

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on the 23rd 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
Pedro M. Morales	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
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:

Paco Mendoza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
--------------	------------------------------

VISITORS: Ramon Montes, Roger Miller, Luis O. Martinez, Karran Westerman, Jorge Hugo Flores, Jr., Rebecca Y. Gutierrez, Ralph Treviño, Monica Benavidez, Veronica Alanis, and Manuel Gonzalez, Jr.

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 FOR COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**INVOCATION BY REV. ROGER MILLER,
COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Solis announced that school bus stop structures will be commenced soon. Each structure will measure 12' x 4', featuring a roof and concrete foundation, but no bench. Planned locations include Monterrey Lane, Pharr Lane, Ann Drive, Lake Front Lodge, and Cardinal Street.

Commissioner Morales noted that the circus was in town last week and saw a good turnout.

Commissioner Garza reported that hunting season has begun, with a hunter dedication course scheduled for October 12.

Commissioner Morales added that a 10-acre ordinance is in effect, prohibiting the discharge of weapons on properties smaller than 10 acres

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices from September 3 – September 19, 2024, in the amount of \$727,173.96 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 CHECKS ISSUED

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve checks issued from September 3 – September 19, 2024, in the amount of \$727,173.96 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 PAYMENT TO JOHNSON CONTROLS FOR COURTHOUSE FIRE ALARM MAINTENANCE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment to Johnson Controls for courthouse fire alarm maintenance for \$10,899.70 out of fund balance 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

11. To designate either the County Treasurer, Romeo Salinas, or the County Auditor, Triunfo Gonzalez as Financial Officer, for FY25 Operation Lone Star #4372602 as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.

ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO TRANSFER CONSTABLE PRECINCT 3 2007 FORD EXPEDITION TO WATER PLANT DEPARTMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request to transfer the Constable Pct. 3, 2007 Ford Expedition to the Water Plant Department as requested by Ralph Trevino, 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 HIRING OF JORGE HUGO FLORES, JR. AT OLGA V. FIGUEROA LIBRARY FOR MAINTENANCE POSITION

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the hiring of Jorge Hugo Flores, Jr. at the Olga V. Figueroa Library for the maintenance position as requested by Rebecca Gutierrez, Librarian Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND TXDOT FOR AIRPORT RUNWAY PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement between Zapata County and TxDOT for the Airport Runway Project 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 SPONSOR'S SHARE FOR
TXDOT AIRPORT RUNWAY PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of the Sponsor's share for the TxDOT Airport Runway Project, in the amount of \$33,399.00 out of Airport Enterprise Fund 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 REQUEST TO USE ZAPATA COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS
FOR FUNDRAISING HALLOWEEN EVENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve request to use the Zapata County Fair grounds on October 24-31, 2024, for a fundraising Halloween event as requested by Nina Gutierrez, Parent Sponsor.

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 GRASSY HILL AT HIGHER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER FOR DISPLAY OF CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING
DECORATIONS DURING MONTH OF DECEMBER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve request to use the grassy hill at the Higher Technology Center for the display of Christmas fund raising decorations during the month of December as requested by Nina Gutierrez, ZCFA Queens Contest.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO MOVE FORWARD WITH SUBMISSION OF WATER
SMART DROUGHT RESPONSE PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION ON BEHALF
OF ZAPATA COUNTY TO SUPPORT A HYDROPANEL
DRINKING WATER PROJECT IN DOLORES SUBDIVISION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve to move forward with submission of a Water SMART Drought Response Program grant application on behalf of Zapata County to support a hydropanel drinking water project in Dolores Subdivision, the county match is \$23,000. Approximately 50 homes would be serviced at no cost to the homeowner for the first 5 years, as requested by Fernando Ferreyra, SOURCE Global.

David Hersey made a presentation of SOURCE Global Water Smart proposal.

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

STATUS REVIEW OF FIRE STATION PROJECT

Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering, reported on the Fire Station Project. He brought in plans; plans are at 90% completion. Plans will be reviewed before going out for bids. They include sleeping quarters, showers, dining room, offices, private quarters for females, storage, additional restrooms, waiting area, and training room. The project will also include generators for both fire station and EOS. The building will be facing Highway 16. No report was submitted for the record.

STATUS REVIEW OF SHERIFF'S OFFICE PROJECT

Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering, reported on Sheriff's Office project. He brought in updated plans for review. County match is \$540,000.00. No report was submitted for the record.

ORDER APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INVOICES FOR SAN YGNACIO WATER PLANT PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Change Order #1 for amount of \$92,000.00 and to approve payment of invoice from Mouflon Oilfield Services for \$60,000.00 (\$30,000 pump order and \$30,000 pipe replacement) for San Ygnacio Water Plant 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.

STATUS REVIEW OF NORTHWEST BOOSTER PROJECT

Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering, reported on Northwest Booster Project. Material was received for fencing and pump room. Will give update at the October 1 board meeting. No report was submitted for the record.

ORDER APPROVING CDBG DRAINAGE PLANS AND SPECS TO GO OUT FOR BIDS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve CDBG Drainage Plans and Specs to go out for bids as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that some items have been revised. They will be working on channel beginning to end. Existing easement will be used. They will use county crews to do cleaning. Plans were presented for review. No report was 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 FOR JAIL REPAIRS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoice #3 from Campos Construction for \$20,900.00 for jail repairs as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Change order was not approved.

Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering, reported that project is 50% complete; eight cells have been repaired. Six cells and five doors have been reviewed for repairs.

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

ORDER APPROVING LOS EBANOS PLANS AND SPECS TO GO OUT FOR BIDS FOR WALKING TRAIL AND SOLAR LIGHTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve Los Ebanos Plans and Specs to go out for bid for walking trail and solar lights 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 LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the following line-items to meet budget needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3	010-455-43583	Travel and Training Pct. 3	\$500.00
TO	Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3	010-455-42613	Supplies	\$500.00

as requested by Hon. 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the following line-items to meet budget needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Adult Probation	010-572-43580	Travel and Training	\$350.00
TO	Adult Probation	010-572-43610	General Supplies	\$350.00

as requested by Monica L. Benavidez, Adult 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 Morales, to approve the following line-items to meet budget needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Juvenile Probation	010-570-42610	General Supplies	\$350.00
TO	Juvenile Probation	010-570-43580	Travel and Training	\$350.00

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 Morales, to approve the following line-items to meet budget needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	County Judge	010-400-43580	Travel and Training	\$1,000.00
TO	County Judge	010-400-42618	Postage/Freight	\$1,000.00
FROM	County Judge	010-400-43165	Indigent Defense	\$1,000.00
TO	County Judge	010-400-42610	General Supplies	\$1,000.00

as requested by Roxana Elizondo, County Judge's Office.

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 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.

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