

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on the 15th day of October 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
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VISITORS: Karran Westerman, Roger Miller, Alda Rendon, Maria A. Sanchez, Jacqueline Lopez, Laura A. Palomo, Cesar Vasquez, Delia Mendoza, Janie Mendoza, Janelli Garza, Kristal Saenz, Mayra Arevalo, Sonia Montes, Magdalena Amesquita, Carlo Garcia, Anahi Muñoz, and Alejandro Barrera, 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 HON. 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 announced that bus stop canopy construction began today. He also highlighted upcoming local events, including those hosted by Nina Villarreal Gutierrez.

Commissioner Morales shared that the first golf tournament is set to take place this Saturday.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices from September 20-October 10, 2024, in the amount of \$899,546.55 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 Garza, to approve checks issued from September 20-October 10, 2024, in the amount of \$899,546.55 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 \$6,074.73 for the month of September with a year-to-date total of \$112,104.06. Net collections were \$188,419.97 with tax collections at a rate of 89.099%.

ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION FOR DOWN SYNDROME MONTH ON OCTOBER 2024

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a Proclamation for Down Syndrome Month on October 2024 as requested by Diana L. Salazar, LIDDA Supervisor. Pictures were taken; Ms. Sanchez introduced George Sepulveda as new Interim Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve a Proclamation for Mental Illness Awareness week as requested by Diana L. Salazar, LIDDA Supervisor.

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

ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION OF COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS IN SUPPORT OF STARR COUNTY'S REQUEST TO TRANSFER FROM BORDER REGION BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND JOINT TROPICAL TEXAS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a Resolution of the Commissioners Court of Zapata County, Texas, in support of STARR County's request to transfer from Border Region Behavioral Health and join Tropical Texas Behavioral Health as requested by Hon. Roberto Garza, Commissioner Pct. 4.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST FOR OFFICE SPACE AND
USE OF UTILITIES TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE PREVENTION,
INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request for office space and use of utilities to continue to provide prevention, intervention and treatment services to the community and discuss new programs available as requested by Magdalena Amesquita, SCAN.

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

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF OPEN PAVILION FOR VENDORS MARKET
BENEFITING ZAPATA NORTH ELEMENTARY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the open pavilion for a Vendors Market benefiting Zapata North Elementary on October 20, 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 USE OF OSWALDO RAMIREZ SHOW BARN
FOR HOG PROSPECT SHOW**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the use of the Oswaldo Ramirez Show Barn on December 14, 2024 to conduct a Hog Prospect Show as requested by Gabriel Lopez, Nuffy's MBE.

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 COMMUNITY CENTER
PARKING LOT FOR TRUNK OR TREAT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the use of the Zapata Community Center parking lot on October 31, 2024 for Trunk or Treat as requested by Alejandro Barrera, Jr., Sheriff's Office.

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

UPDATE OF USDA FOOD PROGRAM BY RAMIRO HERNANDEZ

Ramiro Hernandez provided an update on the USDA food program, sharing efforts to expand local support. He is working to bring two new programs to Zapata and is exploring grant opportunities to fund these initiatives.

The program has already served 363,600 meals to students, with meals available at multiple locations, including San Ygnacio, the library, the pavilion, Siesta Shores, Lopeño,

and the recreation center. Meal preparation takes place at a facility on Highway 16, and Mr. Hernandez also owns a mobile trailer that meets all necessary standards for food service.

While the pavilion remains an option for meal distribution, it may only be used when events are not scheduled. Mr. Figueroa will speak with Mr. Villarreal to explore the possibility of using the Lions Club as an additional venue. In an effort to avoid conflicts, Mr. Hernandez has decided to step away from using the pavilion.

Meals are provided on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday to children ages 1-18, or older if they have disabilities.

ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL ON HIRING OF ZAPATA COUNTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO)

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Judge Rathmell on hiring of a Zapata County Chief Financial Officer (CFO). This individual will serve in the capacity of Chief Financial Officer for the county, with responsibilities to include overseeing the financial operation of the county, nearing compliance with state and federal regulations, managing the County budget, supervising financial reporting, and providing fiscal recommendations to the Commissioners Court. Judge Rathmell commented on audit findings; he stated that there were time sheet discrepancies, earning statement discrepancies, hours worked and submitted time sheets and inventory issues, among other issues.

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

ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT TO CAPEX CONSULTING

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve payment to Capex Consulting in the amount of \$30,000.00 for professional services in relation to Ignis Energy 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL TO ACCEPT DONATION OF EASEMENT TO ZAPATA COUNTY FOR ROAD TO BUSTAMANTE CEMETERY OFF HIGHWAY 16

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to table request by Judge Rathmell, to accept donation of a 30 feet easement to Zapata County for a road to Bustamante Cemetery off Highway 16, county is requesting 50 feet instead of 30; a title search is pending.

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

**ORDER APPROVING FY2025 VINES SERVICE RENEWAL AND
2025 SAVNS MAINTENANCE GRANT CONTRACT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the FY25 VINES Service Renewal and to approve 2025 SAVNS Maintenance Grant Contract for a total of \$5,935.12, 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 RDO EQUIPMENT CO.
FOR DOZER REPAIRS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment in the amount of \$3,592.80 to RDO Equipment Co. for dozer repairs 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 NAPA AUTO PARTS
FOR DOZER PARTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment to Napa Auto Parts for hose fittings for dozer 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 RDO EQUIPMENT
FOR DOZER PARTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment for dozer parts to RDO Equipment in the amount of \$1,154.15, to be paid out of Road and Bridge old budget Pct. 1 motor grater, 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 TRANSFER OF ROEL IVAN GUZMAN,
SLOT 23, METER READER TO SLOT 27, WATER PLANT MAINTENANCE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the transfer of Roel Ivan Guzman, slot 23, meter reader, at \$11.98 per hour to slot 27, water plant maintenance at \$12.85 per hour, effective September 16, 2024 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 ESTIMATE FOR CEMENT SLAB
AT ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve estimate for cement slab at the Zapata County Airport by Tomas Chapa, being the lowest bidder, with a bid of \$9,400.00, county portion is \$940.00, remainder to be paid by grant funds, 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 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS AND
ANDRES GARCIA ZUNIGA, M.S. FOR
INMATES MEDICAL SERVICE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve Professional Service Agreement between Zapata County, Texas and Andres Garcia Zuniga, M.S. for inmates medical service for an annual fee of \$100,000.00 for two (2) years as requested by Carlos 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 APPROVING TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR REFILLING
OLD ZAPATA COUNTY LANDFILL TO MEET TCEQ REQUIREMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to solicit bids for refilling the old Zapata County landfill to meet TCEQ requirements, including written permission agreement with land owner, and review by legal counsel 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 BID AWARD FOR CFC21-0191
MEDINA ADDITION ZAPATA COLONIA DRAINAGE PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve bid and award the CFC21-0191 Medina Addition Zapata Colonia Drainage Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Bid was awarded to Mouflon Oilfield Services, with a bid of \$242,500, contingent on approval of requirements by Grantworks and removal of alternative items 1 and 2, with alternative bid of \$197,500.00. County will do dredging.

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 FOR WORK PERFORMED -
JAIL PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of invoices for work performed – Jail Project Improvements as follows:

- \$44,412.50 Campos Construction
- \$9,800.00 Premier Engineering

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 FOR WORK AT NORTHWEST COLONIA BOOSTER STATION PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve payment of Invoice #4 (Frank's Construction), in the amount of \$130,198.58, payable to Acstar, for performed on the CFC21-0191 Northwest Colonia Booster Station Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Mr. Gonzalez reported that fencing has been completed.

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

ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT FOR WORK PERFORMED AT THE SAN YGNACIO WATER PLANT PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of \$30,875.00 to Acstar (Mouflon Oilfield Services) for work done on the San Ygnacio Water Plant Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering. Mr. Gonzalez reported that mixer and clarifier #2 have been installed.

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

29. to review ROW of Linda Vista Subdivision Street for possible closure as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

ORDER APPROVING PLAT OF RAMIREZ DRIVE, LOT 8, VOL 749, PAGES 522-523 INTO LOT 8A AND 8B

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve plat of Ramirez Drive, Lot 8, Vol 749, Pages 522-523, into Lot 8A and 8B 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 USE OF COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS FOR THE CIRCUS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the use of county fair grounds for the circus on February 10, 2025, as requested by John Albert, Circus Owner.

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

**ORDER APPROVING CONTRACTING GRANT WRITING AND
MANAGEMENT FIRM FOR THE TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION (TVC)
HOUSING FOR HEROES GRANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to contract Educational Research Institute (ERI) as grant writing and management firm for the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) Housing for Heroes Grant as requested by Adolfo “Pope” Gonzalez, Veterans Service Officer.

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

ORDER APPROVING THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEM TRANSFER

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental needs, as follows:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	010-455-42611	General Supplies	\$300.00
TO	Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	010-455-43431	Repairs and Maintenance	\$300.00

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.

**ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF THE FOLLOWING
STREET LIGHTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following street light:

- a. 1013 Falcon Ave.
- b. 1104 Kennedy Street

as requested by Hon. Pedro Morales, Commissioner Pct. 3.

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

**ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF THE FOLLOWING
STREETLIGHTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the following streetlights:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a. Petty & South Siesta Lane | f. 11 th & Jackson Street |
| b. 5305 Sean Lane | g. 110 JL Guevara Street |
| c. 306 Lincoln | h. 237 Raven |
| d. 5417 Swoop Lane | i. 5210 Salvador |
| e. 308 Seagull | |

as requested by Hon. Joey 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 MORALES,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS
DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

35/43. to discuss an issue related to a sewer service dispute as requested by Ralph Treviño, Water Plant Director.

Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.074(A)(B), Personnel Matters.

36/44. to take corrective action regarding compensatory time and FLSA law as requested by Nellie Treviño, HR Director.

Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.074(A)(B), Personnel Matters.

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