

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

**IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS**

Be it remembered, that on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 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	Zapata County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

**VISITORS:** Nellie Treviño, Roger Miller, Roberto Campos, Karran Westerman, Patricia A. González, Belinda Chapa, Ralph Treviño, Olga M. Bruni, Verónica Alanís, Armando Guerra, and Delia Mendoza.

**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**

Judge Rathmell reminded county employees that the Thanksgiving luncheon will take place on Wednesday and that attendance is mandatory for all county employees.

Commissioner Solis announced that a walkthrough had been conducted at the jail and commended Campos Construction for their excellent work. He noted that wear and tear remediation had been completed. He further emphasized the need for interior remediation, including the camera system.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices from November 8 – November 21, 2024, for \$600,000.70 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 Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve checks issued from November 8 – November 21, 2024, for \$600,000.70 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 FROM ZAPATA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT BOARD**

Jose O. Dodier, Jr., Chairman, delivered a presentation to the Commissioners Court on behalf of the Zapata Soil and Water Conservation District Board. He reported that 29 contracts had been serviced, covering approximately 17,000 acres. He also highlighted the achievements of Sophie Alanis, a student from Zapata Middle School, who participated in the poster contest and advanced to the National Association of Conservation District Poster Contest. She is set to compete in Nolan County this December. Additionally, Mr. Dodier noted the \$31,000 that had already been approved during the budget process.

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST FOR A REPORT DETAILING ALLOCATION OF  
\$158,000, INCLUDING \$30,000 DONATION TO THE LOCAL 4-H CLUB.  
THE MATTER WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR  
REVIEW TO DETERMINE WHETHER EXPENDITURES MADE  
DURING CURRENT FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 FROM  
ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FORFEITURE FUNDS  
WERE PERMISSIBLE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the request for a report detailing the allocation of \$158,000, including a \$30,000 donation to the local 4-H club. The matter will be presented to the county attorney for review to determine whether the expenditures made during the current fiscal year 2024-2025 from Zapata County Sheriff's Department forfeiture funds were permissible, 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 DENY PAYMENT OF POSTED INVOICES FOR  
ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DATED OCTOBER 8, 2024,  
AND REQUEST FULL REIMBURSEMENT FOR \$230.86**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to deny request to pay posted invoices for the Zapata County Sheriff's Office dated October 8, 2024, and request reimbursement of \$230.86 for shirts made with "Hope and Faith Logo" 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 ZAPATA Q.A. INC.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of \$2,250.00 to Zapata Q. A. INC. for work done at the Zapata Medical Center 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 HERNANDEZ PEST CONTROL, LLC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of \$925.00 to Hernandez Pest Control, LLC. for termite control for Zapata Clinic building 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 APPOINTING AND/OR REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE TEXAS  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION FOR TWO YEARS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis to approve appointing and/or reappointing members to the Texas Historical Commission for a two-year term, as follows:

Héctor López, Jr.  
Roberto López, Sr.  
Rosa Elena Martínez  
Amparo M. Gutiérrez  
Comissioner Pedro Morales  
Laura Garza

Olga M. Elizondo  
Héctor Uribe  
Commissioner Joey Solís  
José Luis Elizondo  
José Emilio Vela

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 ON DECEMBER 15, 2024, FOR  
VILLARREAL ELEMENTARY PTO FESTIVAL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve use of the open pavilion on December 15, 2024, for the Villarreal Elementary PTO Festival 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 OF INVOICE OF \$16,800.00  
PAYABLE TO TOMAS CHAPA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoice for \$16,800.00, payable to Tomas Chapa for work done at Zapata County Airport, County portion is \$1,680.00 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.

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

16. To approve the roofing repairs to the environmental building due to water damage as requested by Nellie Trevino, HR Director.

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY NELLIE TREVIÑO, HR DIRECTOR  
ON REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR POSITION OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-HR DEPARTMENT AND  
AIRPORT MANAGER-ZAPATA COUNTY AIRPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to table request by Nellie Treviño, HR Director, on request to advertise for positions of Administrative Assistant-HR Department and Airport Manager-Zapata County Airport.

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

**ORDER APPROVING K-9 SUPPLEMENT PAY  
FOR K-9 INVESTIGATOR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the K-9 supplement pay for K-9 Investigator who was hired in the 10-560-slot #9 effective November 9, 2024, at a rate of \$100 per pay period, to be paid out of forfeiture funds 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 UPDATE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL TO  
THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF  
VICTIMS OF CRIME PROGRAM FY2025, GRANT NO. 497901**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the update of the authorized official to the resolution in support of the Victims of Crime Program FY 2025, Grant No. 4975901 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 TO DENY REQUEST BY MISSY VILLARREAL, STRUTTER PARENT,  
TO WAIVE FEE FOR USE OF ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to deny the request by Missy Villarreal, Strutter Parent, to waive the fee for the use of the Zapata County Community Center for January 4th, 2025, for the ZHS Strutter Ball.

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 SAN YGNACIO WATER PLANT IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of invoice for \$80,180.00 to Acstar for work performed on San Ygnacio Water Plant improvements as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

Armando Guerra reported that project is 50% complete, and the contractor has been working on sandblasting, painting, clarifiers and filters.

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 NORTHWEST BOOSTER STATION IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve payment of Inv. #6 for \$95,570.00 to Acstar for work performed on Northwest Booster Station improvements as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

Judge Rathmell informed the public that due to delay with this project the County will not be able to apply for 2025 grants.

Armando Guerra reported that the project is 50% complete. He explained that part of the delay is because they are behind on the materials.

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 ZAPATA JAIL REPAIRS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of retainage fee of \$5,362.50 to Campos Construction for Zapata jail repairs as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr. Premier Engineering.

Armando Guerra reported that project is 100% complete.

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 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 ITEM DISCUSSED  
IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

24. To discuss an issue related to a Zapata County Wastewater lift station as requested by Ralph Trevino, Water Plant Director

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Solis, 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.

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JOSEPH RATHMELL, COUNTY JUDGE  
OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

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MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN,  
COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS