



REGULAR MEETING

A MEETING OF THE CITY OF EDCOUCH WILL BE HELD BY
TELECONFERENCE/VIDEOCONFERENCE VIA ZOOM : 1-800-000-0000 ACCESS CODE:
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ON THURSDAY, November 19, 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. **Special Meeting Minutes of Sept 22, 2020**
 - 2. **Regular Meeting Minutes of Oct 01, 2020**
- G. **Oath of Office**
 - 1. **Alderman Place 1**
 - 2. **Alderman Place 2**
 - 3. **Alderman Place 5**
- H. **1. Fire Dept Report**
 - 2. **Police Dept Report**
 - 3. **Engineer Report**
- I. **Presentation by Mr. Paul Villarreal Tax Assessor Collector on 2019-2020 tax collection report**

- J. Discussion and Possible Action to approve donation by Mr. Glenn Bell on West 1.52 AC FT 565 on mile 17 Edcouch Texas**
- K. Discussion and Possible Action to approve change orders for pool project**
- L. Discussion and Possible Action to approve change order for community center project**
- M. Discussion and Possible Action to approve change order # 1 community center project**
- N. Discussion and Possible Action to evaluate City Manager**
- O. Discussion and Possible Action on property on Mile 17**
- P. Discussion and Possible Action on Kasal Construction**
- Q. Discussion and Possible Action on Fulcrum Engineering**
- R. Discussion and Possible Action on Police Chief Voluntary Demotion**
- S. Executive Session: Texas Government code Chapter 551, Section 551:071, Consultation with City Attorney**

Pursuant to Chapter 551. Section 551.071: Consultation with City Attorney, the Council shall convene to Executive Session to discuss the following:

- 1. Evaluation of City Manager**
 - 2. Property on Mile 17**
 - 3. Kasal Construction**
 - 4. Fulcrum Engineering**
 - 5. Police Chief Voluntary Demotion**
- T. Reconvene: The Council shall Reconvene and take Possible action on items discussed In Closed/Meeting/Executive Session**

Chapter 551, Section 551.071: Consultation with City Attorney

- 1. Evaluation of City Manager**
 - 2. Evaluation of Police Chief**
 - 3. Kasal Construction**
 - 4. Fulcrum Engineering**
 - 5. Police Chief Voluntary Demotion**
- U. 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 November 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 November 2020.

Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF EDCOUCH**

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

AGENDA

- V. **Call Meeting to Order** Meeting was called to Order by Mayor Gonzalez at 6:00 p.m.
- W. **Roll Call** Roll call was called by Mr. Manuel Hernandez Jr 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./Grants
Alderman: Joel Segura	_X_	___	Chief: J. Quintana
Alderman: John Chapa	_X_	___	
Alderman: Robert Gutierrez	_X_	___	
Alderman: Lorenzo Cabrera	_X_	___	
City Attorney: Orlando Jimenez			

Mayor, we have a quorum.

- X. **Pledge of Allegiance** Pledge of Allegiance was led by Manny Hernandez
- Y. **Invocation** Invocation was led by Victor H De La Cruz
- Z. **Public Comments**

AA. Discussion and Possible Action on approval of Minutes

1. Special Meeting Minutes of Sept 22, 2020

Hugo: Mayor and Commissioners it is in your email for you guys to review.

A motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of Sept 22, 2020 was made by Alderman Flores _____, 2nd by Alderman Segura . All Voted Aye/ Motion Carried.

2. Regular Meeting Minutes of Oct 01, 2020.

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of Oct 01, 2020 was made by Alderman Flores _____, 2nd by Alderman Segura . All voted Aye/ Motion Carried.

BB. Oath of Office

- 1. Alderman Place 1
- 2. Alderman Place 2
- 3. Alderman Place 5

Alderman Place 1 was sworn in by Commissioner David Fuentes
Alderman Place 2 was sworn in by Judge Jason Pena
Alderman Place 5 was sworn in by Commissioner David Fuentes

CC.Department Reports

1. Fire Dept Report

Chief Nieves: We had a total of 356 reports for the year, 99,385 came in from Hidalgo County. Our training for the Fire Dept has been limited due to Covid 19.

2. Police Dept Report

Quintana: 89 citations issued in 2019 for month of November and we have 74 for this year for month of November so we are slightly right under that number **John:** What are we compared to numbers from last year as compared to this year. Where are we at now.

Quintana: That information I did not get. I don't have an yearly comparison of the citations. But I can go ahead and get that. **Hugo:** I believe there is a huge difference from last year

3. Engineer Report

Eddie Saenz: Several items we have been doing in the past 30 days is two weeks ago we met with County Of Hidalgo Pct 1 on there possible participation on the Community Center Parking lot. We met there on site and showed them the area and gave them all the quantities. They are going to come up with an estimate. And then prepare an agreement for whichever cost it would take, which would obviously be less than what a general contractor would charge. So we are looking at saving money there. And we are also doing surveys for the Bell Property donation. We are also looking at relocating that ditch that is right next to that property. So it can be relocated to the school property. So once we can come up with that ditch and convert it into a retainage pond. **Hugo:** When can we present to the school so we can have something a bit more realistic. **Eddie:** Somewhere around three weeks. Also in conjunction with Hollis Rutledge, submitting the GLO project for the construction of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. We also submitted some money for upgrading the lift station. It came out to something like 4.5 million, we should know if we qualify and made it on the list by around March. We have also been talking to the Urban County street program. We are looking at overlays at Los Laureles and C V Mendez and Hinojosa street and KiKa De La Garza, so hopefully we will be able to get going on that. **Mayor:** Eddie real quick, what is the status of phase 2 of the overlays you guys did in September? **Eddie:** The ones we are short on would be Cochran and Crenshaw, Urban County is still doing the enviormentals on those. So once they get cleared then they will give us the go ahead. The funds are still there. And that's all I have.

DD. Presentation by Mr. Paul Villarreal Tax Assessor Collector on 2019-2020 tax collection report

Paul Villarreal: Mayor and Alderman it is an honor to be here through zoom. Tab #1 from Oct 1 2019 to Sept 1, 2020 the tax collection consists of current, delinquent and rollback taxes. A total collected for the City of Edcouch for 608,062.63 the rest is the attorney fees and disbursements and collections. The next page is the breakdown of the 2019 current taxes. Last year base amount was 504,000.16 this year it was 516,000.00. We collected an additional 11,850. Considering the

pandemic I was thinking it was going to be a little bit harder, but we got it done. I can tell you that the tax statements went out the last week of October, so we are working hard and trying to accommodate with our people. I know this pandemic has been hard on everybody. But we will be able to work with the people if they need to work in payments. **Mayor:** Do you have any recommendations on how we can help you with the tax collections. **Paul Villarreal:** Well you know and I m glad you asked that I want to congragulate City Manger Mr. Hugo De La Cruz and offcourse his assistant Manny Hernandez for the great leadership they provide. They are always out there trying to see how they can improve this in order how we can reach out to the city taxpayers. If someone comes up to you send them over to me and we will go ahead and help them out. The elderly that have over 65 exemptions some of them we can work with them. We can put them in quarterly payments, without paying penalties. **Hugo:** Mr. Villarreal I would like to ask a question as what we are going right now as far the pandemic, what is the tax office doing to prepare for the pandemic. **Paul:** I have been here since 1985, what I have been doing all this time is preparing for the tax payer, we had some taxpayers who got there stimulus and came to pay there taxes instead of spending them elsewhere.

EE. Discussion and Possible Action to approve donation by Mr. Glenn Bell on West 1.52 AC FT 565 on mile 17 Edcouch Texas

Hugo: Mayor this is the item tht Mr. Saenz was talking about. After doing some research we found that that particular ditch run right by Bell s Property. Once Mr. Saenz went in there and looked in what needs to be done. I m happy to announce and with the efforts of Mr. Hernandez, we were able to acquire that property. That property belongs to the city now. **Mayor** What property is this? **Eddie:** If I may Mayor, this property is located just east of Ybarra Elementary, it was no use to him. That's when we got his number and Mr. Hernandez called him and this is the perfect time of the year because donating 1.5 acres is a perfect tax write off for 2020 right before the end of the year. So I think it benefits everybody. **Mayor:** What is the land value? **Hugo:** We sent him a receipt for 10,000.

A motion to approve donation by Mr. Glenn Bell on West 1.52 AC FT 565 on mile 17 Edcouch Texas was made by Alderman _Chapa _____, 2nd by Alderman _Cabrera _____. All voted Aye/ Motion Carried.

FF. Discussion and Possible Action to approve change order for pool project

Hugo: Mayor at this time there is no action on the pool project.

A motion to approve change order for pool project was made by Alderman Segura _____ 2nd by Alderman Flores _____. All Voted.

**GG. Discussion and Possible Action to approve change order for community center project
NO ACTION**

A motion to approve change order for community center project was made by Alderman Segura _____, 2nd by Alderman ___ Flores _____. All voted

HH. Discussion and Possible Action to approve change order #1 community center project

Hugo: At this time I will like to offer the microphone to Mr. Saenz.

Eddie: The project architect has been working with the contractor. Some of these items have been updated and there is basically 7 items. Some of them are add ons and some of them are deducts. They basically cover some additional inspections that were not in contract when it was negotiated. We added a window at the library. We put the bonds back into the project. We also changed the front entry doors to automatic doors. The fire marshall had asked us to change the fire department connection from the outside wall to be a pre standard structure that comes out of the ground so the fire department can be further away from building when connecting. Then we had some credits because we changed and the flooring and tile. This brings a total of 34,000. We are almost done, it should be done by the end of the year. **Virgil:** With change orders are we still in budget? **Hugo:** Mayor, total project, yes, there was changes that were Covid basically when Covid came in we made some adjustments with the projects, we are waiting for some funding to come in everything has been submitted to the county from the Cares Act.

A motion to approve change order #1 community center project was made by Alderman _Segura_____ 2nd by Alderman _Chapa_____. All Voted.

II. Discussion and Possible Action evaluate city manager

No Evaluation Today

A motion to Table the evaluation of city manage was made by Alderman _Chapa_____ 2nd by Alderman _Flores_____. All voted.

Executive Session

6: 44 p.m. In Session

7:15 p.m. Back from session

JJ. Discussion and Possible Action on property on Mile 17

No Additional Action needs to be done

A motion on possible action on property on Mile 17 was made by Alderman _____, 2nd by Alderman _____. All voted.

KK. Discussion and Possible Action On Kasal Construction

OJ: It is apparent Kasal Construction is in Breach of Contract with the City of Edcouch and it is my recommendation to file suit against Kasal Construction.

A motion on possible action Kasal Construction was made by _Segura_____, 2nd by Alderman _Flores_____. All voted.

LL. Discussion and Possible Action on Fulcrum Engineering

OJ: Mr. Mayor and members of the City Council on we have filed suit against Fulcrum Engineering, they have answered already. We filed suit against Fulcrum and also the Principle of Fulcrum Mr. George Lazarro, he answered and my recommendation is to go through and continue with the litigation procedure.

A motion on possible action on Fulcrum Engineering was made by Alderman Flores _____, 2nd by Alderman ___Segura _____. All voted

MM.

Disc

ussion and Possible Action on Police Chief Voluntary Demotion.

Hugo: Mayor at this time I would recommend for the commission to accept the demotion.

A motion and Possible Action on Police Chief Voluntary Demotion was made by Alderman ___Flores _____, 2nd by Alderman ___Segura _____. All voted.

NN.Executive Session

OO.Reconvene

PP. Adjournment

At 7:19 _ pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman: Chapa _____, 2nd by Alderman: _____ Flores _____. 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, November 19, 2020.

Passed and Approved by the Board of Aldermen on this 30 th day of November 2020.

ATTEST

Manuel Hernandez
City of Edcouch

