

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 9th day of September 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: Karran Westerman, Rebecca Y. Gutiérrez, Olga M. Bruni, Anna M Guerra, Cheyenne Rodríguez, Patricia A. González, Verónica Alanís, Jason Duran, Julie Duran, Cynthia L. Duran, Dr. Cruz Torres, Jesse Rodríguez, Cesar García, Ramon E. Montes, Dora A. Martínez, Daniel Arriaga, Ralph Treviño, Christopher Dávila, Delia Mendoza, Joe Peña, Juana M. Gutiérrez, Emily Martínez, Leyliana Navarro, Carlos Colina-Vargas, Rosa Elena Martínez, and Manuel González, Jr.

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:38 A.M.

**ROLL CALL BY MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL BONOAN, COUNTY CLERK
AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF COMMISSIONERS COURT
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Solis stated that with more rain comes more grass, they are trying to catch up.

Judge Rathmell commented that the Dallas Cowboy fans are happy due to their win. Commissioner Solis added that the Zapata Hawks are 2-0 in their football games.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Justice of the Peace Olga M. Bruni addressed the court regarding item #34. To request the fee be waived for the use of the Zapata County Pavilion for a Bingo Fundraiser hosted by the Hope & Faith Crime Victims Center Volunteers on the following dates September 25th, October 23rd, and November 20th. as requested by Joseph Pena, Sheriff's Office; and item #35. To request approval for the use of the back-office space in county

building (the clinic building) located at 801 N US Highway 83 as the designated Crime Victims Center. as requested by Joseph Pena, Sheriff's Office. She stated that she got calls of persons who are against those items being approved. She stated that approving those items will add more expenses to the budget.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve invoices from August 8 – September 5, 2024, in the amount of \$861,816.16, 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 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 Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve checks issued from August 8 – September 5, 2024, in the amount of \$861,816.16 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 \$5,037.01 for the month of August with a year-to-date total of \$106,029.93. Net collections were \$133,345.29. Tax collections are at a rate of 88.57%.

ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS CHILD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve a proclamation to declare the month of September as Child Cancer Awareness Month as requested by Honorable Joseph 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 PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2024 HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve a proclamation declaring September 2024 Hunger Action Month as requested by Honorable Joseph 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 ZAPATA COUNTY PLAZA
FOR ZAPATA COUNTY FAIR ROYALTY & JR ROYALTY
FALL FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request to use the Zapata County Plaza on October 6, 2024, for the Zapata County Fair Royalty & Jr. Royalty Fall Festival Fundraiser and the Higher Education Center's grassy hill as requested by Nina Gutierrez, County Fair Association.

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 PLAZA FOR
VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve request to use the Zapata County Plaza for a Voter Registration Drive on September 15, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. as requested by Dr. Diana Brandon, Democratic Party Chair.

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

UPDATE ON FY25 OPERATION LONESTAR

Rodney Rodriguez, of RPS, LLC, gave an update via telephone, on FY25 Operation Lone Star. Only \$1.1M were approved of the \$2M requested. Presentation is attached for the record. Mr. Rodriguez was unable to attend in person because he has Covid-19.

**ORDER APPROVING RETAINING FULLTIME OPERATION LONE STAR GRANT
EMPLOYEES UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, AT COUNTY'S EXPENSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve retaining fulltime Operation Lone Star grant employees until September 30, 2024, at the county's expense for a total of \$28,207.12 as requested by Honorable Joseph 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 LOCAL COMMISSIONERS COURT ORDER FOR
NOVEMBER 5, 2024, GENERAL ELECTION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a local Commissioners Court Order for the November 5, 2024, General Election as requested by Honorable Joseph 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 TO CONSIDER PAYMENT TO JOHNSON CONTROLS FOR COURTHOUSE FIRE ALARM MAINTENANCE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to table request to consider payment to Johnson Controls for courthouse fire alarm maintenance as requested by Honorable Joseph 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 AWARD OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR THE USDA 4H ARENA IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT TO ESSER & ESSER

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve awarding administrative services for the USDA 4H Arena improvements project to Esser & Esser, with a bid of \$50,000.00 as requested by Honorable Joseph 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 AWARD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR USDA 4H ARENA IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT TO PREMIER ENGINEERING

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve awarding engineering services for the USDA 4H Arena improvements project to Premier Engineering as requested by Honorable Joseph 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 TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO ZAPATA QA, INC FOR INSTALLATION OF LIGHTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request to approve payment to Zapata QA, Inc. for the installation of lights at the Zapata County Shop as requested by Honorable Joseph 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 TXDOT 24-25 ROUTINE AIRPORT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (RAMP) AGREEMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve TxDOT 24-25 Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) agreement as requested by Ramon Montes, Airport Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF SPONSORS SHARE FOR THE TXDOT LANDING APPROACH PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve payment of the Sponsors Share for the TxDOT Landing Approach project for \$9,791.00 as requested by Ramon Montes, Airport Director.

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 STATUS OF SAN YGNACIO WATER PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment to Mouflon Oilfield Services for \$59,850.00 for work done at San Ygnacio Water Plant Improvements Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the project is 35% completed. Contractor has worked on pumps, clarifier #1, interior pumps, and control box. They have also worked on affluent and influent boxes. No report submitted 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 INVOICE AND STATUS REVIEW ON ZAPATA NORTHWEST BOOSTER STATION PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment to Frank's Construction for \$22,900.00 for work done at the Zapata Northwest Booster Station as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that a meeting was held with the contractor. They have put up fencing, pneumatic tank, and have worked on valves and pump room. Improvements will increase water pressure. No report submitted 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 REPLAT OF LOTS 6 & 7 RAMIREZ ADDITION 2

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve replat of lots 6 & 7 Ramirez addition 2 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 PAYMENT OF INVOICE AND STATUS REVIEW ON JAIL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment to Campos Construction for \$20,900.00 for work on Jail Improvements project; Premier Engineering has been authorized to get quote for work not included in bid, as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the project is 35% complete, eight out of 14 cells have been completed, 3 cells were not included in bid. Door also needs to be repainted.

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

ORDER APPROVING RATE CHANGE FOR AIR EVAC

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the rate of \$7.00 per month for the Air Evac; rate change to be effective January 1, 2025. 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 TAC WORKERS COMPENSATION RENEWAL FOR 2025

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, to approve the TAC Workers Compensation Renewal for 2025. 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 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF INTENTION TO USE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a Resolution Authorizing Publication of Notice of Intention to use Certificates of Obligation, not to exceed \$4M as requested by Daniel M. Martinez, Winstead.

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

ORDER TO DENY REQUEST TO WAIVE FEE FOR USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION FOR BINGO FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY HOPE & FAITH CRIME VICTIMS CENTER VOLUNTEERS

Motion was made by Judge Rathmell, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to deny request to waive fees for the use of the Zapata County Pavilion for a Bingo Fundraiser hosted by the Hope & Faith Crime Victims Center Volunteers on the following dates September 25th, October 23rd, and November 20th. as requested by Joseph Peña, Sheriff's Office.

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:

35. To request approval for the use of the back-office space in county building (the clinic building) located at 801 N US Highway 83 as the designated Crime Victims Center. as requested by Joseph Peña, Sheriff's Office.

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	Commissioner Pct. 3	010-423-43580	Travel & Training	\$1,186.83
TO	Commissioner Pct. 3	010-423-42610	General Supplies	\$1,186.83

as requested by Hon. Jose A. Solis, Commissioner Pct. 3.

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	Zapata County Indigent	010-640-43580	Travel & Training	\$918.69
TO	Zapata County Indigent	010-640-43211	Indigent Care	\$918.69

as requested by Patricia A. Gonzalez, Indigent Care.

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	Olga V. Figueroa Zapata Co. Public Library	010-650-42610	General Supplies	\$298.96
TO	Olga V. Figueroa Zapata Co. Public Library	010-650-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$298.96
FROM	Olga V. Figueroa Zapata Co. Public Library	010-650-43612	Books & Periodicals	\$157.48
TO	Olga V. Figueroa Zapata Co. Public Library	010-650-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$157.48

as requested by Rebecca Y. Gutierrez, County Librarian.

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
RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a Resolution in Support of Rural Law Enforcement Grant, as requested by Honorable Joseph 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 SB22 RURAL
PROSECUTOR’S GRANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve a resolution in Support of SB22 Rural Prosecutor's Grant as requested by

Honorable Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

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 RECESS UNTIL 3:00 P.M.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MENDOZA,
TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**ORDER ADOPTING ZAPATA COUNTY BUDGET FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to adopt the Zapata County Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, with changes, as presented 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 BUDGET FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve budget for Road and Bridge Department.

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

ORDER APPROVING BUDGET FOR INTEREST AND SINKING

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve budget for Interest and Sinking.

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

**ORDER ADOPTING 2024-2025 TAX RATE FOR ZAPATA COUNTY IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 111.007-
111.010 BY EXECUTING AN “ORDER SETTING TAX RATE FOR 2024-2025”**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to adopt the 2024-2025 tax rate for Zapata County in accordance with Local Government Code Sections 111.007-111.010 by executing an "Order Setting Tax Rate for 2024-2025" as follows:

General Fund	0.616373
Interest and Sinking Fund	0.220000
Special Road & Bridge	0.090000
Farm to Market/Flood Control	0.000188
Total Rate	0.926561

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 SALARIES AND NUMBER OF POSITIONS BY APPROVING GENERAL ORDER OF PERSONNEL FOR FY2024-2025

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve set the salaries and the number of positions by approving the General Order of Personnel for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, as authorized by court, 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 “OPERATIONAL GENERAL ORDER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025”

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the "Operational General Order for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 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 AUTHORIZING COUNTY TREASURER AND THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CLOSE ALL ACCOUNTS AND MAKE ALL NECESSARY LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to authorize the County Treasurer and the County Auditor to close all accounts and make all necessary line-item transfers 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.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

22. To consider the hiring of Veronica Alanis as a full-time clerk for the Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2- Zapata Office at \$10.48/hr. as requested by Judge Olga M. Bruni, Justice of the Peace Pct. 2.

27 To request a pay increase for Danielson Aguilar (General Order Budget Code 10-543, Slot #16) from \$15.19 to \$15.40 an increase of \$0.21 for completing his firefighter certification, effective October 1st, 2024, as requested by Chief Daniel Arriaga, Fire Chief.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, 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