



Regular Meeting
03/19/2020 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, MARCH 19, 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 March 05, 2020
- G. Presentation by Hollis Rutledge and Associates on there City Quarterly Report
- H. Discussion and possible action to approve fees for towing and auto recovery from Almaraz Towing and Auto Recovery pursuant to State Law
- I. Discussion and possible action to allow Strada Engineering to apply for grants pertaining to Hazard Mitigation
- J. Discussion and possible action to approve Ranking and Begin Negotiations on Contractor for Community Center Project
- K. Discussion and possible action to Accept Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency from Hidalgo County
- L. Discussion and possible action to Accept Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency from City of Edcouch
- M. 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 March 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 16th DAY OF MARCH 2020.

Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager

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**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF EDCOUCH**

211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS
THURSDAY, March 19, 2020
6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- N. Call Meeting to Order** Meeting was called to Order by **Mayor Gonzalez at 6:00_ p.m.**
- O. Roll Call** Roll call was called by **Mr. Manuel Hernandez as follows:**

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

Mayor, we have a quorum.

- P. Pledge of Allegiance** Pledge of Allegiance was led **Mr. O J Jimenez**
- Q. Invocation** Invocation was led by **Victor He De La Cruz**
- R. Public Comments Mr Hernandez:** Mayor we do have 2 individuals that signed up today first of all we have Noah Lara

Noah Lara: The reason I am here is to convert C V Mendez street into Polo Lara street. Just briefly I wanted to introduce my dad. He has passed away at the age of 91. He resided here since the 1930's. He assisted the city government here, especially the Mayor John Schmalzried. When Schmalzried was here and Edcouch was growing with a lot of business. I will give you an example. Back then they only had one officer on patrol, as you all know Edcouch used to be filled with Cantinas, my dad was well known and my brother Ruben was working as a police officer, when they made an arrest they had to take the prisoner to the county jail, which was several miles away, so the city was left by itself with no protection. Since a lot of people knew my dad, so when my brother took the prisoner to county my dad would step in. If there was fights my dad would settle it. Aside from that when they had the canal right beside the railroad track, they did carry water. Victoria street was caliche and a lot of people that would go to the market would drive through there fast. A lot of the caliche dust would settle into the trees and into the vehicles. So my dad petitioned it to get paved. During that time my dad came up with an idea to make it look like the best looking street and to put palm trees. My dad also got rid of the rattlesnakes here in Edcouch, and he was a participant of the city. He believed in the city. His cousin was Apolenio Gutierrez. So I had requested with the old administration that left to put it under his name, so I am asking the new council to take it into consideration. I have got the signatures and everything. If it could get to a point when you google it, it can show up. I m hoping and praying to change it to Polo Lara Dr. **Mayor:** Ok, thank you we will look at the Procedures.

Mr. Hernandez: Mayor we also have Mr. Hugo Dr La Cruz from the City of Edcouch. **Hugo:** Mayor I would like to take this opportunity of all the things have been happening, I need to let you know a few things, One, Urban County Conference has been postponed till August. What I did want to talk about briefly, In lieu of everything that is going on right now, the Mayor, myself

and Manny, got together with local citizens. We also met with a citizen from Edcouch who is a retired Lt. Col., he came in a brought us a lot of good information, as a matter fact his expertise is in emergency management. As a matter fact Manny, myself and the Mayor have a lot of things going on. So one good thing is to involve the community. So after researching and brain storming we came up that as neighbors we have to take care of each other. So one thing we came up with was, a thing called Rogers Neighborhood Taskforce. Named after Mr. Rogers from Mr. Rogers Neighborhood. Rogers Neighborhood will be a taskforce made up of citizens. I think its important to let you all know that you all know people. So you can notify them to start getting involved. Just to start off the Mayor already nominated your wives, as the first group of the taskforce. The idea is to have people within the community to take action. This is something that will not only be used for the current situation, so if you all have any questions, let me know. **Mayor:** We think this is a good opportunity, to keep an eye out for each other and can also work as a neighborhood crime watch system. By tomorrow morning I want to be able to identify a person from each street to move forward. We will take it from there. **Chief Q:** Mayor if there is any guidance that the police dept can provide, we will take it from there. **Mayor:** Definitely, you are always a big component of all of this, of anything that we do of this magnitude, you and the fire dept are always a critical part of this.

S. Discussion and possible action on approval of Minutes:

- 1. Regular Meeting Minutes of March 05, 2020. Mr. De La Cruz:** Minutes are on your package if you have any questions. **Hugo:** They are in your packet for approval

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 05 ,2020 was made by Alderman_Segura_____ , 2nd by Alderman _Chapa_____ . All Voted Aye/ Motion Carried.

T. Presentation by Hollis Rutledge and Associates on there City Quarterly Report

Frank San Martin: Good Evening Mayor and City Commissioners, Frank San Martin with Hollis Rutledge and Associates, we have been working on several projects. The Library grant was awarded 2 or 3 weeks ago, it was 400,000 that will help create the first library here in Edcouch. You guys also got 1,000,000 dollars from Texas Parks and Wildlife, we helped get everything in order to get that money, and I know now you guys are working with engineers to get it going. With the Police Dept, we have been working on several grants that were submitted, some were renewals, we got those submitted in time. We also applied for Border Star, Stone Garden, Niebers, and Rifle Resistance and Body Armour. We are expecting to hear something back probably to late summer just because of the COVID 19 virus. At the same time we are working through a USDA grant to maybe get the fire dept some equipment, it's a smaller grant of about 50,000 dollars but we are in the process of just getting all the paperwork in. And then we are also working on a Valley Baptist foundation grant. To get some funding for the library and the pool. So these are some things that we are working on to secure some funding. We are waiting to hear back, and we are still applying for more funding. I know Manny calls me like everyday, but we also provide any management assistance with grants. So we are happy to be working with you guys. Do you guys have any questions for us? **Mayor:** I know we have been getting grant applications from Congressman Gonzalez, please make sure that you guys are looking into those. Thank you. **Manny:** We have been looking into all our options, and anything we can get ahold of, rest assure we will work diligently to make it happen. **Hugo** One thing I want to add, we are currently working on a a Municipal Garden, we went ahead and started, because I know that a lot of these grants, they have time limits. But they did mention to me that we can still apply for the Garden Grants. One of the ones that we wanted to look into was the Monarch Butterfly grant. Which will allow us to put a flower bed. **Frank:** Yes just let us know.

Our team is happy to be working with you all. I am excited on what is going on here. I know that in the next 3 to 6 months there is going to be big things happening.

U. Discussion and possible action to approve fees for towing and auto recovery from Almaraz Towing and Auto Recovery pursuant to state Law

Manny: Good Evening Mayor and City Council members. These are the fees that Almaraz charges in general whether it be for DWI, Car Accidents, etc. These are fees that are reported to the state and need to be approved by the state in order for them to be able to work. They operate with a license, so one of the requirement is that they present these fees to you guys, you guys look at it and you guys know what they are charging. So in you packet there is a list, also there is a list of departments that Almaraz towing and recovery works for, and as you can see there is quite a bit of them. This is for review and that you guys take action and for possible approval. **OJ:** I have looked at these fees and they seem to be in order with other recovery bodies

A motion to approve fees for towing and auto recovery from Almaraz Towing and Auto Recovery pursuant to State Law, was made by Alderman Chapa _____, 2nd by Alderman Gutierrez _____. All voted Aye. Motion Carried.

V. Discussion and possible action to allow Strada Engineering to apply for grants pertaining to Hazard Mitigation

Manny: Mayor and City Council Members, again this was, Strada Engineering, Oscar Cancino, approached me a few weeks ago, and he did say that there is some money available to the Delta area that we have not recovered, there is money available for us that we did not even know about. This money is for Hazard Mitigation, to put retainage ponds, it has to do with flooding, to get the water out of here faster. There is no charge involved, basically he is telling us that if he gets us the money, he is going to get paid a percentage of the consulting fee. If he does not get us anything the city does not lose. We are not obligated to anything. All we are doing is that we are giving him permission to apply for a grant on behalf of the city. So it's a win win situation for the city. We are not hiring him as a consultant, we are not hiring him as an engineer. We are just hiring him to get the city some appropriate funds. **Mayor:** So this motion will also consist of legal review? **Manny:** What happens is that they only have till March 30, to get this approved. **Hugo:** I prefer if there is a way to proceed pending legal. **OJ:** No, I don't think that there is any question in my mind, without having anything in writing to determine the percentage and amount, it is very hard to go all in, something that we don't know about. I would imagine that if they have done this in the past, they can just email me or the city manager tomorrow.

A motion to approve Strada Engineering to apply for grants pertaining to Hazard Mitigation pending legal review was made by Alderman: Chapa _____. Second by Alderman: Gutierrez _____. All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

W. Discussion and possible action to approve Ranking and Begin Negotiations on Contractor for Community Center Project

Hugo: Mayor I would like to bring in Mr. Eli Alvarado and Mr. Eddie Saenz. Mr Saenz will start off. **Eddie:** Mayor and City Council, bids were taken on Monday for the Community Center and we met yesterday and ranked them. The rankings for the 8 quotes I received are higher than the budgeted amount. They are competitive sealed proposals, and we are recommending and as you can

see here, and as you can see here in the spreadsheet we had 4 evaluators and 8 proposals. They range from 834,000 to 1.3 million. We ranked them and we used the ranking criteria of experience, performance, financial stability as well as the price. And within this ranking we had individual rankings and we came up with the highest rank, and the Contractor to be Trigen, event though he was third on the list in regards to price, we felt he was the most qualified, and then we go to number 2 which was ranked at 349, who is Arrell, now Arrell we are going to recommend that they be disqualified because they did not acknowledge one addendum, and we also felt that 90 days is too little time to complete. We have to decide what route we want to take to negotiate if we select the order. **Eli Alvarado:** Good evening Mayor and City Commissioners, Vice President of Alvarado Architects and Associates, Mr. Saenz commented, that we did rank the general contractors in the list you have before you. Where our goal is to go down the list and try to see how close we can get back to our original budget, the process is always to go with the highest rank general contractor if we cannot come to an agreement then we go to the second rank, and we go down the list and at that point if we do not think that we can get to where we are at, we would go out to you and say we would have to reject the bids, and go out and rebid and do what we have to do, and that means coming back, and putting out to bid again. We don't anticipate spending too much time on the negotiations that way we know what we have to do we don't want to go over 30 days obviously. Another part is that the pool has already been advertised to go out for bids, we will be accepting proposals on April 2, and at that time we know what that cost will be. **Hugo:** Mayor I would like to also point out that from the library project, it will be within the community center, so some of the money that was brought in, can be used for the community center. **Mayor:** So for now you want us to approve the rankings? **Eli:** Yes **Eddie:** Mayor I just recommend to negotiate with the top 2.

A motion to approve Rankings and Negotiations on Contractor for Community Center Project was made by Alderman Chapa _____ . Second by Alderman Segura _____. All voted Aye. Motion Carried.

X. Discussion and Possible Action to Accept Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency from Hidalgo County,

Hugo: Mayor you and myself went to a meeting with the County Judge, and this proclamation was talked about at the beginning of the week, and as you know a lot has changed but we are asking here tonight that we pass this declaration, ofcourse here tonight we have legal, we sent it to legal so he can go over it so we are asking that it be accepted here today. **Mayor:** I just have one question, so once we approve it and we need to amend it due to orders from the federal and state level, what would that process be? **OJ** It can be compounded, the fact that the state has done its own declaration that supersedes anything. So we don't have to come back to a special meeting as long as its consistent as to what the state is going to do.

A motion to Accept Declaration of Local Disaster Due to public Health Emergency from Hidalgo County was made by Alderman Segura _____. Second by Alderman Gutierrez_. All voted Aye.

Y. Discussion and Possible Action to Accept Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency from City of Edcouch.

Hugo: Mayor this is pretty much following what the County did now is at the City level and like legal advised us, if we want to tighten ad or change the original declaration from the county and make it more specific to the needs the city has, I think this part is very important because right now we are already saying that there is going to be something that is going to supersede. So right now in all actuality we are following whatever the state has mandated us, but I think it is important for you to discuss to make those

declarations and see if we need anything from within the city. **OJ:** And the same thing we did review this and it is a mirror image of the county declaration, so I will recommend to consider approval of the cities declaration disaster.

**A motion to Accept Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency from City of Edcouch was made by Alderman _Segura_. Second by Alderman Chapa_.
All Voted Aye**

Z. Adjournment.

At 6:39 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman: Segura, 2nd by Alderman: Chapa. All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Take Notice that this are the true and correct minutes taken of the Regular Meeting of the City of Edcouch held on Thursday, March 19, 2020.

Passed and Approved by the Board of Aldermen on this 19th day of March 2020.

ATTEST

Manuel Hernandez
City of Edcouch