

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

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

Be it remembered, that on this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 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
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:** Rebecca Y. Gutiérrez, Severita Sánchez, Josefina Medel, Roger Miller, Patricia A. González, Karran Westerman, Edwin Rodríguez, Brandy Quintero, Verónica Valadez, Ramon E. Montes, Juan R. Molina, Ramiro García, Jr., Adolfo González, Delia Mendoza, Daniel D. Arriaga, and Ralph Treviño.

**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 thanked everyone for the successful County Fair, noting the good turnout and decent weather, despite some wind. He also thanked vendors and volunteers and mentioned that some donations went to Sacred Heart.

Commissioner Morales recognized Cristaly Leal's achievement in the mariachi competition with congratulations.

Commissioner Moya also acknowledged Martin Saenz for his efforts in clearing the arroyo area.

**ORDER APPROVING INVOICES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to approve invoices from February 21 – March 5, 2025, for \$292,420.59, 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 February 21 – March 5, 2025, for \$292,420.59, 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 for \$5,065.25 for December with a year-to-date total of \$33,948.42. Net collections were \$494,857.71 with tax collections at a rate of 79.90% for 2024.

#### **ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month as requested by Dr. Severita Sanchez, Executive Director – Children's Advocacy Center.

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**

17. To approve the use of the Zapata Community Center for a Dr. Seuss Health Fair as requested by Rebecca Gutierrez, Librarian.

#### **ORDER APPROVING ESTIMATE FOR REPAIRS OF ZAPATA COUNTY LIBRARY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve an estimate for \$5,983.11 from Ramiro Sanchez, for labor and materials, to be paid out of non-department funds, for the repairs of Zapata County Library, as requested by Rebecca Gutierrez, Library.

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

#### **ORDER APPROVING ESTIMATE FROM RDO EQUIPMENT FOR REPAIR OF ROAD & BRIDGE LOADER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve estimate of \$12,036.48 from RDO Equipment for the repair of a Road & Bridge Loader, 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 PAYMENT FOR REPAIRS TO MECHANIC'S TRUCK OF ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of \$5,145.00 for the repairs of the mechanic's truck of the Road & Bridge Department,

to be paid out of line-item 015-621-43430 Road & Bridge repairs and maintenance, 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 GRANTWORKS FOR  
ADMINISTRATION MILESTONE #2**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to approve payment of Invoice #2 for \$6,300.00 to Grantworks for Administration Milestone #2 for CFC21-0191 Zapata Northwest Colonia Project, remaining balance is \$15,750.00 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 SCOPE OF SERVICES WITH SCS ENGINEERS  
FOR SURVEY AND REMAINING CAPACITY STUDY OF  
SAN YGNACIO LANDFILL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the scope of services with SCS Engineers for the survey and remaining capacity study of the San Ygnacio Landfill, for \$38,900.00, to be paid out of consulting, as 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 AWARDING BID BY HAWK READY MIX FOR SURFACE CLEANING OF  
LANDFILL AS PER TCEQ STANDARDS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to award the bid by Hawk Ready Mix, being the only bidder, with a bid of \$62,000.00, for the surface cleaning of the Zapata Landfill as per TCEQ standards, to be paid out of fund balance, as 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 HIRING OF JAVIER RAMIREZ  
AS LANDFILL OPERATOR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve hiring of Javier Ramirez in slot #7 as Landfill Operator at \$12.72 per hour in the Environmental Department as 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 ANNUAL CYBERSECURITY TRAINING OFFERED  
BY TAC AS MANDATED BY TEXAS DEPARTMENT ON  
INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve the annual Cybersecurity Training, offered by TAC, as mandated by Texas Department on Information Resources for 2025 as requested by Nellie 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 REQUEST TO USE OUTDOOR SPACE AT  
ZAPATA COUNTY PAVILION FOR 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AUTISM AWARENESS  
5K RUN/WALK & POP-UP MARKET**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to request use of outdoor space at the Zapata County Pavilion for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Awareness 5K Run/Walk & Pop-Up Market on Saturday, April 5, 2025, as requested by Berta Lopez, Parent.

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

**REVIEW STATUS ON BOOSTER STATION PROJECT**

**No action taken.**

Manuel Gonzalez of Premier Engineering provided an update on Booster Station project, noting that the project is now approximately 90% finished, with the installation of the channel feed system remaining. No report was submitted for the record.

**REVIEW STATUS ON DRAINAGE PROJECT**

**No action taken.**

Manuel Gonzalez of Premier Engineering reported on drainage project stating that the site has been cleared, but noted there is an encroachment issue. He also mentioned that the contract for the project has been awarded. No report was submitted for the record.

**ORDER APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 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
<b>FROM</b>	Veteran's Financial Assistance	231-416-43810	Other Direct Costs	\$2,835.56
<b>TO</b>	Veteran's Financial Assistance	231-416-43136	Client Services	\$2,835.56
<b>FROM</b>	Veteran's Financial Assistance	231-416-43580	Travel	\$456.75
<b>TO</b>	Veteran's Financial Assistance	231-416-43136	Client Services	\$456.75
<b>FROM</b>	Veteran's Financial Assistance	231-416-41110	Salaries & Wages/Fringe	\$5,000.00
<b>TO</b>	Veteran's Financial Assistance	231-416-43136	Client Services	\$5,000.00
<b>FROM</b>	Veteran's Financial Assistance	231-415-41110	Salaries & Wages/ Fringe	\$9,700.00
<b>TO</b>	Veteran's Financial Assistance	231-415-43136	Client Services	\$9,700.00

as requested by 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 RENEWAL OF DISASTER DECLARATION OF  
LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER RELATED TO SURGE OF MIGRANTS  
UNLAWFULLY CROSSING TEXAS MEXICO BORDER**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to approve renewal of disaster declaration of local state of disaster related to surge of migrants unlawfully crossing Texas Mexico border 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 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF  
FY2026 OPERATION LONE STAR**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to approve Resolution in support of 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.

**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**

**ORDER APPROVING EMPLOYEE'S REQUEST FOR  
EXTENSION OF FMLA LEAVE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve employee's request for an extension on FMLA leave as requested by Nellie Treviño, HR Director.

*Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Sub Chapter D, Section 551.071, consultation with attorney.*

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

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM DISCUSSED IN  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

22. Consultation with attorney regarding Operation Lone Star Funding for grant #4372601 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.*

**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.

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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