



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF EDCOUCH
211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS
THURSDAY, May 07, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

- A. Call Meeting to Order**
- B. Roll Call**
- C. Pledge of Allegiance**
- D. Invocation**
- E. Public Comments**
- F. Police Dept Report**
- G. City Managers Report**
- H. Discussion and possible action on approval of Minutes:
 - 1. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2020****
- I. Discussion and possible action to rename C V Mendez street to Polo Lara Dr.**
- J. Discussion and possible Action to approve resolution on COVID 19 grant**
- K. Discussion and possible Action to approve a Cooperation Agreement with Urban County for years 2021-2023**
- L. Discussion and Update on COVID 19 pandemic**
- M. Discussion and Possible Action on Hollis Rutledge and Associates report on COVID 19 grants**
- N. Adjournment**

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 TH day of 2020 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 th DAY OF 2020.

**Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager**



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211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS
THURSDAY, May 07, 2020
6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

O. Call Meeting to Order Meeting was called to Order by **Mayor Gonzalez at 6: _ p.m.**

P. Roll Call Roll call was called by **Mr. Manuel Hernandez as follows:**

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

Mayor, we have a quorum.

Q. Pledge of Allegiance Pledge of Allegiance was led **Commissioner Rene Flores**

R. Invocation Invocation was led by **Victor H De La Cruz**

S. Public Comments

Manny: We did get an email from Jimmy Jack Lawrence for public comment. I do see here we did send him a Xoom request, but he has not joined us.

Hugo: I recommend that if he does come on that we can go ahead and resume with the comments if he does get on during the time we have during this meeting.

Mayor: Ok, we will do that.

T. Police Dept Report

Interim Chief Quintana: Mayor, commissioners, OJ how are you guys doing?

Everyone: Good

Interim Chief Quintana: So, I have two reports one for March and one for April. So, I will try and keep it short. For the traffic summary I have one accident, and it was a minor accident. For the traffic enforcement we issued out sixty-two citations. Out of those sixty-two citations fifteen were issued for the Disaster Declaration or the failure to comply with the Disaster Declaration. For the index crimes we have one burglary, we had two criminal mischiefs, and for the arrest we made one arrest for the burglary. We made ten arrest for public intoxication, one arrest for disorderly conduct. We made three arrests for assaults. On those assaults two of them were on Peace Officers and that was Sergeant Puente and one of our reserve officers Leal. Both of them are ok. We have one aggravated assault and we have two arrests for procession of marijuana. For the curfew for the month of March we did make one arrest as well and we had two evading arrest on motor vehicle. Number of funeral escorts, we did two. La Villa Police Department assisted us on three calls, we assisted them on seven and we had a total of sixty-four calls for the month of March. For the month

of April on the accidents we had two, both of them were minor. For the traffic enforcement we issued thirty-nine tickets. Twenty of those were for the failure to comply with the Disaster Declaration. For the index crimes we have one burglary and one criminal mischief. On the arrests we made six arrests on public intoxication. We made one for disorderly conduct, one for aggravated assault, one for the use of drugs and that was procession of marijuana and we made three arrests on the curfew. I'm showing here that we did not assist La Vila PD for the month of April, but they did assist us on two calls. We had a total of forty-six calls for the month of April. So, any questions on the reports?

Everyone: No

U. City Managers Report

Hugo: Good evening commissioners, mayor I would just like to add to the police department report. I would like to also add that we are planning something for the graduates from the Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Program at the school. I apologize my vocal cords are messed up. Basically, what we are planning is were planning to adopt upon they graduate they are going to be a part of the Edcouch PD honorary program. They will be receiving a gift basket and we will be contacting the media so they can come out and hopefully put out the story. It is a wonderful thing that we are doing because we are going to be offering the graduates a variety of things. One of the most important ones is that they are going to be able to come back after they go to school for Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice, they can come back and do their internship hours here at The City of Edcouch. So, that is really important and that is something that I think is going to be very good for the community and for our kids. Unfortunately, they have had a rough year this year wit the Corona Virus. In addition to what the chief was saying, we are going to continue in working hard to maintain the safety and health of citizens. In addition to that we do have the different projects that are coming. We are working on the pool renovation that is starting as soon as last week. It has already been in operation and you will start seeing a lot more going on at the pool. The Community Center, that will be happening also within the next two weeks. And then of course the streets that will happen next week starting May 18th we will be starting with the streets. So, with that said we are looking into some changes in infrastructure that are going to impact the streets. I will keep you posted on that as we go because these things are things we are trying to coordinate with Urban County. We also have the logo that I sent out to you via text. If you could help me out with that. Approve it so that we can go ahead and move forward and start getting some shirts that is also going to be part of the gift for the kids. So, if you have any questions or comments. I will take any questions.

Mayor: There is no questions for Mr De La Cruz.

V. Discussion and possible action on approval of Minutes:

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2020

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2020 was made by Alderman _____ Cabrera __, 2nd by Alderman ___Segura___. All voted Aye/ Motion Carried

W. Discussion and possible action to rename C V Mendez street to Polo Lara Dr.

Hugo: Mayor, at this time I'd like to, this is something that we had in the last physical meeting that we had. We had a gentleman come in and talk about renaming the street to CV Mendez. There's some research that we have been conducting in doing so. There is a lot of history behind the CV Mendez street and at this time I would like to recommend that we table this item so we can continue research. Both of these men were men that contributed to The City of Edcouch so what we want to do is we want to try and find the middle ground so that we can have both names whether it's in the same street or different locations.

A motion to approve the renaming of C V Mendez street to Polo Lara Dr was made by Alderman _____ Segura__, 2nd by Alderman __ Flores____. All voted Aye/Motion Carried

X. Discussion and possible Action to approve resolution on COVID 19 grant

Hugo: Mayor, at this time I'd like to pass this forward to Manny but before I do that I'd like to say that all this _____ has been working on a variety of grants that are specific to the COVID-19. I will also like to add that we have been following the different financial support that we can receive from county and from state and federal. I will tell you this, we are going to need each and every one of you to help us out with the connections that you might have with the people of the county and the people in the state. We're going to need more people to lobby for us. We are noticing a little bit of delay on these funds. There's monies out there that are being held at the location so I think Mayor is doing a really good job in making and keeping contact with Judge Cortez at the Hidalgo County level but one thing that I have noticed is that cities like ours they tend to within the cracks and we can't let that happen so Im asking everyone of you to assist us with this. So I'm passing this on to Manny.

Manny: Thank you Mr Hugo. Good evening mayor, good evening City Commissioners, this resolution that has been put on the agenda for your approval is a COVID-19 grant that was written by Hollis Rutledge & Associates. This is one amongst many grants we are working closely with The City of Edcouch. I'm constantly on the phone with them everyday trying to find any grants. As you know this COVID-19 hit us unexpectedly and it did incur a lot of financial burdens here at our city as far as expenses for disinfecting, masks, equipment, personnel and all kinds of things like that. So this grant is been written so we can proceed in getting reimbursed in expenses that our city has been spending. We have written this resolution, which I emailed you guys, we put it together so you guys can go over it and once the resolution is done, we can proceed to get this grant. I believe this grant is for \$40,000 which I know that it does not seem a lot considering this pandemic is a huge pandemic but \$40,000 will help the city in contributing to cost that might occur in the future or that might already have occurred. So this is one of many other grants regarding the COVID-19 that we will be applying for. So this is the first one and this is the resolution and I'm hoping that you guys approve it.

A motion to approve resolution on COVID 19 grant was made by Alderman _____ Flores____. Second by Alderman __ Cabrerria____. All voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Y. Discussion and possible Action to approve a Cooperation Agreement with Urban County for years 2021-2023

Hugo: Mayor at this time I would like to pass this on to Mr Hernandez who has been working with Urban County. Let me just add that the Urban County project currently right now that we are working on is a product of a yearly contribution that we get from Urban County. What is important to consider in this and one of the things that we've discussed is that whenever we get these monies that we try and make them and put them in places that are going to impact the community and that the community can feel that impact and see that impact and so I'm just going to ask that you all keep that in mind because that is very important for us to keep in mind that the community knows that these monies are coming in on a yearly basis and I want to make sure that they feel and see the impact. So, I pass that on to Mr Hernandez.

Manny: Once again Mayor and City Council members, this cooperation agreement is between The City of Edcouch and Urban County. First of all, I'd like to congratulate you guys in taking advantage of Urban County funds. When you guys came in Urban County funds had not been used here in The City of Edcouch since, I believe, the year 2016-2017. You guys as city council came through and finally decided that we needed to do something with this money. This project that were going to start right now, the street project, we were on the verge already of losing that money. You guys did an excellent job in coming together as a council in wanting to use these funds and move forward and actually showing the community that you guys actually care and that you guys want to do something to make the community look brighter, look better. So were going to keep moving with this process so this cooperation agreement is for future references for the years , I believe, 2021, 2022, and 2023. This is just a cooperation agreement with Urban County telling them that we want to continue working with them. We want to continue the progress in the city. We want to continue using their funds. We want to continue taking advantage of anything that is out there and basically, it is just a cooperation agreement between The City of Edcouch saying that we are willing to work with them. Willing to continue the progress and we are willing to continue taking advantage of their funds for further infrastructure, street development, or anything else like Mr De La Cruz said to make the city look brighter. So, with this in mind, I ask that you guys consider passing this cooperation agreement for The City of Edcouch and the Hidalgo County Urban County Program.

A motion to approve a Cooperation Agreement with Urban County was made by Alderman ___Segura___. Second by Alderman ___Flores___. All voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Z. Discussion and Update on COVID 19 pandemic

Hugo: Mayor and commissioners at this time the update since the last time we spoke as you all know and we have been keeping each and everyone of you on as to what's been happening specifically with The City of Edcouch and the City of Edcouch has pretty much kept the line pretty much flattened at three cases here in The City of Edcouch. Out of those three cases, I would like to also mention, two of them were out of the city limits of the city of Edcouch. So why is that important? Because people that live in the outskirts normally do not come and spend time within the city. I think the city did an excellent job in maintaining the safety and the health of the community. With that said, that is the same trend we are seeing at the precinct level, which we have been meeting with Precinct 1 on a daily basis at 9:30am we meet with Commissioner Fuentes. Commissioner Fuentes has been bringing in someone from different departments. Everyday we have somebody different from a different department and we have had a lot of progress with that call. We are working on starting a program that is going to help the community pay their bills for those people that need help with their bills. Were actually going to have a person that is going to be assisting them to fill out any applications or anything that has to be done. So, with that said COVID-19, unless Mayor, I know the Mayor has also attended Mayor's meetings, if you would like to add anything.

Mayor: No Mr De La Cruz, but just as a group like you said I think we have done a good job, especially on the law enforcement side from Chief Quintana and his staff. They have really done great work out there. So, I think the next phase on this is supporting the local businesses. I know that they have been impacted a lot, so they are barely opening. I know that now they are starting to serve inside for example the restaurants. Well that will be our next step to make sure that our businesses are supported, and they are able to stay afloat. Any questions from you guys?

Hugo: Id just like to add to what the Mayor said as far as our businesses we are in the process reopening the second phase of businesses and those include different businesses that don't really impact The City of Edcouch. Unfortunately, there are a couple of businesses that are going to have to wait but each business is turning in a safety plan and we are monitoring were taking care of them and were also promoting through the community that they use and eat in our community.

AA. Discussion and Possible Action on Hollis Rutledge and Associates report on COVID 19 grants

Manny: Mr De la Cruz if I may? This item was put on the agenda, but I just ask you guys if we can scheme through it. It has to do with and was originally posted but the we posted to discuss the possible action to discuss the COVID-19 grant, so it was just going to be a presentation on that COVID-19 grant. I have already talked about it I have already introduced to you what is it that all this is doing and what he will continue to do.

Hugo: Mr Hernandez, if you could just go through each one really quick and if there's any questions.

Manny: Sir, let me run to your office really quick, I have the sheet there in your office. One second. Ok, with police and fire, these are the grants that this office is currently working on. With the police and fire, it is a \$45,250 grant submitted to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for overtime, disinfecting supplies, materials, and COVID-19 eligible expenses. From FEMA Public Assistance HRA Hullis Rutledge & Associates is working with the department to collect all eligible COVID-19 expenses to be able to submit for FEMA reimbursements. Costs that are being collected are either allowed to be reimbursed under other identified programs or FEMA. Hullis Rutledge is also assisting with the submission of DSO reports to the county on behalf of the city. I have been submitting DSO reports that those are expenses that the city has been incurring, anything that the city has been incurring that has to do with COVID-19 I have been turning into the Emergency Management Program at the state level at the county level. With the Department of Treasury Hullis is working with the Hidalgo County to secure \$150,000,000 in funding directly to the county for the Corona Relief Fund. He is also working with the county and the city to be able to directly receive some of the awards from the county. He's working in monitoring direct assistance that the State of Texas also receive that will allow for local jurisdiction to apply for direct funds.

Hugo: What I wanted you to do was just a brief, you dint have to explain it all. Can you give us the amount that we have already spent?

Manny: Ok, as of right now the city has already spent roughly about close to \$50,000 in expenses that were not in our budget. That is what the city has currently already come across. Plus, the \$50,000, I believe its \$49,500.

Hugo: How about the county level?

Manny: Ok, in the county level? As far as county expenses? The county threshold is already at an unbelievable number of about \$23,000,000. Ok, that is the county level. If you put all the cities in Hidalgo County together, they have already spent about \$23,000,000 including the count of Hidalgo. The County of Hidalgo, as you know we have one of our city commissioners employed by the County of Hidalgo. They have been one week on, one week off to try and prevent the spread while still getting paid. So, the county is incurring ridiculous amounts of money so the \$150,000,000 that is hopefully will be brought into the county that they're working on is looking to cover all these expenses. Now the fire fighters are also getting a, there is also a grant for the fire fighters for PPE equipment. For gowns, gloves, covers, respirators, and face masks. Now there is a Community Disaster Loan in which provides operation funds for local governments to continue to operate after a substantial revenue loss caused by disaster. City must show greater than 5% loss of tax or other revenue for the current year. The Small Business Administration as you know is also lending out money that is 100% forgivable if the business meets the guidelines. All these businesses that were closed are looking to get a reimbursement but of course you have to apply for the money. That is through , I believe, through The Small Business Administration. Basically, those are all the grants that are currently being worked on due to the COVID-19. Questions?

Dina Arrevalo The Monitor: I have a question Mayor. Mayor, the city is contracting with Hollis Rutledge, how much are they getting paid for this service?

Hugo: Yes, we have been working with Hollis Rutledge for approximately six seven months and the quota that we pay Hollis Rutledge is \$3,000 a month as a retainer and there is no additional fees other than that.

Manny: It is a closed fee. We do not pay anything else extra.

Dina Arrevalo The Monitor: Thank you.

Mayor: Any other questions for Mr Hernandez. Alright Mr Hernandez no action needed.

Manny: Actually, needed on this one I do not have the minute agenda. I do not have the actual agenda with me

Mayor: Yeah, no action needed we already passed the resolution on the other one.

BB. Adjournment

At 6:35 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, MS, 2020.

Passed and Approved by the Board of Aldermen on this 07th day of MAY 2020.

ATTEST

Manuel Hernandez
City of Edcouch