



Regular Meeting
04/02/2020 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, April 2, 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. **Emergency Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2020**
- G. **Presentation and latest update on the COVID 19 epidemic**
- H. **Discussion and possible action to approve Ranking and Negotiations of Community Pool Project**
- I. **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 30th 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 30th DAY OF MARCH 2020.

Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager

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04/02/2020
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**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF EDCOUCH**

211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- J. Call Meeting to Order** Meeting was called to Order by **Mayor Gonzalez at 6:11_p.m.**
- K. Roll Call** Roll call was called by **Mr. Manuel Hernandez Jr** as follows:

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

Mayor, we have a quorum.

- L. Pledge of Allegiance** Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Manny Hernandez**
- M. Invocation** Invocation was led by **Victor H De La Cruz**
- N. Public Comments**
- O. Discussion and possible action on approval of Minutes:**

1. Emergency Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2020. Mr. De La Cruz: Minutes are on your package if you have any questions.

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 6 ,2020 was made by Alderman Flores _____ , 2nd by Alderman __Segura_____. All Voted Aye/ Motion Carried.

P. Presentation and latest update on the COVID 19 epedemic

Mr. De La Cruz: Mayor basically I wanted in nutshell discuss what is going on, we have been meeting with several entities, as far as county. We started a meeting with PCT 1 as of yesterday, today we had our second meeting, it was a very effective meeting because it deals directly with PCT 1 and all its cities. We are also conducting Emergency Management meeting with the County. Manny and myself meet with them teleconference on a daily basis. And of course the Mayors briefing daily with City Managers and also with Judge Cortez. Some of the things that they have been discussing in these meetings are off course the numbers. They give us numbers for Hidalgo, Cameron and so on. But most importantly they give us numbers of how many beds and ventilators are available. A little closer to home, talking about the City of Edcouch at this point has no reported cases. We did have one person that indicated that they were being tested. We have not received any information to see if he is positive or negative, but we are following up on that. As of this time we know that La Villa has there first confirmed case, it was a Female. Elsa had there first COVID infected person also. **Manny:** Mr. De La Cruz if I may just interrupt to go over the numbers state wide and Hidalgo County, State Wide we have 3,997 reported cases

tested positive. We have had 68 deaths in Texas. In Hidalgo County we have had 62 recorded cases tested positive for COVID 19 as of today. We have had 553 people who have tested, 62 positive, 356 negative and we have 135 still pending, that we should know more that will be Positive or not by tomorrow latest Saturday. So there is 135 out there that we don't know anything about. **Mayor:** So they are saying that the Peak will not be until May. **Manny:** We are looking to reach our highest point in about two weeks. **Comm. Segura:** How long does it take for the results to come in? **Manny:** 3 days **Hugo:** It depends on who is testing, some people have the 2 day window others have the 4 day window. The person that I was talking about for the City of Edcouch, he had done the 4 day test, it was damaged somehow, he had to report to UT so he took the 2 day test. So they were supposed to give us results today, if they did not call us in and if we don't get anything from the county well that means it came back Negative. So what has changed when all this began that what they did they from the Mayors briefing, we need more information from people who are contracting the disease. So what they came up with is that they are going to be notifying the Chief of Police of the Municipalities and give them that information so at that point it will be given to the Mayor and to myself and then of course we will let you all know. Closer to home here, what I wanted to discuss with you all is basically the water bills will be going out tomorrow. They have been delayed and my only concern is that I am forecasting that we might not collect maybe 50 % of this water bill considering that people are not working. We had come up with different ideas and we kind of felt that I think it is important to know that people will still pay their bill, people are also using more water right now. And it's not their fault I understand that, but I feel that at the end of the day, if we put out a message that we will offer something it will come back and hurt us. So I am recommending that we collect as normal, we are not gonna cut anybody and if somebody needs a payment plan we can offer that. **Mayor** Ok sounds good. Hugo on the extra water that they are using, is there any way to figure out if that extra usage is because of irrigation or watering the grass for just household use. **Hugo:** It's kind of hard Mayor unless we do it on an individual basis. We can get a family and then for instance we can look at their timeline and let's say for instance you are watering in the morning and we can see what you are watering in the morning and so on but I think a lot of the over usage is going to be that you have a whole family there they are washing more, you know they are doing a lot more yard work. So never the less the water consumption is still being done. Initially I thought we would waive the overages but I think it will end up hurting us at the end if we announce anything like that. **Mayor:** Yes I know, well whatever you do we will just do it for this month and then analyze it and see how we are doing with the collection. **Hugo:** What was recommended it that we try it out this month and maybe we can initiate something. But maybe we can come up with a COVID 19 discount and maybe we can give a 10% or 15% discount. I don't have the numbers until I kind of analyze everything, and that was one of the recommendations. I kind of like that one, because that one will be across the board. **Mayor:** And it's easy to implement. The other thing I wanted to ask all of you guys, I know there is a lot of talk about facemasks and I now there is a shortage, but right now you can practically use anything, a bandanna, what Hugo is using. Maybe we can start implementing, when you're in a public to wear a mask. They need to wear something to protect them and ourselves. They will be covering their mouth and they will not be spreading the germs. **Manny:** Mayor what happens is that we got these masks done, this lady was very generous and donated to the community and to city hall. What I do I go home and I wash it and put it on the next day, but we are getting 250 masks this afternoon, as a matter of fact I am waiting for them, they are going to be delivered around six o'clock. And we had ordered more but what happens that a lot of these masks are coming from China, so they are being detained, they are being stopped at customs. But yeah your right, there is a big shortage on masks and we are trying to get hold of as many as we can. So if we do get some we will be passing them down to you guys. **Hugo:** Ok, in continuing Mayor, on the PD side, the check points have proven that they are working really well, and we made a decision to do 12 on and 12 off for another week. And after the evening checkpoint they are going to start giving citations. So we will start seeing more citations. What I did notice that after

the checkpoints are felony stops went down, pretty much automatically, but we do have some repeat offenders, we do have 2 or 3 people out there that just seem they do not want to stay home, and those people have been arrested already and we will probably arrest one of those tonight. Social Media has been pretty quiet. Public Works and Water Dept have been working smooth. As of Monday We should have our City Operation Center in Effect. **Mayor:** So what will be the plan for the weekend? **Hugo:** Right now mayor we are trying to get that Emergency Operation Center going at fire dept and checkpoints will be going as well. Now I will say this, we are going to need volunteers. **Mayor:** Ok we can talk about that and figure out a plan. The other thing is that I m not seeing is but maybe you guys are, I have been hearing peeling out sounds and I think some people are taking advantage. **Hugo:** There is one person in particular and we are investigating that and hopefully today we should get him. **Manny:** Let me just add that we have a worksafe plan now, part of my day today was that I went to all the business and I did tell them that I was going to give them 48 hrs to come up with a worksafe plan if they wanted to stay open, I did get a good response, half of the business have already turned in a worksafe plan. Mostly they need to stay sanitized and if an employee shows symptoms send them home. **Joel:** They need to wear gloves. **Manny:** Yes commissioner I agree, and that's part of our worksafe plan they already know they have been warned and if they don't follow through, the City of Edcouch is going to end up shutting them down. **Joel:** I believe if I m not mistaken the City of Edinburg, has the police dept and fire dept and another person, and they will go every hr or two and they will go by to check up on the business. They see if they have a list every hr or how many times they clean a day, so maybe we can do something like that also. **Manny:** Definitely we will be following up because it went into effect today on April 2nd. Now there is no excuse that they wont be following it. **Mayor:** On the travel, do you all want to do what Weslaco is doing? The cars of just two people per car? Or you all don't want to go there yet. **Hugo:** For now we will see how it goes and we will up the citations if we have to. Because keep in mind Mayor, some of the people are getting mixed information from the school also and some people think that they have to take there kids to get there food and they don't. **Mayor:** Maybe we can start clarifying that through Facebook. They don't need to take anybody, they are planning on doing another packet distribution for April 9th, but I was told La Villa is stopping all the packets, they don't want any handing of the packets. Maybe you and I Hugo can talk tomorrow with Dr. Rivera and figure out what his plan is, so we can get ready and adjust our plan, remember guys that the state and county will give u the plan and we can make it stronger, as long as its is not more lenient than the County we can add words to it. What time are you all doing the check points in the afternoon? **Hugo:** They vary, it depends, we are not doing them at the same time. That way people don't know. **Joel:** I was gonna tell you around 10 o'clock, the last restraint that closes is probably Whataburger, it closes at 9, so after that there should nt be anyboy else out. **Hugo:** So the efforts are good, so once we open the Emergency Operation Center we will be good and have an actual document we can follow, and we will grow as we need, but right now for the most part I think we are covering everything we need, and everything is based off of whatever the county is giving us and then us going from there, but in addition to that I would like to thank Mr. Flores, I don't know if he is still on or he left, He actually came up with a really good idea yesterday, and as of yesterday we started the prayer. It is a prayer that we will be starting at 8 o'clock and basically it's a prayer, I reached out to different pastors of the city and they will be doing a prayer at 8 o'clock every evening. **Joel:** And do you have any video, did they send you something? **Hugo:** I opened it up last night, and everything that we are doing right now I always call O J (attorney), and basically he gave me the idea, what I did I did the live video and I invited anybody who wants to do a prayer, they can send it to our inbox, I even gave them our phone number, if they want to text it to me and I will be playing different prayers everyday. **Joel:** Awesome sounds good. **Hugo:** As long as they send a prayer we will approve it. We will upload it, and as of now I have three people. **Mayor:** Do u screen these videos before you upload them? **Hugo:** You know I thought about, but no unless they are praying to the devil. I think all prayers are needed right now, and that is one thing OJ said, if we get

someone from Islam, we have to play it. **Mayor:** We will play it by ear, see what happens. Ok any other questions regarding the COVID 19 epidemic? **Commission:** No

Q. Discussion and possible action to approve Ranking and Negotiations of Community Pool Project

Hugo: Mayor we opened up bids today at 4 o'clock and we stayed open till 4:01 and there was only one company that bid, which was Trigen. And I am going to ask Manny to ask me with the amount.

Manny: Yes sir I do the amount that came in was, the base proposal was 577,000, and 140 days to complete. **Hugo:** Based on that information we are over budget, but at this point I would like to ask the commission to go ahead and accept the bids and allow the engineer, architect and Manny and myself to go ahead and negotiate.

A motion to approve Ranking and Negotiations of Community Pool Project was made by Alderman: Segura . by Alderman: Gutierrez . All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

R. Adjournment.

At 6:34 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman: Segura , 2nd by Alderman: Gutierrez . 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, April 2, 2020.

Passed and Approved by the Board of Aldermen on this 2nd day of April 2020.

ATTEST

Manuel Hernandez
City of Edcouch