

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 14th day of April 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: Roger Miller, Guadalupe Amaya, Delia Mendoza, Joseline Medel, Janie Mendoza, Kristal Sáenz, Maggie Amesquita, Daniel Arriaga, Verónica Alanís, Patricia A. González, and Olga M. Bruni.

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**

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION TO ZAPATA HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL
POWERLIFTING ASSOCIATION'S STATE MEET**

Presentation of Certificates of Recognition to Zapata High School students Albert Camacho, Kelsey Cooper, and Jesus "Jay" Aguilar for accomplishments at the Texas High School Powerlifting Association's State Meet as requested by Hon. Jose A. Solis, Commissioner Pct. 3.

COMMUNICATIONS

Andrew Treviño thanked Devine Health Services for donating desks.

Judge Olga M. Bruni thanked Sheriff Montes and all the elected officials who contributed and helped with the Easter event.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices from March 21 – April 10, 2025, for \$429,648.67, 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 March 21 – April 10, 2025, for \$429,648.67, 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 \$6,881.99 for December with a year-to-date total of \$40,830.41. Net collections were \$453,889.26 with tax collections at a rate of 83.26% for 2024.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT CRISTALY LEAL 1ST PLACE WINNER OF MARIACHI EXTRAVAGANZA

Recognition of student Cristaly Leal as the 1st place winner of the Mariachi Extravaganza in San Antonio as requested by Hon. Pedro Morales, Commissioner Pct. 2.

PRESENTATION FROM SIGMA DELTA LAMBDA SORORITY FROM TAMIU

Presentation from the Sigma Delta Lambda Sorority from TAMIU for the establishment of community libraries in Zapata Colonias as requested by Victoria Garcia, Lambda Sorority.

ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION ON SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve Proclamation on Sexual Assault Awareness Month as requested by Mayra Arevalo Program Coordinator SCAN.

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

PRESENTATION BY YVETTE UTLEY OF LONE STAR STRATEGY GROUP, LLC

Presentation by Yvette Utley on Lone Star Strategy Group, LLC. They help rural areas with grants. Presentation attached for the record.

REPORT AND J. FRANK DOBIE LIBRARY TRUST AWARD TO OLGA V. FIGUEROA ZAPATA COUNTY LIBRARY

Guadalupe Amaya shared details about the Library Report and the J. Frank Dobie Library Trust award given to Olga V. Figueroa Zapata County Library, as requested by Library Director Rebecca Gutierrez.

The library received a grant of \$7,804.83 from the J. Frank Dobie Library Trust. The library is now accessible online, and the summer reading program will commence on May 1.

ORDER APPROVING ESTIMATE OF \$5,000.00 FROM R&R POOL PLASTER REPAIRS FOR REPAIRS TO ZAPATA COUNTY POOL

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve estimate of \$5,000.00 from R&R Pool Plaster Repairs for the repairs to the Zapata County Pool, to be paid from non-department, 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 TO TABLE REQUEST BY COMMISSIONER MOYA
REGARDING USE OF CERTIFICATE OF OBLIGATION
TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT**

Motion was made Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Commissioner Moya regarding request to approve the use of \$80,000.00 from Certificate of Obligation to purchase equipment 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 SOLICITATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND
ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR APPLICATION TO U.S.D.O.T
FY2025 SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANT PROGRAM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the solicitation of administrative and engineering services for an application to the U.S.D.O.T. FY2025 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program 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.

**ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY ROMEO SALINAS
REGARDING REQUEST TO ALLOW PUBLIC POWER POOL TO SOLICIT
COMPETITIVE PRICING FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATED
BY RENEWABLE SOURCES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to table request by Romeo Salinas regarding request to allow Public Power Pool to solicit competitive pricing for electricity generated by renewable sources from retail electric providers and approve resolution.

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

**ORDER APPROVING OVERTIME FOR PATROL OFFICERS TO WORK
THE TXDOT (STEP) SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT
PROGRAM 2026-ZAPATACOSO-S-1YG-00100 AND
GRANT 2026-ZAPATACOSO-S-CMV-00040**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve overtime for patrol officers to work the TxDot (STEP) Selective Traffic Enforcement Program 2026-ZAPATACOSO-S-1YG-00100 and Grant 2026-ZAPATACOSO-S-CMV-00040, pending approval by County Attorney 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 REQUEST THAT \$25,000 FROM TOBACCO
FUND BE TRANSFERRED TO MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve request that \$25,000.00 from Tobacco Fund (67-800-43800) be transferred to Medical Supplies (10-543-42611), due to funds being exhausted, by Fire Chief Danniell D. 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 PURCHASE OF PUMPER/TANKER FROM
METRO FIRE APPARATUS SPECIALISTS, INC.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the purchase of a Pumper/Tanker from Metro Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc. for \$398,000.00. Funding will come from the Texas A&M Forest Service 2604 Grant, which is \$250,000.00. Remaining amount will be financed, not to exceed \$200,000 as requested by Fire Chief Daniel D. Arriaga from the Fire Department.

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 FROM
RAMIRO SANCHEZ FOR REPAIRS TO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve payment of invoice for \$5,400.00 from Ramiro Sanchez for repairs to the public library as requested by Rebecca Gutierrez, Library Director.

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

**ORDER APPROVING REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF 4-H ANIMAL
PROJECTS FROM WINDFARM CONTRIBUTIONS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to approve request for payment of 4-H animal projects from Windfarm contributions for \$50,000.00 as requested by Rafael Garcia, Zapata County Fair President.

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 AND REVIEW STATUS ON
ZAPATA BOOSTER STATION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of Inv. #11 for \$54,930.35 payable to Acstar, Inv. #27389 for \$14,875.00 and Inv. #28402 for \$6,375.00, payable to Premier Engineering for work performed on the Zapata Booster Station project as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

Manuel Gonzalez reported that the project is about 90% complete. 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.

REVIEW STATUS ON ZAPATA DRAINAGE PROJECT

Manuel Gonzalez reported on the Zapata Drainage project: the contractor is ready. The area has been cleared, but a sewer line was found 3 feet deep. Dewatering will occur at night, likely resulting in a boil water notice. No report was submitted for the record.

**ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF INVOICES AND
REVIEW STATUS ON LOS EBANOS WALKING TRAIL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve payment of Inv. #28403 for \$7,500.00 and Inv. #27298 for \$2,500 payable to Premier Engineering

for work performed at Los Ebanos Walking Trail as requested by Manuel Gonzale, Jr., Premier Engineering.

Manuel Gonzalez announced that all project bids were rejected due to discrepancies and will be rebid separately.

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

ORDER APPROVING TO ADVERTISE FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR ZAPATA COUNTY ROPING ARENA PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve to advertise for architectural services for the Zapata County roping arena as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

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

ORDER APPROVING PROPOSAL FOR ROOF INSPECTION ON SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve proposal of \$4,500 from AMCO Industries for the roof inspection on Sheriff's office, out of USDA grant match Certificate of Obligation, as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

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

ORDER AUTHORIZING COUNTY JUDGE TO SEND LETTER TO TXDOT REQUESTING TO KEEP WEST SIDE OF ROAD AND REVIEW STATUS ON HWY TXDOT PROJECTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to authorize Judge Rathmell to send letter to TxDot requesting to keep west side of road.

Manuel Gonzalez reported on the Highway TxDot projects. TxDot held a meeting to review pavement widening, with an aim to avoid abandoned disposal. The project is currently at 30% completion. The court will either pass a resolution, or the judge will send an official letter requesting to maintain the west side of the road.

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 needs:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Treasurer	010-497-42610	General Supplies	\$1,800.00
TO	Treasurer	010-497-43580	Travel & Training	\$1,800.00

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.

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	010-455-43581	Travel & Training	\$600.00
TO	Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	010-455-42611	General Supplies	\$600.00

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.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SOLIS,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MORALES,
TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ORDER TO SUBMIT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN AND SUBMIT
REIMBURSEMENT TO OPERATION LONE STAR FUNDING
FOR GRANT #4372601**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to submit corrective action plan and submit reimbursement of \$1,168,536.66 to Operation Lone Star funding for grant #437260, to be paid out of the catastrophic fund account, 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.

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

**ORDER APPROVING NEGOTIATIONS WITH RICARDO CARRILLO,
PROPERTY OWNER, FOR ACQUISITION OF
UTILITY EASEMENT ON LAKESHORE DRIVE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to enter into negotiations with Ricardo Carillo, property owner, for the acquisition of a utility easement on Lakeshore Drive. The motion includes offering a total amount of \$5,096.50 for the easement and the relocation of the structure located on the easement at Lot 21, Lakeshore Drive, as requested by Manuel Gonzalez, Jr., Premier Engineering.

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