



Regular Meeting
07/30/2020 6:00
pm

REGULAR MEETING

A MEETOF THE CITY OF EDCOUCH WILL BE HELD BY
TELECONFERENCE/VIDEOCONFERENCE VIA ZOOM : 1-800-000-0000 ACCESS CODE:
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ON THURSDAY, July 30, 2020
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

THIS CITY OF EDCOUCH MEETING WILL BE HELD USING TELE CONFERENCE
SYTEM/VIDEO CONFERENCING VIA ZOOM AND IS AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNOR
GREG ABBOT'S TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF TEXAS OPEN
MEETINGS ACT WHICH ALLOWS FOR A GOVERNING BODY TO HOLD A "VIRTUAL"
MEETING SO AS TO AVOID GATHERING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND/ OR BOARD
MEMBERS, AND STAFF IN A PHYSICAL SETTING THAT MIGHT CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC
HEALTH RISK.

PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN WRITING NO LATER THAN THIRTY
(30) MINTUES IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING BY THEM TO MANNY HERNANDEZ AT
mannyhernandez@cityofedcouch.org. In the body of the email please include date, your name, your
address, phone number, agenda item # if applicable of subject of discussion, and your comments.
DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

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 July 07 , 2020**
- G. **Discussion and Possible Action to approve Ordinance 2020-07; Order of Elections for the City of Edcouch Municipal Elections for November 03, 2020**
- H. **Discussion and possible action on full contract with Hidalgo County Elections Department on the City of Edcouch Municipal Elections for Early Voting and Election Day November 3, 2020**
- I. **Discussion and Possible action on Extension for Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Hanna**
- J. **Update On Hurricane Hanna Recovery Efforts**

K. 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 27th day of June 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 27^h DAY OF JULY 2020.

Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager

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07/30/2020
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**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF EDCOUCH**

211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS
THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- L. Call Meeting to Order** Meeting was called to Order by **Mayor Gonzalez at 6:08p.m.**
- M. Roll Call** Roll call was called by **Mr. Manuel Hernandez Jr** as follows:

	Present	Absent	City Staff:
Mayor: Virginio Gonzalez Jr.	<u> X </u>	_____	Victor H. De La Cruz, City Manager
Mayor Pro Tem: Flores	<u> X </u>	_____	Manuel Hernandez Jr., Fin./Grants
Alderman: Joel Segura	<u> X </u>	_____	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.

- N. Pledge of Allegiance** Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rene Flores
- O. Invocation** Invocation was led by Victor H De La Cruz
- P. Public Comments** No public comments
- Q. Discussion and possible action on approval of Minutes:**

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 09, 2020. Mr. De La Cruz: Minutes are on your package if you have any questions.

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 09, 2020 was made by Alderman Flores _____, 2nd by Alderman Segura _____. All Voted Aye/ Motion Carried.

- R. Discussion and Possible Action to approve Ordinance 2020-07; Order of Elections for the City of Edcouch Municipal Elections for November 03, 2020**

Hugo: Mayor, before I pass this on to Manny I would just like to say that this is the order of the election that will include the people that sign up to run for the positions that are available. There is another item that is a special election item that is for the four year term. So I will pass this on over to Manny.

Manny: Good afternoon mayor and city council members. This order was prepared by myself. It is an ordinance and it should be o your email for review. This is required by the Elections Department to prepare. It includes our precincts and the dates of the early voting. I believe we are going to have the early voting an extra week this time around, so I believe early voting is going to run from October 13th to October 30th. I just got off the phone with Ms. Hilda Salinas from the Elections Department because they did not have the times, so I notified her that we were going to have a city meeting and that I needed to see if they could have the times. Luckily,

they had just finished the meeting so we will have times and they are on there to for your approval.

Mayor: For the record Manny what are the times?

Manny: Everyday it is going to be from seven to seven except Sunday will be from ten to three

A motion to approve the Ordinance 2020-07; Order of Elections for the City of Edcouch Municipal Elections was made by Alderman _Flores_____, 2nd by Alderman _Segura_____. All voted Aye/ Motion Carried

S. Discussion and Possible Action to action to approve full contract with Hidalgo County Elections Department on the City of Edcouch Municipal Elections for Early Voting and Election Day November 03, 2020

Hugo: Mayor, before I pass this on to Manny I would like to ask a question to the council before I pass this on to Manny. Council, after voting on this, is this item H even item G as congress and even are making these changes that deal with election are their changes going to supersede our decision here today? Number two would be if we were to continue with an election what are we looking at?

OJ: I am looking at the agenda the way the agenda was written and also the way the ordinances were written absolutely if the governor does have other specific orders, God forbids it gets worse, but we are kind of anticipating at the very least expecting some of the experts to be correct and in the fall and the winter it might get a little , perhaps out of control. So first part yes they do supersede and it fact they will be across the board possible recession maybe and a certain degree of rescheduling of whatever happens at that point we can always come back and reamend or add additional stuff to the ordinance so that we can be consistent with the governors orders for what we believe is fair and in the best interest of the community if we do see something out of the norms. The other thing that could happen which is happening now the governor has an existing order and our county judge is not in congruence with that mandate. And so that is not to suggest that the elections are going to be any different but just in case that were the issue we do have a specific agreement with the county that the county is going to be helping us out so that is contingent upon their accountability.

Manny: Ok mayor and city council, this contract is required, we in the past have the Elections Department come in to our fire station and run the election. This is a contract between us and the Elections Department which the Elections Department requires to be signed by the mayor and city manager and approved by the city council members for us to allow them to come into our facility.

Mayor: How much are they charging for this election?

Manny: I believe it is roughly twenty-five thousand mayor. That includes machines, service, everything and all that good stuff. We have been paying this amount every year for the past I don't know how many years. It gets pretty out of hand. It is ridiculous that we have to be paying for an election every year.

A motion to approve full contract with Hidalgo County Elections Department on the City of Edcouch Municipal Elections for Early Voting and Election Day November 3, 2020 was made

by Alderman _____ Flores _____, 2 nd by Alderman _____ Chapa _____. All voted Aye/Motion Carried

T. Discussion and Possible Action on Extension for Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Hanna

Manny: Mayor city council members this was an extension that was asked on behalf of the Emergency Management Department and the Hidalgo County judges office for me to prepare. See what happens is that when there is a disaster like we had this past weekend the county judge automatically declares Hidalgo County a disaster depending on the damages. AS you all know we did have a lot of severe damage with a lot of high wind and a lot of high rain. So what happened was that Monday right away I produced a disaster declaration and was signed by our mayor but that disaster declaration is only good for seven days. So now in your email you see a disaster declaration that will be on there till further notice and it needs to be submitted to the Emergency Management Department but it has to be approved by city council. The other one that was only a temporary did not need to be approved by the council members because it was an emergency. Now that we are situated and we are having a meeting I bring this before you guys and it is in your email.

Manny: For the record we have Commissioner Cabrera and Commissioner Gutierrez in the meeting

A motion to approve Extension for Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Hanna was made by Alderman _____ Segura _____, 2 nd by Alderman _____ Chapa _____. All voted Aye/Motion carried

U. Update on Hurricane Hanna Recovery Efforts

Hugo: Mayor briefly in this item I am going to talk about what the efforts are coming up at this point. This item talks about the recovery effort. We have been working on recovery since the same night the storm came in and what I mean by that is our preparedness this time around for this storm we were very ready for the storm. Everything that came our way we were able to handle it and that just shows on the preparation of the staff, Manny, and off course the commission that supports us. Id like to say that now our recovery efforts minimal if I was going to say percentagewise is about at sixty five to seventy percent recovered. Yes we have to go out there and identify the damage. That is the hard part right now is going out there and trying to show or give a picture of the reality of the damages so that we can really show FEMA that we need these funds. It has been long enough that we have had storms at least since I have been here we have had storms, I know that mayor and Rene you have been here for at least four storms. I don't know in the past but these storms really hurt us. So our recovery efforts right now include one: we are getting damages made to the city, our building, and other areas. WE are preparing to send something to TML, a request for TML and then we are also looking at the recovery efforts for the city. On Saturday we are going to have a clean up effort. We are expecting forty people that are going to come in and they are going to assist us in the clean up efforts. We have two dump areas for brush, furniture, mattresses and so that is the part we are working on. Are we ready for another storm? No. The dirt is very wet but I will tell you that the drains and all of that we are working on them every day. So if you have any questions for me I would be glad to answer or Manny can help me out.

Mayor: Hugo, I was just informed by Red Cross that are going to help us tomorrow and Saturday.

Manny: That is through Saldana had mentioned that in a meeting today. They were going to get back to me. So they already notified you mayor?

Mayor: Yes sir, I just got the text right now as we speak.

Manny: Good news. Good news.

Hugo: Since you say that mayor I would like to take this opportunity to thank so that we know who has been helping us throughout this whole thing. Oscar Longoria has from the initial night of the storm, I started getting phone calls from him. He has been checking up on us and he has been a key figure in getting the Red Cross shelter in place. Although we saw on social media that we did not get credit for that but during these times it does not matter who gets credit. It got done and I am happy to say it got done by The City of Edcouch no matter what social media says. The other thing is, the Red Cross water food and all o that was very helpful. Mayor made some contact with different people and we were able to get food, breakfast and lunch. Vicente Gonzalez sent out Palenque Grill today. Starting today, tomorrow, and Saturday Koko Loko will also be providing breakfast and lunch and that is donated by AT&T through Mr JD Salinas. So those are the people I wanted to identify and then also I want to give a special thanks, so if you see him in town or around Mr Rangel from Presinct 1 go up to him and give him thanks cause he was very helpful with The City of Edcouch.

Mayor: And do not forget the event that Joel Segura and his family did also, one thousand plates that they did.

Hugo: Definitely I think that Mr Segura and the Segura family along with The Drunken Idol were the key with showing and leading the way I want to say that The City of Edcouch has led the way in every aspect of this storm. Preparedness, how we handled the storm itself and then the recovery efforts which include these meals. You don't see everybody just followed us. It feels good to know that we are ahead of the game and we get phone calls and people tell us hey we need to do this and it feels good to say we already did, it is already done, we are already there. Like I said I have seen other events in other places , not to compare, but I don't see anyone having Firehouse subs, or a Palenque Grill, or even Koko Loko tacos. So I think it is important to say because we are here for our citizens and we do not close doors to anybody. Sand bagging efforts id like to say we had people from Elsa, Monte Alto, La Villa coming in. We did not ask for a bill or anything like that. Same thing with the food. We do not close the doors on anybody. It does not matter where they come from the need is the same and we are there to provide that service to anyone that comes to our place. We do not reject anyone and like I said I am proud to be a part of a city that does this. Thank you all for supporting us.

Mayor: For the record I want to commend the job that you and Manny have done. The job that both chiefs for police and fire have done. It has been enormous. Also for the record I want to thank the commissioners. I know that each one has their own group of contacts that they have and each one pulled together and we brought in the whole package. We can not compare to a big city but when each one bring theirs own unique skills and connections we can bring it as a whole and it was definitely evident in this storm. So all of you guys deserve praise. Everybody. Commissioner Cabrera, Commissioner Chapa, Commissioner Gutierrez, Commissioner Flores, Commissioner Segura thank you guys for everything that you did through this ordeal and the pandemic as well. It shows for the unity and the commitment that you guys have for the city. I really commend you guys for what you have done.

Commissioners: Thank you

Mayor: I just have more question. I don't know if it is possible that Manny or Hugo or someone in the office can somehow create an interactive map to show what areas are currently without power, what areas are experiencing sewage problems, and what area currently having water issues. That way we can see. We are getting bombarded with calls and we do not know what areas are still troubled. So that way we can share with the public that these are the hotspots for the city and that help is on its way.

Hugo: I know mayor, that in preparation for Saturday is going to be part of what you are asking because the recovery effort or the clean up effort is going to be done by priority and we are starting off with elderly and disabled because we know that they do not have someone to help them clean. Right now the streets are clean. I mean, we might need a sweeper to clean and all that but for the most part the streets are clean. We have picked up a lot of brush already. We are actually talking about going into peoples properties to help clean, to work with them in helping them with the clearing up effort and also to clean up. So what you are asking for mayor will be part of this whole clean up effort.

Mayor: Ok that way for tonight and for tomorrow we can see for sure who is out there that dose not have the power, the water, the sewage problem.

Hugo: We will start working on that immediately.

Mayor: Start identifying our residents that need our help.

V. Adjournment

At 6: 29 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman: Flores, 2nd by Alderman: Segura. 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, July 30, 2020.

Passed and Approved by the Board of Aldermen on this day of July 2020.

ATTEST

**Manuel Hernandez
City of Edcouch**