



Regular Meeting
002/06/2020 6:00
pm

REGULAR MEETING

TAKE NOTICE THAT A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF EDCOUCH WILL BE HELD
AT 211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS, ON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- A. Call Meeting to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Invocation
- E. Public Comments
- F. Discussion and possible action on approval of Minutes:
 - 1. Regular Meeting Minutes of January 16 , 2020.
- G. Open public hearing Hidalgo County Urban County Program, workplan for Fiscal year 33 (2020)
- H. Discussion and Possible Action on approval of Resolution No 2020- 01: Approving the Hidalgo County Urban County workplan for Fiscal year 33 (2020)- \$254,640.00
- I. Discussion and Possible Action to Accept Letter of Resignation by Richard Gonzales, former Municipal Judge for the City of Edcouch
- J. Discussion and possible action to appoint Raul Guajardo as associate Municipal Judge for the City of Edcouch
- K. Discussion and possible action to have Ms. Ester Salinas of RGV Urgent Care to present and discuss “Edcouch Senior Safety Check Day” for May 16, 2020
- L. Discussion and presentation to Discuss 911 Address System
- M. Discussion and possible action on approving Ordinance No 2020-01 in the abandoning of alley and transferring it to a utility easement.
- N. Discussion and possible action to hire Chief of Police for The City of Edcouch

O. Adjournment

NOTICE OF ASSISTANCE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING

City Hall is Wheelchair accessible & accessible parking spaces are available. Request for accommodations or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this Meeting. Please contact the City Secretary's Office at 956-262-2140 or Fax 956-262-2920 for further information. Braille is not available.

If during the course of the meeting, The City Council should determine that a Closed Session or meeting is authorized by section 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.075, 551.076, 551.084, 551.086 of the Government Code or Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, notice of Closed or Executive Session will be given after the commencement of the meeting covered by this notice pursuant to Section 551.101 of the Local Government Code. Should any final motion, decision, or vote be required in the opinion of the council with regards to any item during the meeting, then such final action, decision, or vote shall be made during the open meeting covered by this notice upon the reconvening of the Public Meeting.

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that the above notice of said Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Edcouch was posted on the main entrance to Edcouch City Hall on the 16th day of September 2019 at 5:00 pm and will remain posted continuously for at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled time of said meeting, in compliance with Chapter 551 of the Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated (Open Meetings Act).

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS 03, DAY OF FEBRUARY 2020.

Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager

Regular Meeting
02/06/2020 6:00 p.m.
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REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF EDCOUCH
211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS
THURSDAY, February 6, 2020
6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- P. Call Meeting to Order** Meeting was called to Order by **Mayor: Gonzalez** at **6:02 pm**.
- Q. Roll Call** Roll call was called by **Mr. Manuel Hernandez** as follows:

	Present	Absent	City Staff:
Mayor: Virginio Gonzalez Jr.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Victor H. De La Cruz, City Manager Manuel Hernandez Jr., Fin./Court Admin Interim Chief: J. Quintana
Mayor Pro Tem: Flores	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	
Alderman: Joel Segura	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
Alderman: John Chapa	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
Alderman: Robert Gutierrez	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	
Alderman: Lorenzo Cabrera	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
City Attorney: Orlando Jimenez			

Mayor, we have a quorum.

- R. Pledge of Allegiance** Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Mr Hernandez**
- S. Invocation:** Invocation was led by **Victor Hugo De La Cruz**
- T. Public Comments:** No Public Comments
- U. Discussion and possible action on approval of Minutes:**

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2020

Hugo: The minutes are in your packet.

A motion to **approve** the minutes of 2:00 January 16, 2020 was made by **Alderman Chapa**, **2nd** by **Alderman: Segura**. All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

V. Open public hearing Hidalgo County Urban County Program, workplan for Fiscal year 33 (2020)

Hugo: Mayor this item is for the work plan for 2020, and this is for urban county funds. There is an amount that will be approved on resolution on item H, if you have any questions as to what those funds are projected to be. Nothing is written in stone, but if you have any questions on the details Mr. Hernandez is here to answer any questions, He's been working close with Urban County. **Mayor:** Have any entities reached out to you Mr. Hernandez? I know Amigos Del Valle sometimes will ask for additional support, the food bank, anybody reached out. **Mr.**

Hernandez: NO, at this time we have just concentrated infrastructure, with improvement of roads. We are looking to resurface a few roads over by Los Laureles apartments, Cielito Lindo, where the elderly are at. Only because we have done some complaints on potholes and we do go out there and we do take care of potholes, but some traffic does go through, the potholes don't last long. So, we do recommend the complete resurfacing of those roads. Which will be the ones

listed on the workplan for the Fiscal Year 33 (2020) Which is Los Laureles, also Kika de la Garza, CV Mendez which is over here by 1015 North of us which also does need some improvement as well. Like Mr. De la Cruz did mention it's for your review, we do need to get this budget approved. I have been working on getting the packages together, I have been speaking with Mr. Avila, and Mr. Eric Trevino from Urban County, they do want me to get the packages ready by February 14th, which is next Friday. **Mayor:** Just for a clarification Mr. Hernandez, these funds will be available when? **Mr. Hernandez:** These funds will be available at the end of 2020. **Mayor:** so, after January 1st? **Mr. Hernandez:** We are barley working on the funds for 2019, this is when we will start the street projects, the 14 streets that we are going to start, that's for 2019. I know that's a totally different story but, we did get those funds last year, and we are using them already at the end of this month where you guys are going to do bids for some construction. **Hugo:** There is actually a combination of funds on this project, this is actually for the 2018/2019. We actually ran out of time, because the funds weren't being used and so we opted to combine both years. So, that's why we are seeing on that particular project. This is what we did see at the time, Urban County did come out here and we did meet with our engineer, Mr. Eddie Saenz. He did recommend that these streets did need improvement. 6:10 **Mayor:** This is an open hearing meeting, so if anybody from the community has any other recommendations or input on this matter. **Audience:** I have a question; can I have a copy of that budget? And I can submit written requests, **Mayor:** Of what budget? **Audience:** Of the city Fiscal budget, **Mr. Hernandez:** This is for Urban County, that is totally different. **Audience:** ok, I will also research Urban County. **Mayor:** If no other questions, I'll close this public hearing. At 6:08 pm. And this public hearing has been closed.

A motion to approve Public Hearing Urban County Program the minutes of _was made **by Alderman Chapa**, 2nd by **Alderman: Comm Segura**.

W. Discussion and possible action on approval of Resolution No 2020-01: Approving the Hidalgo County Urban County workplan for Fiscal Year 33 (2020) -254,640.00

Hugo: Mayor the item H and the actual funding, work plan is actually on your packet. And it's what we had discussed as far as the streets go, We just need to take action on this item tonight so that we can turn in the work plan, it's time sensitive.

A motion to **approve** Resolution No 2020-01, approving the Hidalgo County Urban County workplan for Fiscal Year 33 was made by **Alderman: Segura**, 2nd by **Alderman: Cabrera**. **All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.**

X. Discussion and possible action to Accept Letter of Resignation by Richard Gonzales, former Municipal Judge for the City of Edcouch

8:16 Hugo: Mayor, Mr. Gonzales helped out the City of Edcouch, at no cost for a couple of years he is running for state rep and he opted to resign to dedicate his time to his campaign. The resignation letter is in your folders.

A motion to **accept** Letter of Resignation by Richard Gonzales was made by **Alderman: Comm Chapa**, 2nd by **Alderman: Comm Cabrera**. **All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.**

Y. Discussion and possible action to appoint Raul Guajardo as associate Municipal Judge for the City of Edcouch.

Hugo: Mayor, Raul Guajardo has sent resume and all his credentials, he is an attorney. He found out that Mr. Gonzales was resigning. So, we have looked at his credentials and everything, and I think he will be a good asset to the city. **Mayor:** and this will also be at no charge to the city? **Hugo:** That's what we are working on.

Motion to appoint Municipal Judge was made by Alderman: Chapa and seconded by Alderman Cabrera. All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Hugo: Before we continue, I would just like to add that we have in the past each municipal judge. At least when I came in we had about 4, or 5 judges. They were getting paid \$500.00 and now we are paying \$100.00 for them to provide the services. Whether it's an arraignment or actually sit on the bench. **Mayor:** Thank You.

Z. Discussion and possible action to have Ms. Ester Salinas of RGV Urgent Care to present and discuss "Edcouch Senior Safety Check Day" for May 16, 2020.

Hugo: Mayor I believe we have somebody that is going to do a presentation.

Audience: 10:15 Good evening, I am Ester Salinas with RGV Urgent Care, back in June I noticed that you all had flooding and I was here assisting and passing out plates, that you all gave to your citizens. It was then that I realized that a lot of these senior citizens had a lot of difficulties evacuating or couldn't get resources in because they were flooded in. So, this program is called Senior Safety Check Day, we are hoping to have it done before hurricane season comes in. Right before those summer storms. So, this backpack will be filled with emergency supplies, hygiene kit, in case they need to be evacuated. It will also have a flashlight, a whistle, first aid kit, documentation kit for the medical records or their birth certificates and socials in case they need to be evacuated out. I also have other agencies that are going to be donating items that are going to be in the backpack. And also, because a lot of these senior citizens have medical conditions and they take a lot of medications, this one is to put the medications in or those that require insulin because it has to be kept cold. Some ice packs will be there to keep the medications cold. The city does not pay for any of this, I already have 200 backpacks we will have another 100 come in by March. So, we are hoping to select May 16, 2020 as Senior Safety Check Day, where we go distribute the backpacks. We are also working on installing smoke alarms for evacuation in case of a fire to alert the senior citizens. American Red Cross will be assisting us with those. Also, that will take away any liability to the City of Edcouch, because it will be the volunteers from the American Red Cross that will be installing those smoke alarms. We are hoping to start off with 3 of them, and that is to register senior citizens, and either post it on Facebook saying that if you have a senior citizen over the age of 65 or 62 depending on what the city decides on. They can register the senior citizen if he or she lives alone or is an elderly couple or if the senior is a vulnerable inaccessible person that requires somebody to take care of them. So, this backpack it gives a chance for the people which is your citizens or the volunteers to check up on conditions to where the senior is malnourished, maybe leave them a box of food, water to kind of prepare them for hurricane season. We can look at the yards to see if they have any hazards, we can have volunteers to help cut the yards or remove any debris. So, it's a safety and wellness check., as you could say. But also, to help count how many seniors you have out there which will help the city know who and where they live and whether they need to be evacuated in advance prior to a hurricane coming in, or any severe weather to go check up on them. This project is called a program, it's still in draft form because the city gets to decide what they want to add or remove. It can be done in the future, on a daily basis, to make sure they are okay, if they need any assistance. Let's say they wake up sick and they are feeling weak and the person calling them can send an ambulance just to check up on them to make sure they are okay. If there senior citizen doesn't answer throughout the day then have somebody go check up on them to make sure they are alright. So, there are grant funding that can help this

program become a success, this is the first one here in the valley. So, we are hoping that the City of Edcouch can be that start to get all these other cities to start assisting their senior citizens to make sure that they are okay. So, it's a senior Safety Check Day. 15:15 **Mayor:** Thank you mam. I know today is just a presentation, later on we are going to bring it to the commission and add other components. This is a pro for our community, and we can make it as small or as big as we want to. Today we are focusing on the elderly hopefully we can tag the disabled as well, trying to figure out where they are at in case of emergency, and just being proactive, and that's why the next item is also going to be very important with the 911, to tie everything together for the safety of our citizens. **Hugo:** Let me add mayor, it was an eye-opening experience for me and Mr. Hernandez as well and the commission. June 24th was a really bad day for us but at the same time, I take pride in the fact that our first main concern was our senior citizens. One of the things that I would like to bring up is that, not to talk bad about anybody but when you go and you reach out to a daycare and you ask and make sure they have checked on their clients, and their answer is no. It is kind of scary that we don't do that. But I think that you all are doing an awesome job, thank you so much. **Mayor:** Does anyone have any more questions for Ms. Salinas? Alight, thank you so much.

A motion to **approve** "Edcouch Senior Safety Check Day" was made by **Alderman: Chapa**, 2nd by **Alderman: Segura** - All Voted Aye. **Motion Carried.**

AA. Discussion and presentation to Discuss 911 Address System

Hugo: Mayor we have someone that is going to be presenting on this item. 17:23 **Speaker:** My name is Raul Padero, and I am the program supervisor for the RGV 911 department, I wanted to get some feedback from you, in regard to what kind of problems you are having, is it the addresses the street names, is it 911 response? **Mayor:** From experience, the addressing. For example, trying to get a drivers license. It requires a verification of your physical address. We have been having problems with that one. Delivery, when we order anything through amazon, ups. They have been having a hard time finding our homes. And also, under emergency. Sometimes when we call the dispatch, especially the ambulance service. Who are from out of the area. They cannot find our houses, because it is no tied to the 911 or the address system that's currently going on. **Hugo:** Our big one here at the city, aside form the emergency, is our water meters, they are radio operated and they use the 911 address and some of these addresses weren't completed, with the whole project of switching to the 911 address system. So, we are still getting some radio errors, because of that. Audience: I know that when we started doing this, that some are dating 2014 and some are dated 2017, I want to focus on the ones that are dated 2014. 19:32 Because they are the initial ones, what we did was go ahead and address Edcouch. You will see on that attached handout, The City of Edcouch dated 2014, there is some minutes dated from October 21st, 2014, where the city council changed some of the streets, but then again in changing them, they went ahead and approved them. Some of the street names, maybe were not changed on the street signs. I don't know if they have or not, I know that several people were involved, that were to make sure that would happen. Mayor: The numbers too, I know that numbers were changed as well. **Speaker:** Yes, we are going to set up a laptop, and what it has is something that, I would like for you to possibly put on your cell phone. I know that about a year ago we were working with Pete De La Cruz, and some of the ladies that were working with him. We set them up with an app that has all the current 911 addresses for Edcouch, the way they should be. They are the exact addresses that the 911 dispatch is seeing. In other words, when you call 911, the address you see on that app, is going to be the same address that should be on the houses. That's what they are going to respond to. **Mayor:** Like, GPS for example, I'll key in my house address, it wont come up, **Speaker:** On Google? Lots of people use google. I like google, but only for street view, I don't trust google for addresses because quite frankly they don't address. They don't use the same numbers, that we would use for an address. In order to assign an address to a street. You need a valid street

name, and you need a valid numerical range. You also need to have an understanding of going south or east or west. The odd numbers are going to be on one side and such. One problem when we started doing Edcouch was that, some of those addresses were not consistent. For instance. I will give you an example. The school, around the corner of 1015, and Santa Rosa. That should be an even number. And all this time it has maintained an odd number on the address. But that's not unusual, most of the addressing you will find follows the same pattern. One thing that I would say, that will help all of you, is that here in Edcouch. The addresses have a CenterPoint on 1015/Ilano grande, and Santa Rosa. That divides north, south, east, west. The main thing about that is that, you'll notice that it has the responders for law, for EMS and for Fire. **Mayor:** So, one of the things that we are noticing is that, we know that a lot of these things were approved, but I don't know if some of these things were not executed or some of us didn't find out. For example, my house it appears that the address was changed, from a 202 to 201. That might be a comment thing that has been going on. **Speaker:** What we suggested on the handout that I gave you, we submitted a couple of letters if they wanted to, they could use something similar, to tell the residents that this is what your address is now. When you issue the address, you issue the letter. You got some who came into the office to pick up a letter, you could have a check list to say such and such person came to pick up their address, got their letter, sign them off the check list. **Mayor:** I've seen it in some places where they have an LRGV and then they have like a plaque with a number. In county. And for cities you don't have any similar program? **Speaker:** We don't, the only authority we have right now is at county. We get funded for addressing and stuff like that. Typically, we don't really address inside of city limits. We don't do that. We can assist, like we've been doing for Edcouch. We can assist and we can help you, and we will continue to help you with any kind of questions and issues you have. Especially inside city limits, maybe a new house was built, or a new development came in. **Mayor:** I want to do an aggressive timeline where all of us get our address, even if they already know it, just so we can verify. I want all of our residents to get something that says this is your address and this is the address that you are supposed to be using. **Hugo:** We have been having issues with that, since we started. Its people that already know their 911 address, but they were so used to their old address that they just keep on using it. What benefits the city is that our mail comes to a PO box **Mr. Hernandez:** We do have people that come in and they demand to know their 911 address, we do the research with the appraisal district and we have the maps and everything and we do issue out a letter stating this is your old address and this is your new 911 address. **Hugo:** And we do have a map, right in the center of the hall, and it has the 911 addresses on it. The changes have been made they just haven't fully been applied out there. **Speaker:** Let me offer you something, and this was something I was trying to get across to pete, that map on the wall. That's a dead map, I say that in the sense, the maps your saying right now on that app, they update every 24 hours. If I issue an address today, and it goes on our map today, in 24 hours you'll see it there. The app is the way to go. 35:08 **Mayor:** So I just want to come up with a system between you guys and our administration. Live Oak for sure for sure. Several people that I know, have had issues, they have been using wrong addresses. Or they didn't receive confirmation that they were changed, or maybe they don't want to except it. This is the address, this is what you are suppose to be using right now. Lets say you are trying to use google and try to find an address online, and its not going to find it. Either because we are using inaccurate numbers or its is just outdated. **Speaker:** Yes sir we will get on this ASAP, any other questions, Thank you. **Mayor:** Yes, we will be in touch, you have a good evening.

BB. Discussion and possible action on approving Ordinance No 2021-01 in the abandoning of alley and transferring it to a utility easement.

Hugo: Mayor this Alley is by the Community Center the City will embark on. We are very excited. We have already started demolition. We need this alley so we can go ahead and proceed. And start construction. **Mayor:** Legal is everything in order. **O J Jimenez:** yes it is Mayor

A motion to approve the Abandoning of alley and transferring to a utility easement was made by **Alderman:Chapa**, 2nd by **Alderman:Cabrera**. All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

CC.Discussion and possible action to hire Chief of Police for The City of Edcouch.

Hugo: We posted this for two weeks, and we posted this position for Chief of Police, We got some applications, after review of applications I make a recommendation for Mr. Juan Quintana, who has been the interim already for approximately two months. **Mayor:** So I have a recommendation for Juan Quintana to be police chief.

A motion to **approve** Juan Quintana as Edcouch Police Chief ” was made by **Alderman:Chapa**, 2nd by **Alderman: Segura** - All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

DD.Adjournment.

At 6:50 _____ A motion to adjourn was made by **Alderman __Segura** _____, And 2nd by **Alderman __Chapa** _____.

Take Notice that this are the true and correct minutes taken of the Regular Meeting of the City of Edcouch held on Thursday, January 2, 2020.

Passed and Approved by the Board of Aldermen on this 06__th day of February 2020.

ATTEST

Manuel Hernandez
City of Edcouch