



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, March 04, 2021
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

THIS CITY OF EDCOUCH MEETING WILL BE HELD USING TELE CONFERENCE
SYSTEM/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 Jan 21, 2021
- G. Department Reports
 - 1. Fire Dept Report/EMC
 - 2. Police Dept Report/Vaccination Update
 - 3. Engineers Report
 - 4. City Managers Report

H. Presentation and Update on Grants, Hollis Rutledge and Associates

I. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve to advertise for RFQ s for FEMA Funding

J. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Resolution 2021-10 for Disaster Declaration

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 1 st day of February 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 1st DAY OF March 2021.

Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager

Regular Meeting
03/04/2021
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REGULAR MEETING

THE CITY OF EDCOUCH MEETING WILL BE HELD BY USING TELECONFERENCE/ZOOM AS AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS AS HE SUSPENDED CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, WHICH ALLOWS GOVERNING BODIES TO HOLD A VIRTUAL MEETING SO TO AVOID GATHERING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND/OR, BOARD MEMBERS, AND STAFF IN A PHYSICAL SETTING THAT MIGH CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC HEALTH RISK. PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN WRITING 30 MINUTES IN ADVANCE

AGENDA

L. **Call Meeting to Order:** Meeting was called to Order at **6:03pm** by **Virginio Gonzalez Jr**

M. **Roll Call :** Roll Call was done by **Manuel Hernandez**

	Absent	Present	
Mayor Virginio Gonzalez Jr	<u>X</u>	_____	
Mayor Pro-tem Rene Flores	<u>X</u>	_____	City Manager Victor H De La Cruz
Alderman Place 2 Joel Segura	<u>X</u>	_____	Asst City Mngr Manuel Hernandez
Alderman Place 3 John Chapa	_____	<u>X</u>	Chief Roel Guerra
Alderman Place 4 Robert Gutierrez	_____	<u>X</u>	Chief Victor Nieves
Alderman Place 5 Lorenzo Cabrera	<u>X</u>	_____	City Attorney OJ Jimenez

Mayor, we have a quorum

N. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Pledge was led by **Chief Roel Guerra**

O. **Invocation:** Invocation was done by **Mayor Virginio Gonzalez Jr**

P. **Public Comments: No Public Comments**

Q. **Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes for:**

1. **Regular Meeting Minutes January 21, 2021**

A motion to Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2021 was made by Alderman **Flores**, a second was made by Alderman **Segura**. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carried

R. **Department Reports**

Manny Hernandez: Mayor this is our first meeting of the month and our department heads will be giving their report and we will start off with Fire Chief Victor Nieves.

Chief Nieves: Ok so for the month of February we had a total of 61 calls for the fire department. 22 being city calls and 39 being county calls. We had 3 assist for La Villa, 1 for Elsa, and 1 for Monte Alto. We did cancel training last month due to a positive Covid case here at the fire department so we, unfortunately, cancelled training for last month. Our units are in service. We are working on

getting ready for hurricane season with the military trucks and the Humvee trucks. To get them serviced. As far as call volume, we are experiencing abnormal high call volume. So this year versus last year we had a 44% increase in the month of February. So last year we had 27 calls in February this year we have 61 calls in February for a 44% increase. If we keep going the way we are going we are going to surpass last years numbers easily before we even get halfway the year. We have received but are still pending some grants that we are receiving from the ESD to get some equipment so that is a work in progress. Other than that we are working with the city for some Urban County funds.

Mayor: So those abnormal calls, where are they coming from? Why are you having so many calls? What are you seeing?

Chief Nieves: The 3 largest call volumes we have are 10 vehicle accidents, 7 grass fires, and 15 medical calls. So medical calls are our number 1 calls. So that would be either landing zone, CPR, lift assists, anything in those categories would be medical emergencies. Any other questions?

Commissioner Flores: No chief, I would like to just say thank you for everything you and your guys did this past freeze out there being by our side with the mayor and commissioners that were out there. I want to thank you also as a community member, you did an awesome job with the guys. Keep up the good work.

Chief Nieves: Thank you. I appreciate it.

Commissioner Segura: I second that. Thank you Chief.

Manny Hernandez: Good job Chief.

Chief Nieves: On the Emergency Management side I have the all the number of calls per week. So we are working on reporting all our numbers to the state and to the federal level. So apparently we have been approved for individual assistance. I did post it on our Facebook page. The people can report their individual damages and there will be like an assist. The individual assistance is approved. Public Assistance has not been approved yet, so that means the city is not going to be reimbursed yet for any expenses that we did during the winter storm. I do have my paperwork ready so once it does kick in we submit our paperwork and hopefully get a reimbursement for whatever we spent or that winter storm. Me, Hugo, and Manny are working with the water department to get all the generators, including the fire station generators, to get serviced and ready for the hurricane season. So we are doing the oil changes, get them maintenance, get them fixed to avoid the issue we had with the water plant generator. So we are in the process. We are getting quotes and vendors to come and look at them and make sure they are 100%. So it won't ever happen again. Other than that, on the Emergency Management side we are good to go.

Commissioner Flores: Chief, what was the exact number you wasted on this last freeze?

Chief Nieves: I have not done all the total yet. I am still getting receipts in. So it goes off, not only by what we spend, but also the man hours. The amount we paid hourly employees. So I have to put all that in together then I can get you a total. So hopefully by the next meeting I can give you a total of exactly how much we spent with food, diesel we used, the gasoline, and then of course, the man hours that we used from water department, public works, and so forth including volunteer hours that we put in as well with the volunteer fire department.

Manny Hernandez: Mayor, moving on to our next department it would Chief Roel Guerra with the police department.

Chief Guerra: Hello. How are you all doing? I guess for this past month I'm going to start off with the traffic summary. We had a total of 2 accidents for the month. We didn't have any fatal injuries. On the accident part we had 2 minor injuries and no property damage. As far as the traffic enforcement we had a total of 175 citations. No traffic related arrests. As far as the index crimes go we had 2 burglaries, 2 thefts, 2 auto thefts, 0 robberies, 0 rapes, 3 criminal mischiefs, and 0 runaways. As far as the arrests go for this last month it was 0 for burglaries, 0 for theft, 1 for criminal mischief. We had a total of 25 public intoxications for the month, 0 disorderly conduct, 4 assaults, 6 aggravated assaults, 7 drug related, 0 evading, and 0 resisting. As far as assistance from other departments we assisted La Villa 4 times and we assisted Elsa PD twice for this last month. The total number of calls for the entire month was 105. So that is the summary for everything that happened for the last month. As far as the Covid vaccines, the guys did very well as far as the staging. I think it went better than the last time. Last time they only had 4 lines and this time we had around 6 lines so the lines were moving a little bit faster. The guys did outstanding. Everybody was out there since 5 in the morning. So I think that went well. As far as other things going on, I received a call yesterday from the Sheriff's office; we will be receiving some vehicles from them. That is in effect, it is just taking some time because it is a process but I think we should be seeing those vehicles sometime next week and that is not costing the city anything at all. That is going to be free of charge to us. It is just a matter of getting the paperwork ready and it going through the process. As far as the new vehicles they are in the process of getting striped. So we should be seeing some new decals on the vehicles on the road pretty soon. Maybe by next week. So as far as that goes that should be something good for the police department as well. Other than that I think everyone else is doing really good. The guys have been working very hard so I have no complaints about them. As far as the guys I think everyone has been doing an outstanding job and I think that pretty much wraps it up for the month. Any question mayor, commission?

Commissioner Flores: On the fire that you had, can we discuss that of the cop that had just let go? What was the reason for that?

Chief Guerra: For the police officer that was let go

Commissioner Flores: OJ, is it ok to discuss that as part of the PD?

OJ Jimenez: I would rather not. There is only 1 officer that was let go and so even though we are not naming him we are talking about personnel. So I would rather not talk about that in public forum.

Mayor: Do you have an item OJ, that we can talk about personnel in Executive?

OJ Jimenez: There is not an item mayor, at any time if the commission feels they should have an Executive Session, they are authorized whether its on the agenda or not. So if the commission would like we can certainly pull it at any time and just have an Executive Session on that particular item to discuss personnel issues. But if it is not on there I would probably just caution the commission that if he has already been terminated, there is no need to discuss it any further. So I don't think there is anything that we should discuss on that particular matter for police department personnel. Now if it should arise that there might be pending litigation then we can talk about it under that item.

Commissioner Flores: So maybe for further reference for Manny and Mayor, next time there is a termination maybe we could add something on the agenda so we could be able to discuss it and make sure everyone is on the same page where any rumors that are going out in town or anybody that asks one of the commission and ask , hey why did you fire that person? Everyone be on the same page and know the facts before they start spreading out any opinions and rumors.

Mr De La Cruz: Agreed

Mayor: Yes sir, we can always add an item when we discuss personnel recommendations, promotions, the evaluations and terminations as needed. So maybe we can get into the habit of that. Have it every month or every week. If there is something to talk about we talk about it and if not we just bypass it but that way we have that item that will give us the legal authority to talk about personnel while we are here.

OJ Jimenez: Yes mayor, good idea.

Mayor: Thank you Rene. The question I did have for Chief Guerra was are we receiving any relief monetary for the hours that were for the vaccination site?

Chief Guerra: I believe we are. The vaccinations, I know that the guys have been. . .so the numbers mayor, its just that the guys, we had most people worked for during the day when we were having that event for the vaccination.

Chief Nieves: Chief Guerra, just to answer on the Emergency Management side, vaccine clinics are 100% reimbursable. So I need to get with the county and Precinct 1 to see if we can submit it through them or if we would have to submit our own

Manny Hernandez: Negative on that chiefs, to answer mayor's question and I'm sorry both chiefs to interrupt, I was going over Border Star and it falls under the officers overtime as follows with the Border Star. So it is already under a grant. We were already covering them with the grant of Border Star and it would be double dipping if we were to go out . I mean it is a great idea Victor, and I agree with you but it would be kind of like dipping into another fund while we are already getting reimbursed through Border Star.

Chief Nieves: Ok

Mayor: I just want to make sure that we don't miss the opportunity to be reimbursed. I know we are burning hours as needed and this is going to continue probably until August for sure so I want to make sure that we don't miss anything as far as any relief that we can get for the city.

Commissioner Flores: Again Chief Guerra, I want to thank you also and the department. You especially, for stepping up with the county to making sure that you were in charge of getting the vaccines for us and getting everything going for us for our community. You did an awesome there showing leadership and I want to thank you.

Chief Guerra: Thank you commissioner.

Mayor: Chief and I contest to that, today I went by the site. Compared to last time it was a learning curve. This time there was no traffic at it was early. It was about 10am. So this time it was quick. Yesterday too, during the registration, so good job to your team Chief.

Chief Guerra: Thank you mayor.

Manny Hernandez: Mayor, after Chief's police report it's the engineer's report. I got an email from Eddie Saenz from the CSJ Group before the meeting that he had something come up and he was not able to attend. But he did email me the report so I will go ahead and read out the report to let you know what he is working on. The city engineer's report as of March 4, 2021 Urban County's 3 overlays. The county recently approved the addition of Crenshaw and Cochran streets overlay project.

This means that the Urban County will pay for the engineer services instead of the city, as previously required by them. So that is something good because initially we had run out of funds and we were going to have to pay 15,000 out of our pockets to CSJ but we were able to work it out with Mr De La Cruz, myself and Eddie as to where we were able to find more funds in Urban County and we are going to be able to throw it in with Urban County funds and it is not coming out of the General Fund for the repaving of Crenshaw and Cochran Street. They will finalize the design and prepare for bids within the next 2 weeks. We should have a contractor by late April or early May. The project should last about a month for paving. The community center parking lot. The county has begun the construction of the parking lot for the community center and pool project. It is anticipated that the project completion will be late March or early April. Community center and pool project. Phase 1 of the project is complete as final walk throughs were performed last Friday. Approval of both projects will be included at the next council meeting. Remember for Phase 1, 2we still have Phase 2 coming up which is the additional money that we secured recently. So once we can close on Phase 1, which he is saying at the next council meeting we will be able to close, we will be able to start Phase 2, which I personally am very excited because I know we have been working tirelessly with this. Mr De La Cruz, myself, with the help of the commission and the mayor, and all the gentlemen in this room. Frank San Martin, has been doing an excellent job as well and I am very excited because we are going to be able to give the pool the much needed facelift that it deserves. By facelift I mean new gazeebos, carpet grass, turf, the pool house will be completely renovated. It is going to look excellent guys. It is going to look like a top notch swimming pool area. Any questions?

Mayor: 2 questions Manny, real quick. As far as the overlay is concerned, it is only Cochran and Crenshaw that

Manny Hernandez: No sir, it is 4 other streets that will be overlaid as well. And we are not talking about just a small over lay. We are talking about the whole streets and for the next meeting I will get you the names and I know you guys had said , you know what enough overlay, were done, drainage. It is in the next work plan. You will find the drainage coming into our city and working on all the other streets and other stuff that need drainage.

Commissioner Segura: When are we planning on opening the swimming pool. When will it be done 100%.

Manny Hernandez: Ok, to answer that question Commissioner Segura phase 2 is, we should be getting started with phase 2 already next week and like I said the swimming pool, the gazeebo, the parking lot, the stage I would say about late May. It shouldn't take longer than late May or early June. Just in time for summer.

Commissioner Segura: Ok Manny.

Mayor: Mr Segura, that way we can challenge this group because the last day of school for the kids is the 4th. So for sure by the first weekend for it to be available for the first weekend. No delays

Commissioner Flores: Manny, did they fix the slide?

Manny Hernandez: Yes, they did fix the slide. It needed that additional horse power motor and they have already installed it. It is working. Its good and ready to go.

Commissioner Flores: Ok, so now Hugo wont get stuck when he tries to slide down.

Manny Hernandez: No, Hugo is going to fly out next time.

Mayor: We were going to do the Polar Bear Plunge 2 weeks ago but it was too cold. Do you have a date for a new event?

Manny Hernandez: I know that Mr De La Cruz is the one that has been in contact with Capable Kids Foundation and I'm sure they can come up with a date.

Mayor: Yeah, I would like for it to happen. Better late than never.

Manny Hernandez: Next is the city manager's report. As most of you know, Mr De La Cruz did get his second dose of vaccine yesterday and he was good this morning. He was here at the office and he was feeling fantastic but that is the way that thing works. It happened to me it will get a jump on you and all of a sudden it will get the best of you. I know he did have a city manager report ready but I feel more comfortable with him presenting the city manager report so we are going to go ahead and do it for the next meeting.

S. Presentation and Update on Grants from Hollis Rutledge and Associates

Manny Hernandez: Mayor, this item was put on the agenda. We had been working closely with Hollis Rutledge and Associates, they have been very beneficial to our city. They have done a tremendous job in helping us out in recovering several grants that we are still applying for and we do have Mr Frank San Martin here today from Hollis Rutledge and Associates here present with us today. I will go ahead and pass the floor to Mr Frank San Martin.

Mr San Martin: Hello mayor and commissioners, I hope you guys can hear me well. We have been working with Manny and Hugo just on the different grants. So for example last year we were able to help them with the Interdiction Officer, with Stone Garden, and Local Border Security, with some Covid emergency relief funding, with the rifle resistant body armor grant and then obviously we have help them out with the pool project that was with Oscar Longoria and with the grant with the library. So in total with last year it was a total of about 3.4 million dollars that we were able to just work with and bring in for the city. There was a grant with Texas Parks and Wildlife for half a million dollars that was previously awarded to the city before we started working with you guys but the past administration was on a different project that was not going to go through and what ended up happening is that the Parks and Wildlife is going to take away the funding but we were able to work with them. Now that is pretty much what is helping fund the phase 2 of the pool project. So we were able to save those monies. We've also applied for Interdiction officer, Juvenile Officer, Stone Garden, Local Border Security. We submitted grant to AFG for firefighting equipment. I know that the chief had mentioned it that they needed some equipment. So we submitted a small \$25,000 grant and we should hear back from them by May. We also submitted a GLO CABG grant for some flood and drainage improvements. So it looks like GLO just started this week to make announcements on those so we are waiting to hear. They asked us to submit some preliminary additional information and that is usually a good sign. That means that they should have interest in the project and they want to know what's going on so we should hear back on that I would say in the next 2 weeks. That is kind of what we have been doing. We also do all the reporting, all the reimbursements for the city for the different grants that they have, we work closely with Manny and the fire and the police chief on all of that and then provide any other assistance as far as they need. I know, I think just the next big thing that we are monitoring right now is the bill with President Biden passed right now, the 1.9 trillion. It looks like there is more money for cities set aside. I know when we met with Congressman Cuellar and his staff, we made it a really big point to ensure that the money goes directly to the cities instead of it going to the state or the county and from my understanding, that is what is going to happen. So right now just looking at preliminary figures it might be about 700 to 800 thousand dollars that might come into the City of Edcouch if the bill doesn't change. And then that money will probably be used for some of the vaccine so I see you guys are already doing another part of the project So I think in the next, I

think the deadline that congress has is March 14th because that is when the unemployment benefits expire. So if everything stays the same we should know by then what's going to happen, how much, and all of that. So, I don't know if you guys have any questions?

Mayor: One question real quick Frank, I don't know if I missed it, when are we expecting a full reimbursement for the CARES Act?

Mr San Martin: So that one we have been working with the county and the auditor's office and we are going pretty quick. I think in the next week or so we should be getting more money. I have a meeting tomorrow with them. I have a Zoom call at 10 and we are going to go over things, making sure everything is fine but I think within the next week or maybe the latest 2 weeks for sure where we will get a substantial amount back. I know the county was rejecting some of the stuff that we were submitting because just the way the copies of the checks were but we were able to clear that out and just move forward.

Mayor: The other thing that we need. I know that we are getting money from CARES, from certain grants but also if there is any other nonprofits out there that are awarding grants for anything for health or whatever.

Mr San Martin: So the Valley Baptist Foundation, they are actually opening up their application process in March the 20th is when they open up and its due May the 1st so that is one that we wanted to talk to you, to Manny, to Hugo so we can go and see what help initiative we can get for the city.

Manny Hernandez: Yes sir, sounds good.

Mayor: Any other questions?

T. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve to Advertise for RFQ for FEEMA Funds

Manny Hernandez: Mayor, city council members this council was placed on the agenda. We want to go out with RFQs for FEMA funding. There is money out there to try to recover for the city for past disasters especially the one that we just went through right now. So we want to advertise and try to see if we can get some engineers and what nots to start working on this for us so we can try and recover some money for the city and like I said it is just an advertising and you we will go out there and we will pick out the best one and it is at no cost to the city until they bring us in some money.

A motion to Approve Advertise for RFGs for FEMA Funds was made by Alderman Segura, a second was made by Alderman Flores . All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carried

U. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Resolution 2021-10 for Disaster Declaration

Manny Hernandez: Mayor city council, this item was placed on the agenda to go out for RFQs we do have to have a disaster declaration. The disaster declaration is for this past winter storm. As you know Governor Abbot did declare this are a disaster along with the county whoa also declared it a disaster. So I went ahead and prepared a resolution and I want to go ahead and see if you guys can approve it so I can get the mayor's signature and we can move forward with this.

A motion to Approve Resolution 2021-10 for Disaster Resolution was made by Alderman Segura, a second was made by Alderman Flores . All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carried

V. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:37pm by Alderman Segura; a second was made by Alderman Flores. All in favor by saying Aye/Neigh motion carried

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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 24th day of August 2021 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 24th DAY OF August 2021.

Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager