as requested by Hon. 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Sheriff's Office	010-650-43580	Travel & Training	\$5,000.00
TO	Sheriff's Office	010-650-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$5,000.00

as requested by 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Juvenile Probation	200-580-42610	Detention Pre-Adjudication	\$6,255.58
TO	Juvenile Probation	200-580-41130	General Supplies	\$6,255.58
FROM	Juvenile Probation	200-580-43135	Detention Pre-Adjudication	\$28,425.00
TO	Juvenile Probation	200-580-42610	General Supplies	\$28,425.00
FROM	Juvenile Probation	200-580-43136	Post-Adjudication Secure	\$30,000.00
TO	Juvenile Probation	200-580-42610	General Supplies	\$30,000.00
FROM	Juvenile Probation	200-580-43137	Mental Health Assessment	\$2,655.00
TO	Juvenile Probation	200-580-42610	General Supplies	\$2,655.00

as requested by Fernando J. Rodriguez, Juvenile Probation.

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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	HR Department	010-411-43580	Travel & Training	\$1,000.00
TO	HR Department	010-411-42610	General Supplies	\$1,000.00

as requested by Nellie Treviño, HR Department.

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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfers to meet departmental needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Texas A&M AgriLife Ext.	010-665-42610	General Supplies	\$175.00
TO	Texas A&M AgriLife Ext.	010-665-43580	Travel & Training	\$175.00
FROM	Texas A&M AgriLife Ext.	010-665-42610	Member Dues	\$40.00
TO	Texas A&M AgriLife Ext.	010-665-43580	Travel & Training	\$40.00

as requested by Jesus F. Rodriguez, AgriLife Ext.

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

ORDER APPROVING STDC FY25 REGIONAL SOLID WASTE PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve STDC FY 25 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program grant application 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 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 1ST ANNUAL GIVE CANCER THE BOOT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve resolution in support of the 1st Annual Give Cancer the Boot hosted by IBC on September 14, 2024, as requested by Nellie Treviño, HR Director.

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