

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered that on the 24th 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. 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:

Hon. Joseph Rathmell	County Judge
David Moya	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1

VISITORS: Jorge Sepúlveda, Cesar Vásquez, Laura A. Palomo, Marylou Ibarra, Laura Solís, Laura Cortez, Michael Mendoza, Alda Rendon, María A. Sánchez, Diana Salazar, Debbie Bourne, Marcela Guerra, Adriana Arámbula, Aurora Martínez, and Nora Peña.

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 DR. ROGER MILLER, COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Solis extended congratulations to Zapata High School's One Act Play for advancing to the next level of competition. He also recognized Sammy Luera for hosting a successful wellness event at Bravo Park. In addition, Commissioner Solis announced that the Pony League season is now underway, with registration currently open at Z-Town Academy.

Commissioner Garza congratulated Cristaly Leal on her outstanding achievement in winning the mariachi competition. He also commended all participants in the recent skeet shoot.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices from March 6 – March 20, 2025, for \$847,754.53 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 March 6 – March 20, 2025, for \$847,754.53 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. to recognize local student Cristaly Leal as requested by Hon. Pedro Morales, Commissioner Pct. 2.

ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION FOR WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Proclamation for World Down Syndrome Day as requested by Diana L. Salazar, Border Region.

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

**ORDER APPROVING RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL
AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the Resolution recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month 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 PURCHASE OF 2 MOWER TRAILERS
AND 2 JOHN DEERE 220 GREEN MOWERS FROM TRACTOR SUPPLY
FOR LOS EBANOS GOLF COURSE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the purchase of (2) two mower trailers from Tractor Supply at \$899.99 each and two (2) John Deere 220 Green Mowers at \$1,995.00 each for Los Ebanos Golf Course, using a credit card to be paid out of Gold Court 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 TO NAME BASKETBALL COURT AT
ROMEO'S PARK AUGUSTIN "ALEX" GARCIA MEMORIAL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve to name the basketball court at the Romeo's Park (Romeo T. Flores Park) Augustin "Alex" Garcia Memorial 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 PAYMENT OF INVOICES
FOR RHYAN TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, LLC**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve payment of two invoices in the amount of \$13,500.00 each from Rhyan Technology Services, LLC, for services provided to the Zapata County Sheriff's Office during FY23 and FY24. The total amount is \$27,000.00 for jail software and will be paid from Non-Department funds, as requested by County Sheriff Ramon Montes.

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

**ORDER APPROVING STIPEND FOR K-9 OFFICER OF \$100.00 BIWEEKLY AND
TRANSFER NEW K-9 TO WILLIAM BUTTERFIELD**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve stipend for K-9 officer of \$100.00 biweekly and transfer new K-9 to William Butterfield, 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 SUBMISSION OF 2025-2026 TAC PROPERTY
RENEWAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve submission of the 2025-2026 TAC Property Renewal Questionnaire 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 TXDOT RIGHT OF WAY RESOLUTION FOR
TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF HWY 16 ALONG GLENN AVENUE
AND HIDALGO AVENUE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the TxDot Right of Way Resolution for the temporary closure of Hwy 16 along Glenn Avenue and Hidalgo Avenue. Resolution for the 9th Annual Autism Awareness 5K Run/Walk on April 5, 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 OF \$20,000 FROM TOBACCO FUND TO
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve request of \$20,000.00 from Tobacco Fund (67-800-43800) to Repair and Maintenance (10-543-43430) as requested by Fire Chief Daniel Arriaga, Fire Department.

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

ORDER APPROVING PAY INCREASE FOR ESTEBAN GARZA

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve pay increase for Mr. Esteban Garza from \$11.98 per hour to \$14.00 per hour (slot #17). Mr. Garza has met all educational TCEQ requirements and has achieved a Class C Water Operator License. Funds to come from 080-600-41110 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 REQUEST TO HIRE AARC ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.
TO PERFORM TIER II REPORTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve request to hire AARC Environmental, Inc. to perform our Tier II Reports and keep Zapata County Waterworks and Waste Water Departments in federal and state compliance at a cost of

\$1,500.00 per facility and first chemical, along with an additional \$350.00 for each additional chemical, for an annual fee of \$8,700.00, 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 PAYMENT OF SPONSOR SHARE TO TXDOT AVIATION FOR LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of sponsor share in the amount of \$13,352.00 to TxDot Aviation for the Land Acquisition project, 10% of total, out of Certificate of Obligation, as requested by Domingo Castañeda, Airport Director.

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

ORDER APPROVING PLAT OF LINCOLN / W 21ST AVENUE

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve plat of Lincoln / W 21st Avenue 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.

REVIEW STATUS ON BOOSTER STATION PROJECT

Manuel Gonzalez provided an update on the Booster Station Project, stating that the contractor is progressing as planned. The generator is expected to arrive soon, and the project should be completed soon.

ORDER APPROVING LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata Water Plant	080-600-43617	Chlorine & Chemicals	\$25,000.00
TO	Zapata Water Plant	080-600-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$25,000.00
FROM	Zapata Water Plant	080-600-43800	Other Expenses	\$400.00
TO	Zapata Water Plant	080-600-43580	Travel & Training	\$400.00
FROM	Sewer Plant	008-602-43440	Rentals	\$2,000.00
TO	Sewer Plant	008-602-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$2,000.00
FROM	Sewer Plant	008-602-45510	State Fees	\$8,000.00
TO	Sewer Plant	008-602-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$8,000.00
FROM	Sewer Plant	008-602-48860	Inspection fees	\$9,000.00
TO	Sewer Plant	008-602-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$9,000.00
FROM	Sewer Plant	008-602-43617	Chlorine & Chemicals	\$8,000.00
TO	Sewer Plant	008-602-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$8,000.00

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.

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Zapata Tax Office	010-499-43440	Rentals	\$1,000.00
TO	Zapata Tax Office	010-499-43580	Travel/Training	\$1,000.00

as requested by Hon. Delia R. Mendoza, Tax Assessor-Collector.

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 MORALES,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY RALPH TREVIÑO REGARDING
REQUEST TO PURCHASE 6" TRAILER MOUNTED DIESEL PUMP**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to table request by Ralph Treviño, Water Plant Director, regarding request to purchase of a 6" trailer mounted diesel pump from VP Sales and Manufacturing for \$37,647.54 from the Certificate of Obligation, pump purchase is for water distribution.

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.

**ORDER APPROVING COST ESTIMATE OF \$50,000 FOR
WATER / WASTEWATER LINE REPAIRS/EQUIPMENT
ON HWY 16 AND 5TH STREET**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve cost estimate of \$50,000 for the water / wastewater lines repairs/equipment on Hwy 16 & 5th Street, as discussed in Executive Session, to be paid from Certificate of Obligation funds, as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

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.

**ORDER AUTHORIZING MANUEL GONZALEZ, PREMIER ENGINEERING
TO CONTINUE WITH NEGOTIATIONS FOR EASEMENT
ACQUISITION ON LAKESHORE DRIVE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to authorize Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering, to continue with negotiations for easement acquisition on Lakeshore Drive as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

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.

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY MANUEL GONZALEZ,
PREMIER ENGINEERING, ON REVIEW OF BIDS AND
AWARD LOS EBANOS WALKING TRAIL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to table request by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering, on review of bids and award Los Ebanos Walking Trail, pending legal review.

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.

**ORDER AWARDING BID FOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT FOR
RAW WATER INTAKE PROJECT USDA, AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to award bid of \$238,875.40 for heavy equipment for Raw Water Intake Project USDA, as discussed in Executive Session, from water project grant funds, as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Premier Engineering.

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.

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY JUDGE RATHMELL REGARDING
OPERATION LONE STAR FUNDING FOR GRANT# 437601**

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to table request by Judge Rathmell regarding Operation Lone Star funding for grant #4372601.

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.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Garza, 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.

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