

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on the 27th day of January 2025, 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
David Moya	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Jose A. Solis	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Roberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Celica A. Rodriguez	Chief Deputy County Clerk

ABSENT:

Pedro M. Morales	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	Zapata County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

VISITORS: Patricia A. González, Dioni M. Hernández, Cynthia Covarrubias, Jesse Rodríguez, Adolfo González, Jr., Sammy Luera, Carlos Colina Vargas, Becky Gutiérrez, Manuel González, Jr., Ralph Treviño, 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
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Judge Rathmell commented that during the recent cold weather we experienced waterline issues. Jim Hogg County had no power. We had generators; potholes are coming up, we will have to wait to address until Wednesday. Debt is almost paid off for street repairs. Equipment is needed, it may be cheaper to purchase our own equipment and do work ourselves. Waterlines run through streets and damage roads. Welcome to Zapata sign was repaired by Albert Gonzalez. Thanked Gonzalez family for their service.

Commissioner Moya, attended conference and attained credit hours.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices from January 10 – January 23, 2025, for \$666,650.71, 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 January 10 – January 23, 2025, for \$666,650.71, 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.

NO ONE PRESENT FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEM

8. Presentation by South Texas Auctioneers as requested by Nadia Stephens, Sales Representative.

**PRESENTATION BY TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION 2023-2024
YEARLY REVIEW**

Presentation by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension 2023-2024 yearly review. Attached for the record.

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST TO SOLICIT RFP FOR GRANT WRITING AND
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR FY2026 OPERATION LONE STAR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request to solicit RFP for grant writing and administrative services for FY2026 Operation Lone Star 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 HIRING OF SITE MANAGER AT FALCON NUTRITION CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve hiring of Ana Ramirez as the Site Manager at the Falcon Nutrition Center as requested by Hon. David Moya, Commissioner Pct. 1.

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

**ORDER AUTHORIZING CARLOS COLINA VARGAS AND PREMIER ENGINEERING
TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATION TO TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE
DEPARTMENT FOR RECREATIONAL TRAIL GRANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to authorize Carlos Colina Vargas and Premier Engineering to prepare and submit an application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Recreational Trail Grant and to implement the proposed project, funded 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.

**MEETING WAS CONDUCTED FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED
TPWD RECREATIONAL GRANT PROJECT**

Meeting was conducted for a public hearing for the proposed TPWD Recreational Trails Grant Project as requested by Hon. Jose A. Solis, Commissioner Pct. 3. Public hearing began at 9:17 a.m. and concluded at 9:32 a.m.

ORDER APPROVING VEHICLES TO BE AUCTIONED UNDER CM AUCTIONS

Motion was made by Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve list of vehicles to be auctioned under CM Auctions as requested by Sheriff Ramon Montes, County Sheriff.

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

ORDER AMENDING SALARIES FOR SLOTS #3, 4, 5 AND 6 DEPARTMENT 410 FUND 430 GENERAL ORDER AND CHANGE TITLE DETENTION OFFICER TO TRANSPORTING OFFICER ON ITEM #25 ON JANUARY 23, 2025, COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING

Motion was made by Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to amend the salaries for slots #3, 4, 5, and 6 Department 410 fund 430 in the General Order \$45,807.00 (\$30,000 plus fringe \$15,265.00) and to change the title Detention Officer to Transporting Officer in OLS Budget and on item #25 on January 13, 2025, Commissioners Court meeting as requested by Sheriff Ramon Montes, County Sheriff.

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

ORDER APPROVING PROPOSAL FROM SHI GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS FOR PURCHASE OF HP LASER JET PRINTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve proposal of \$453.00 for SHI Government Solutions for the purchase of an HP color laser jet printer for the commission of incident reports, to be paid out of non-department as requested by Sheriff Ramon Montes, County Sheriff.

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

ORDER APPROVING PROPOSAL FROM SHI GOVERNMENT SOLUTION FOR PURCHASE OF FIREWALL, ACCESS POINT AND SWITCHES FOR ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to approve proposal of \$12,421.85 from SHI Government Solutions for the purchase of a firewall, access point and switches for the Zapata County Sheriff's Office due to current lack of state security compliance, to be paid out of non-department, as requested by Sheriff Ramon Montes, County Sheriff.

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

ORDER APPROVING D&H & BANNON CORP INVOICES ON COMPLETION OF FUEL FARM AND ENGINEERING SERVICES INCLUDING WARRANTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve D&H & Brannon Corp invoices on completion of fuel farm and engineering services including warranty, for \$8,348.32 as requested by Sheriff Ramon Montes, County Sheriff.

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 SHERIFF MONTES REGARDING PAYMENT OF INVOICES LEFT BY PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to table request by Sheriff Montes, regarding payment on invoices left by previous administration. Still collecting invoices; must see if work was completed.

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

ORDER AMENDING FY2025 BUDGET TO ADD TWO ADDITIONAL DEPUTY SHERIFF POSITIONS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to amend FY2025 budget to add two additional Deputy Sheriff positions at \$45,000.00 and \$18,554 fringe benefits which has been budgeted under OLS #4372602 Department 410 Slots 7 and 8 as requested by Sheriff Ramon Montes, County Sheriff.

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 TRIUNFO GONZALEZ, COUNTY AUDITOR REGARDING APPROVAL OF PROVISION OF \$400,000 IN IGT FOR LAREDO MEDICAL CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to table request by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor, regarding approval of provision of \$400,000.00 in IGT for Laredo Medical Center for the DY14 US Advance IGT due on February 3, 2025.

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

22. To discuss regarding new employee and medical coverage effective dates as requested by Nellie Treviño, HR Director.

ORDER APPROVING HIRING OF JUAN CARMONA AS CUSTODIAN MAINTENANCE FOR DEPARTMENT 516

Motion was made by Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve hiring of Juan Carmona on slot #2 at \$10.48 per hour as Custodian Maintenance for Department 516, effective January 27, 2025, as requested by Dioni Hernandez, Maintenance Manager.

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

ORDER APPROVING PURCHASE OF TABLES AND CHAIRS FOR LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve purchase of 9 tables and 36 chairs for the Los Ebanos Golf Course from Quill for \$4,500.00, to be paid out of non-department as requested by Laura Garza, Civic Center Manager.

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

ORDER APPROVING TO REPLACE HVAC AT ZAPATA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to replace the HVAC at the Zapata County Community Center that services the HIDTA Task Force Offices for purchase price of \$2,800.00 as requested by Laura Garza, Civic Center Manager.

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

**ORDER APPROVING USE OF COMMUNITY CENTER FOR
DR. SEUSS COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve request to use the Community Center for Dr. Seuss Community Health Fair on Monday, March 17, 2025, from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. This is a free community event designed to encourage healthy lifestyle and connect you to our local resources as requested by Rebecca 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 PAYMENT OF INVOICE AND REVIEW STATUS OF SAN
YGNACIO WATER PLANT PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to approve payment of Inv. #10 for \$71,796.25 for work performed at San Ygnacio Water Plant Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

Contractor has completed work and walkthrough will take place. 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 AND REVIEW STATUS OF ZAPATA
BOOSTER STATION PROJECT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to approve payment of Inv. # 9 for \$13,015.00 payable to Frank's Construction for work performed on Zapata Booster Station Project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

Project is about 74% complete. They have been having monthly meetings. They are pending storage tanks. Project was extended 6 months for completion. Extension will penalize the county. No report was submitted for the record.

STATUS REVIEW ON ZAPATA DRAINAGE PROJECT

Status review on Zapata Drainage Project, project should be completed by July. This project was extended also. No report was submitted for the record.

**ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION TO TXDOT'S 2025 TRANSPORTATION
ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve application to TX Dot's 2025 Transportation Alternative Program. Call for projects, deadlines to apply February 2025 as requested by Carl Esser, Esser & Company Consulting, LLC.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTING THE
RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION TO TPWD AND DESIGNATING
JUDGE JOE RATHMELL AS ZAPATA COUNTY'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR PROJECT
APPLICATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a Resolution authorizing submitting the Recreational Trails Grant application to TPWD and

designating Judge Joe Rathmell as Zapata County's representative for the project application as requested by Carlos Colina Vargas.

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

ORDER APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH J3 SUPPLY FOR ANNUAL INSPECTION MAINTENANCE AND RECHARGING ON PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve an agreement with J3 Supply for the annual inspections maintenance and recharging on all portable fire extinguishers as requested by Orlando J. Moreno, J3 Supply.

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

ORDER APPROVING INSTALLATION OF STREETLIGHTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to approve the following streetlights:

- a) 302 3rd Street
- b) 2177 Park Drive (Medina Electric)

as requested by Hon. David Moya, Commissioner Pct. 1.

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 Moya, to approve the following line-item transfer to meet departmental need:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	10-455-43581	Travel & Training	\$13.00
TO	Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	10-455-43131	Professional Services	\$13.00

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 AUTHORIZING SHERIFF RAMON MONTES ON RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING GRANTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to authorize Sheriff Ramon Montes on resolutions in support of the following grants:

- Grant No. 3616506 Local Border Security
- Grant No. 3672907 FY2023 Operation Stonegarden
- Grant No. 4975901 FY2025 Victims of Crime Program
- Grant No. 4976401 FY2025 Frontline Wellness

as requested by Sheriff Ramon Montes, County Sheriff.

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 GARZA,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,
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**

38. To review and take action on possible breach of lease agreement with Zapata Chamber of Commerce on county owned building as requested by Hon. Joe Rathmell, County Judge.
Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071, consultation with attorney.

39. To discuss an issue related to Zapata County Wastewater lift station easement as requested by Ralph Treviño, Water Plant Director.
Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071, consultation with attorney.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, 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