

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on the 28th 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: Daniel D. Arriaga, Roger Miller, Christopher Dávila, Maxine P. Vieyra

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 Garza noted that the Spooktacular event was a great success, drawing a strong turnout.

Commissioner Solis added that the event provided a safe environment for children to collect candy. He also reported that two bus stop canopies have been completed on Ann Drive, as well as, Monterrey and Juan Drive.

Judge Rathmell and Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, County Clerk, provided details on the upcoming elections.

Danny Arriaga successfully secured a \$250,000 grant through the Texas Forest Service for the purchase of a brush truck. The grant is awarded under a 90/10 matching structure, ensuring critical support for local emergency response efforts.

Christopher Davila shared that, while he holds a part-time job in San Antonio, he remains committed to assisting Zapata County and is readily available to contribute when needed.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices from October 11- October 25, 2024, in the amount of \$757,146.19 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 October 11- October 25, 2024, in the amount of \$757,146.19 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.

PRESENTATION BY TXDOT ENGINEER ON UPCOMING PROJECTS

Danny Flores, a TxDOT engineer, has introduced himself as the new engineer overseeing projects in the Roma area. He will be in this role for the next two months. During his update, he provided progress details on ongoing projects, including the US Highway 83 divided highway south of Zapata, which is currently 35% complete. The estimated completion date for this project is January 2026.

Highway Improvement Updates for Zapata and Surrounding Counties

- Highway 16 (Zapata–Jim Hogg County): Striping enhancements will be implemented to improve visibility and safety.
- Highway 83 (North of Zapata–Webb County): A 3.6-mile section will be widened and upgraded to a divided highway for improved traffic flow and safety.
- Highway 16: Scheduled for seal coating, maintenance, and additional enhancements to ensure durability and optimal road conditions.

No report was provided for the record.

PRESENTATION ON ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Maxine Vieyra, with the Alzheimer's Association, delivered a presentation to raise awareness about the organization's efforts. The association, which serves communities from the Rio Grande Valley to San Antonio, is working to make its presence known and expand support for those affected by Alzheimer's.

Zapata County has a 14% incidence rate of Alzheimer's, stressing the need for local awareness. New treatments for the disease are now being approved by Medicare, offering hope for improved care and management. As part of their outreach, the Alzheimer's Association is currently seeking approval for a proclamation to further their mission in the region.

ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT TO HERNANDEZ PEST CONTROL

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of \$525.00 to Hernandez Pest Control for pest control inspection at the Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, to be paid out of non-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.

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF OPEN PAVILION FOR
VILLARREAL ELEMENTARY PTO FUNDRAISER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the open pavilion on November 18, 2024 for a Villarreal Elementary PTO Fundraiser 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 TO PUBLISH REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
FOR PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR
EPA COMMUNITY CHANGE PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve publishing the request for proposals (RFP) for professional management services for the EPA Community Change Program 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 PUBLISHING REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF
QUALIFICATION FOR ARCHITECTURAL / ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR
EPA COMMUNITY CHANGE PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve publishing the request for statement of qualification for architectural/engineering services for EPA community Change Program 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 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FOR
EPA COMMUNITY CHANGE PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve public hearing notice for the EPA Community Change Program 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 RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION TO
EPA FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve resolution to submit grant application to EPA for Community Change Program 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 EPA COMMUNITY CHANGE
PROGRAM SURVEY FORM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the EPA Community Change Program survey form 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 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a Partnership Agreement with Non-Profit Organization 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 USE OF SAN YGNACIO CIVIC CENTER FOR
ALBES PTO BINGO**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the use of the San Ygnacio Civic Center for ALBES PTO bingo on November 10, 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 REQUEST TO USE ZAPATA COUNTY FAIR
GROUNDS FOR CIRCUS DU LUXE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request to use the Zapata county fair grounds from January 24-26, 2025, for the Circus Du Luxe 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 OPEN PAVILION BY
TWO WICKED LEVEL TO PASS OUT CANDY ON OCTOBER 31, 2024**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the open pavilion by Two Wicked Levels to pass out candy on October 31, 2024, as requested 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 TO INCREASE PAY RATE OF
ESMERALDA A. HERNANDEZ**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve to increase pay rate of Esmeralda A. Hernandez, general order budget code 10-543-slot #7 from \$15.19 to \$15.40 per hour, effective October 29, 2024, after successfully completing the fire academy and obtaining her firefighter license as requested by Fire Chief Daniel D. Arriaga.

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

**ORDER APPROVING TO INCREASE PAY RATE OF
DANIEL AGUILAR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to increase pay rate of Daniel Aguilar general order budget code 10-543-slot #16 from \$15.19 to \$15.40 per hour, effective October 29, 2024, after successfully completing the fire academy and completing the fire academy and obtaining his firefighter license as requested by Fire Chief Daniel D. Arriaga.

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

**ORDER ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF
AMANDA MOLYNEUX AGUILAR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to accept the resignation of Amanda Molyneux Aguilar, general order budget code 10-543 Slot #30 effective October 31, 2024, as requested by Fire Chief Daniel D. Arriaga.

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

ORDER APPROVING TO HIRE ERIC ELIZONDO

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to hire Eric Elizondo, as full-time, general order code 10-543 slot #31, effective October 14, 2024, as EMT-B at \$13.00 per hour as requested by Fire Chief Daniel D. Arriaga.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF
US HWY 16 FOR 1ST ANNUAL BOTELLO CEPEDA
MEMORIAL 5K RUN/WALK EVENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the Resolution for the temporary closure of US HWY 16 for the 1st Annual Botello Cepeda Memorial 5K run/walk event on November 30, 2024 as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, 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 FOR TXDOT TEMPORARY ROW
CLOSURE OF US HWY 83 FROM 17TH AVE. TO 6TH AVE.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Resolution for TxDot temporary ROW closure of US HWY 83 from 17th Avenue to 6th Avenue on December 5, 2024 for the Annual Zapata Christmas Parade as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, HR Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the following street lights:

- a. 1304 Miraflores
- b. 4157 La Cantera Lane, San Ygnacio, TX
- c. 210 Maru Lane
- d. 1610 Laredo Avenue

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the following street lights:

- a. 1414 Villa Street
- b. 511 Diaz Avenue
- c. Hwy 16 and 16th Street
- d. 1512 Ramireño
- e. 1701 Roma Avenue
- f. 1211 Guerrero Avenue
- g. 1401 Villa Avenue
- h. 1302 Ramireño
- i. 715 Roma
- j. 714 Guerrero Avenue

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 LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Nutrition Center	038-648-42735	Safety Services	\$500.00
TO	Nutrition Center	038-647-42735	Safety Services	\$500.00

as requested by Bertha Lopez, Nutrition Center Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION FOR 2025 INDIGENT DEFENSE GRANT PROGRAM

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve resolution for the 2025 Indigent Defense Grant Program 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 PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve proclamation for National Alzheimer's Awareness Month as requested by Andrea Garza, Alzheimer's Association-Intern.

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