

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

Be it remembered, that on this 9th day of June 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
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: Adolfo González, Roger Miller, Linda V. Alanís, Karran Westerman, Jesse Rodríguez, Adriana Cavazos, Delia Mendoza, Andrew Treviño, Luis E. Guerra, Armando Guerra and Maxine P. Vieyra.

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

Commissioner Solis shared that a structure fire had occurred, resulting in the loss of local resident Elio Villarreal's home.

Commissioner Morales added that county crews were dispatched to assist with the cleanup efforts. Mr. Villarreal is gratefully accepting donations from those wishing to lend a hand during this challenging time.

Judge Rathmell shared that Mr. Villarreal was fortunately unharmed. During their conversation, Mr. Villarreal explained he had been barbecuing and forgot to fully extinguish the fire, which may have led to the structure fire. Residents have generously offered their time and support to help with the cleanup.

Mr. Figueroa noted that should the fire department deem the area a continued fire hazard, the county will be authorized to carry out the necessary cleanup.

Judge Rathmell reported receiving a call from the golf course manager, who stated that juveniles had started a brush fire on the property. A police report was filed. Fortunately, two youths who were playing golf managed to extinguish the fire before it spread.

Commissioner Solis also noted that Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel successfully rescued a child from Falcon Lake.

Judge Rathmell also announced that Valley Metro will soon begin offering transportation to Laredo three times a day. The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Monday, June 23, 2025.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve invoices from May 23 – June 5, 2025, in the amount of \$539,940.46 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 Morales, to approve checks issued from May 23 – June 5, 2025, in the amount of \$539,940.46 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 in the amount of \$8,489.83 for the month of January with a year-to-date total of \$457,844.59. Net collections were \$243,145.27 with tax collections at a rate of 85.83%.

UPDATE ON ZAPATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COUNTY AND REGIONAL REVENUE REPORT

Capt. Luis Guerra provided an update on the Zapata County Sheriff's Office County and Regional Revenue Report, stating that total revenue amounted to \$1,987,654.66, as requested by Sheriff Ramon Montes, County Sheriff.

UPDATE ON NEW WORLD SCREW WORM

Jesse Rodriguez, Agrilife Extension Agent, introduced Adriana Cavazos, as Prairie View A&M Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources for Zapata County.

Mr. Rodriguez provided an update on the New World screwworm outbreak, currently located about 700 miles away in Oaxaca, Mexico. This parasite lays eggs in open wounds of warm-blooded animals, and its maggots feed on the host's flesh, causing severe injuries and potential death if untreated. Though eradicated from the U.S. in the 1960s, it occasionally resurfaces in Central America and Mexico. Control relies on the sterile insect technique (SIT), which releases sterile males to curb reproduction, alongside active surveillance and livestock inspections. This approach has been highly effective. As of May 2025, renewed attention is vital to mitigate future risks to livestock and wildlife. Webinars are being held to inform the public.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS IN PROGRESS FOR ZAPATA COUNTY

Ms. Yvette Utley of the Lone Star Strategy Group provided a report on projects in progress for Zapata County. Report attached for the record.

ORDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF ZAPATA COUNTY ISD RENEWABLE ENERGY SCHOLARSHIPS FROM WIND TURBINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to approve the payment of the Zapata County ISD Renewable Energy Scholarships from Wind Turbine contributions to the top 30 students, divided into tiers, 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 THE HENRY B. MARTINEZ CIVIC CENTER FOR SACRED HEART OF JESUS MINISTRY FESTIVAL

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the Henry B. Martinez Civic Center on July 4, 2025, for the Sacred Heart of Jesus Ministry 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 \$28,282.00 TO REPLACE SEWER GRINDER AT THE REGIONAL JAIL

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve a \$28,282.00 expense to replace the sewer grinder at the Regional Jail, to be paid out of non-department building maintenance, 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 USE OF OVERTIME FROM OPERATION STONEGARDEN FY2024 GRANT #3672908

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the use of overtime from Operation Stonegarden FY2024 Grant #3672908 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 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FY2024 OPERATION STONEGARDEN

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve Resolution in Support of FY 2024 Operation Stonegarden 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 TCDRS RETIREMENT PLAN FOR 2026

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the TCDRS Retirement Plan for 2026 as presented by Nellie R. 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 CERTIFICATE OF OBLIGATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve request to use of Certificate of Obligation funds for the following projects:

1. Sheriff's Office Improvements \$540,000.00
2. 4H Arena \$100,000

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.

STATUS REVIEW ON COUNTY PROJECTS

Armando Guerra of Premier Engineering reported progress on several key projects. The sheriff's office plans have been prepared, with layouts already presented to the sheriff.

Arena project, architect Sanchez is on board, and completion is expected by the end of the year. Bidding will begin soon, with the design process estimated to take about five months.

The fire station project is advancing, with plans finalized and bidding set to start at the end of the month.

The booster station is nearly complete, at 98%. It should be finished within the next two weeks.

The drainage channel is 70% complete. County crews are addressing a water line leak on Hwy 16 expected to be repaired within a week.

Funding for the boat ramp project has been requested and is pending approval. Plans are complete, and once funds are secured, construction will proceed.

The San Ygnacio Water Plant is fully completed, with a ribbon-cutting event in the works.

Preconstruction for the raw water project took place last week, and the court has approved equipment purchases. Processing these orders will take a few months, but construction will begin soon.

The Cardinal and Crane projects have been fully reimbursed, while reimbursement requests for the booster station and walking trail have been submitted.

ORDER TO TABLE REQUEST BY TROY REED REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY AND FALCON BESS

Motion was made by Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to table request by Troy Reed regarding approval of First Amendment to Tax Abatement between Zapata County and Falcon BESS to update county road.

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

ORDER APPROVING REQUEST OF \$2,500 FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY ON JULY 4, 2025

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to approve a \$2,500 request for the July 4, 2025, fireworks display, approval is pending confirmation of location and authorization by Fire Chief Arriaga. Funding will be sourced from the budgets of all four commissioners or the hotel-motel tax, if permitted, as requested by Karran Westerman of Zapata County News.

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

**ORDER APPROVING AGREEMENT BETWEEN ZAPATA COUNTY
AND COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING CENTER (CTC) TO KEEP
COUNTY INFORMED OF UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Moya, seconded by Commissioner Solis, to approve agreement between Zapata County and Comprehensive Training Center (CTC) to keep county informed of upcoming grant opportunities, pending approval by county attorney, as requested by Linda Alaniz, Comprehensive Training Center.

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

ORDER APPROVING THE FOLLOWING LINE-ITEM TRANSFER

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

	DEPARTMENT	LINE ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM	Auditor's Office	10-495-42610	General Supplies	\$607.00
TO	Auditor's Office	10-495-43430	Repairs & Maintenance	\$607.00

as requested by Triunfo Gonzalez, Count Auditor.

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

**ORDER APPROVING PROCLAMATION FOR ALZHEIMER'S & BRAIN AWARENESS
MONTH – JUNE 2025**

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve Proclamation for Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month – June 2025 as requested by Maxine P. Vieyra.

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 ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

ORDER TO APPROVE QUOTE FOR DAMAGES AT COUNTY CEMETERY

Motion was made by Commissioner Solis, seconded by Commissioner Moya, to approve quote in the amount of \$8,800 from Zapata Monument Company for damages at the county cemetery as requested by Nellie R. Treviño, HR 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