



**REGULAR MEETING**  
**CITY OF EDCOUCH**  
211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS  
THURSDAY, JUNE 03, 2021  
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. Regular Meeting Minutes of 05-20-21**
  - 2. Special Meeting Minutes of 05-24-21**
- G. Consent Agenda**
  - 1. Engineers Report**
  - 2. Police Dept Report**
  - 3. Fire Dept Report**
  - 4. Water Dept Report**
  - 5. Municipal Court Report**
  - 6. City Manager Report**
- H. Discussion of Possible Action to Approve Interlocal Agreement Between County of Hidalgo and the City Of Edcouch.**
- I. 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 31st day of May 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 31st DAY OF MAY 2021.**

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



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY OF EDCOUCH**

211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS  
THURSDAY, JUNE 03, 2021  
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

**AGENDA**

- J. Call Meeting to Order** Meeting was called to Order by **Mayor V Gonzalez at 6:02pm**
- K. Roll Call** Roll call was called by **Mr. Manuel Hernandez Jr** as follows:

	Present	Absent	City Staff:
<b>Mayor: Virginio Gonzalez Jr.</b>	_X_	___	<b>Victor H. De La Cruz, City Manager</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem: Flores</b>	_X_	___	<b>Manuel Hernandez Jr., Fin./Grants</b>
<b>Alderman: Joel Segura</b>	_X_	___	<b>Police Chief., Roel Guerra</b>
<b>Alderman: John Chapa</b>	_X_	___	<b>Fire Chief., Victor Nieves</b>
<b>Alderman: Robert Gutierrez</b>	___	_X_	
<b>Alderman: Lorenzo Cabrera</b>	___	_X_	
<b>City Attorney: Orlando Jimenez</b>			

Mayor, we have a quorum.

- L. Pledge of Allegiance** Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Commissioner Joel Segura**
- M. Invocation** Invocation was led by **Mr. Victor H De La Cruz**
- N. Public Comments** No Public Comments
- O. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes**

- 1. Regular Meeting Minutes of 05-20-21
- 2. Special Meeting Minutes of 05-24-21

A motion to approve Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of 05-20-21 and Special Meeting Minutes was made by Alderman \_\_\_\_\_ Flores \_\_\_\_\_ , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Segura . All Voted Aye/ Motion Carried.

A motion to table Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of 05-24-21 and Special Meeting Minutes was made by Alderman \_\_\_\_\_ Segura \_\_\_\_\_ , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alderman Chapa . All Voted Aye/ Motion Carried.

- P. Consent Agenda**
- 1. Engineers Report

**Mr. De La Cruz:** Mayor, I will speak for Mr. Saenz, but I am going to pass it on to Ernie cause I know Mr. Rosales is actually working with the engineer on certain projects

**Mr. Rosales:** Well basically St Mary's that is now know as Santa Ariana, that one, it looks like we are moving forward. I know that council is talking to their council about some hiccups. Their concerns we pretty much covered them at the last meeting. As soon as they sign that contract, we are able and willing to provide the lift stations. It is up to our engineer. Our

engineer is ok. We are waiting on final plans for them. The other project that we are doing over here on 17 ½, I believe it is, that one is Villa Estates. That one we are a little bit further behind because it is the same engineer working on both projects. Ironically, the engineer got hired by both developers so right now it is all hands-on deck on the one over here. So, on that we are a little bit farther behind I touched base with her and she is suppose to try and have a meeting with them early next week. On that one it is going to be a bit more time consuming because there is water rights that we were discussing and purchasing and doing that kind of stuff. And then lastly, we have got this other one, which is a medical with Mr. Silva. I have a meeting with the developer here tomorrow at 1:30. So we can kind of come to term and the engineer can understand what it is that is going to be developed there, which is going to be a medical plaza. And what kind of sewage needs the development is going to have. Cause I know there is concerns about the flow of sewage in distance. If we can get around doing some things so that is what the engineers are for. Basically, those are the three things that I know as far as the engineer is concerned that I am working with him on. I don't know if there is anything else.

**Mr De La Cruz:** Yes, in addition to Mr. Rosales we did have some people come down from Austin to take a look at the water plant on some of the things we had asked the engineer to look into. So, we are getting different information from different parties to try and get what is best for the water plant. And try to get to that point. There was some pretty good points made as to how the water treatment plant is working right now and how it could benefit, at minimal cost to the city, certain items that are necessary. We will bring that back once we start looking into purchasing some of the things that we need. On another note, in addition to the medical plaza, there is a possible annexation process and that is one of the things we are discussing with Mr. Saenz and Mr. Silva. We will have to look at the annexation process so we can put a timeline. I believe Mr. Silva wants a commitment but we really cant give him a commitment until we see what it is going to cost us.

**Mayor:** Thank you, I know this is not an action item, but I have a request for the engineer. I need research to be done on Bower St. Bower St is currently under water. Neighbors told me that there use to be an inlet for storm sewer and apparently it might have been covered through repaving. So, of the whole town, that street is still under water today, 24 hours later. So I know that we did a little makeshift drain pipe but that only works as long as there is no debris. Right, but it has to be addressed because it is part of our neighborhoods, and it is tearing up the street as we speak. So, there might be something already that we can just excavate and make through and if not so we can look for an alternative. But that street is in dire need of research.

**Mr. De La Cruz:** I will go ahead and refer this to the engineer but one of the things that we have noticed is and I have not gotten a chance to talk to Mr. Hernandez, but Public Works is out there, and we did a process to where we have the people from the water are working behind Public Works on the beautification effort, but they are going through the storm drains. And we are finding that in the storm drains the streets that are being resurfaced right now, they are throwing a lot of the asphalt into the drains. I don't know if that would be an issue.

**Mr. Hernandez:** That would be an issue with the contractor. I was with the contractor today and we addressed that issue, and he was going to look into it and make sure it does not continue happening.

**Mr. De La Cruz:** I saw the debris that they were taking out from the storm drain.

**Mayor:** Yeah, so we need those two. To make sure debris does not fall into the storm and that some were not accidentally covered.

**Commissioner Flores:** Is there a way? I know that you have a gentleman that has one of those cameras. I know here are some people that have light finders. I think that is something you are going to have to hire cause they have gone several times out there and where the community center there is vent drains and there is something covering them. So either we have to get someone that has a line finder or a camera to run through there because it is an issue that has been going on for several years and we still haven't found any solution.

**Mayor:** Yes, and its hard to believe that nothing was added there when it was designed. And the neighbors swear there was something there but they can not find the pictures so like Commissioner Flores says maybe we can find a camera.

**Commissioner Flores:** I think we have done everything possible already. I think that is just the next step w e have to go.

**Mr. De La Cruz:** And I will add it to the engineers report so that you all know what is going on. I truly do believe with growth we are going to address a lot of the issues with the infrastructure. I mean these new developments that are coming up, St Mary's , believe it or not they are going to help other areas form the city. And we know there is a development that has been stopped over behind General Dollar.

**Mayor:** Correct.

**Mr De La Cruz:** So that will be a direct impact on that.

**Mayor:** In the future. So maybe for the immediate , maybe there is something there and if you can bring it back the next engineer report that we have next month tat way we can have options.

**Mr De La Cruz:** We are setting up a meeting and I really think it would be reinforced by a couple of you being at that meeting. We are setting up a meeting between the City of Edcouch, hopefully we can have a congressman there, we can have Oscar Longoria there, and I believe the owner of Texas National Bank wants to be there because of the drainage district. And this is actually to actually look at and talk to the drainage district because the are the ones that stopped that project. So I had a conversation with Mayor Pro-Tem Flores and he worries about that because anytime that there is possible progress in Edcouch it is being stopped by outsiders.

**Mayor:** Red tape.

**Mr De La Cruz:** Yeah, red tape and all that stuff. We are setting up a meeting and that should be happening hopefully within the next month.

**Mayor:** Let us know. I will be there God willing.

## **2. Police Dept Report**

**Chief Guerra:** So, for the month of May we had two accidents. We didn't have no fatalities. We had two minor injuries no major injuries. Zero property damage. As far as traffic enforcement we had 105 traffic citations. We didn't have any traffic related arrests. As far as index crimes burglaries we had 2, we had 0 thefts, 0 auto thefts, 0 robberies, 0 rapes, 1 criminal mischief, 0 runaways. For the arrest is total for burglaries we had 0, 0 thefts, 0 criminal mischief. We had a total of 15 public intoxications. We had 0 disorderly conduct. 1 assault, 1 aggravated assault, 4 drug related arrests, 2 evading, and 1 resisting arrest. On miscellaneous side we had 0 for the fire department. Number of funeral escorts we had 0. Public assistance by

La Villa we had 2. Public assistance by Elsa we had 0. Police assistance to La Villa police we had 0. Police assistance to Elsa 0. Total number of calls for this month was 105 and that concludes the police report for the month.

**Mayor:** Your units chief, they are all functioning?

**Chief Guerra:** Yes, we were finally able to get the equipment that we needed for both the new units that we have. There is just minor things that we are still needing but to make a long story short they are both up and running. Units that we got from the Sheriff's office they are already unmarked from the Sheriff's decals. We have one right now in the shop as we speak marking it with our decals. Everything has been put on which didn't cost us a dime. All the stuff was donated by the Sheriff's office. Lights, sirens, radios, and everything else. Which all we did was just slap them back on. So those should be up and running I want to say within the next week or so.

**Mr. De La Cruz:** Added to the police department report I know chief has been talking to the chief from Weslaco in reference to dispatch and that is something that he has.

**Chief Guerra:** So I guess he had to go through the commission mayor, he said that it finally got approved on their end. He sent me an email this afternoon and I was telling Hugo that I saw the email and I read it briefly and there are things that I would like to go over with Hugo and we will go from there but everything looks pretty good. It is just going to be the Interlocal with the telecommunication for Weslaco.

### **3.Fire Dept Report**

### **4.Water Dept Report**

**Mr De La Cruz:** Mayor on this item I will speak briefly then I will pass any question for the water department. Basically, on the water department one of the things that we are looking into is the covid expenses that we had during the pandemic. We all know that we are receiving some funding pretty soon here so we have, some of those expenses that we had are going to be covered by the grant that we are getting. So with that said we are looking at different adjustments that we did during the pandemic to help out our community. Part of what we were doing was writing off use of water so that people could afford to pay. We would ask for the base pay, the base amount, and anything overage they would have to show proof of not working or they were in the doctor or whatever. We did have an amount. We are actually asking out IT company to cut a report so we can have an accurate amount and then we do have some backup on that. We have a little contract on that that we did with the citizens that requested that adjustment. I don't know if you guys have anything else.

**Ms Herrera:** Just the scheduled meeting we have June the 10<sup>th</sup> with the Sensus

**Mr De La Cruz:** Also, we are having a meeting with Sensus. That will be June 10<sup>th</sup>. If Sensus actually comes down to meet with us I would like for you all to be here because that is a very important meeting because we will be talking about the electronic meters. I stopped the communication with the company that did the file for us. I just felt it was unfair the amount of money they were asking for and we are lacking 40% of the usage of meters throughout the city. So, I didn't feel it right for us to paying that. They want to talk, and they want to negotiate so I think it's a good time and if you all could join us for that meeting.

**Mayor:** I have a question, what is our process when a customer has a dispute on their water bill? When they are not in agreement with what is being charged.

**Ms. Herrera:** We send Luna to get us rereads and then we go back to the readings that they bring. If there is a discrepancy, we do give the customer an adjustment.

**Mayor:** Ok. What have been some of the reasons why their bills have been off?

**Ms Herrera:** The meters that do not work remotely that we have to enter.

**Mr De La Cruz:** That is number one. Leaks is a big one there especially since the freeze. That has been a big one. People came that don't have leaks, we go out and that's the process. That is why this software that we are talking about is important. Because we really don't have to send Luna out there to check. We could actually do it inhouse. The only thing is and my complaint with Sensus is if I buy a meter that is smart, I should be able to run a report whenever I want and I wont need this man and so that is where we are at.

**Mayor:** Of the disputes, how many have been resolved? What percentage do you think have been resolved?

**Ms. Herrera:** All of them.

**Mayor:** And most of them are as a result either it was a leak

**Mr. De La Cruz:** There was discrepancy in the read

**Mayor:** And then how do the customers leave? Are they happy when they leave? Are they satisfied?

**Ms. Herrera:** Yes they are alright.

**Mayor:** Maybe we need to start doing that to. After they are done, almost like a satisfactory survey type a deal. Like when you go to the store. How was my service today? Its only so that we can learn and make ourselves better. Right. So maybe we can start implementing something like that for the city.

**Mr. De La Cruz:** I commend the water department because we do get people coming in. And it is a process, if Pam can't really handle somebody, they will pass it over to Nancy, if Nancy can't handle it.

**Mayor:** And this is what this is for to give you guys credit too. Like of all the stuff that you guys are going through and then at the end the customer is happy and that is what we are shooting for. And that is how the pay raises come in. We can justify all that through those things. For the record.

## **5.Municipal Court Report**

**Mr. De La Cruz:** Mayor, I will go ahead and report for municipal court briefly. Everything depends, off course on the ticket writing. Once we get ticket writing it's a matter of actually coming to court and having our judge go through the court process. We do have a new judge and I have already asked council, since he is also a prosecutor, to get involved so we can try and see if we can maximize the collection that we have at the court. We did really well a couple of weeks and I think we just need to talk to the new judge and see if we can better the collection.

**Mayor:** I know we talked about an amnesty day program. Anytime soon?

**Mr. De La Cruz:** I don't know we talked about the chief ; we had talked about the warrants is something that we are still working on. We just have to make sure that we start enforcing that. We are missing a big part of city function without the court. The court, as you know, a couple years ago it was in shambles. We have been able to kind of fix it, as a matter of fact, this last meeting we actually upgraded the court cost and fines. Now what we have to do is learn to enforce them.

**Mayor:** Are we live, like face to face?

**Mr. De La Cruz:** Yes face to face.

## **6.City Manager Report**

**Mr De La Cruz:** Mayor, I don't have much basically some of the things that we are looking at right now is that we are looking to complete the punch list with Tri-Gen for the community center and pool. As you can see we are about 95% there. There are still some items that we need to bring in. As for phase 1 we are already at 100% and 99% pending the punch list. Going into the building and looking at all that. In addition to that, the library, I met with Forge today and you will start seeing here within the next two weeks. You will start seeing computers coming in, the pads, all that will start to come in. I gave them a deadline of two weeks. If we have a meeting with Congressman Vicente I would like to have that place furnished and set up so that we can show off some of the things that we got.

**Mayor:** I know that we have 3 names Victor Legget, the pavilion Rodriguez, and Segura family so are we planning any ceremony?

**Mr De La Cruz:** I would like input from you all. I know we are a little bit unorthodox when it comes to grand openings. I think that last week's grand opening showed them really who you all are as leaders here in the city. Giving the grand opening the seniors of Class 2021 was a very nice gesture. I saw that as the grand opening for the pool. If you all didn't see it I mean it was awesome to see the kids out there jumping around and playing around. I don't think there is better, and you all saw the post on Facebook. There is nothing better than what you saw on that page.

**Mayor:** So we did the grand opening for the pool already and I'm good with that but I would like for us to recognize the family, the Legget Family. If we could find somebody at least during a meeting and the community center next.

**Mr. Hernandez:** You want us to find the Legget family member?

**Mayor:** Find the Legget family.

**Commissioner Flores:** One thing, in front of the community center, what is the wording that is going to be on there? Is it going to be inside? Is there going to be a plaque saying the community center is still under Sergeant Rodriguez and it is also going to be Segura or how is that going to work?

**Mr De La Cruz:** So this has been discussed, the outside because of limitations that had been given to us because of library archives. Outside it will be Edcouch City Library and it will be separate from Sergeant Rodriguez Community Center. Then on the inside of the building as you walk into the computer room or the computer area that will be Segura



**Commissioner Flores:** Frances Segura Computer Room

**Mayor:** And we need to do it separate. We missed Memorial Day, we could have done that for the community center honoring Sergeant Rodriguez if not we will find another date separate from the one we are going to do for the library for the family.

**Mr. Rosales:** Mayor, if I may, I know that Congressman Vicente will be in town, and we are trying to line him up maybe next week and I was thinking maybe calling state reps finding out what day they are going to be here and bringing other elected officials and maybe doing a ribbon cutting then.

**Mayor:** There you go.

**Mr. Rosales:** I think that it would be an impactful picture. I think they would share it on their pages, we would share it on our end and it would show a lot of moving forward for the community. That is one thing that we have been trying to plan. I know that we were at Precinct 1 yesterday and they were advising us that the congressman wanted to push it for, that person said, two weeks from now. I said well I spoke to the congressman myself and he said he would be here next week. So I am trying to find out a date so we can plan and do everything.

**Mr. De La Cruz:** If its two weeks its good because it will give us time to prepare because the meeting with Forge I gave them a couple of weeks and I would like to get because right now it is just a shell so if we could have furniture in here.

**Mr. Rosales:** I know I spoke to one of the commissioners earlier and they were concerned that we only showcased the pool this last time and I like the idea that we only showcased the pool because that was the wow factor for last week and this week then we wait a couple of weeks and then its going to be the wow factor is going to be the community center and then we wait a couple of weeks and then we wait a couple of weeks a month and the wow factor is going to be the food court. So its like every 3 to 4 weeks its like a new wow factor and you are able to showcase different things that you guys have done.

**Mr. De La Cruz:** And I know its not normal but we didn't have a normal year there was a lot of stops with a lot of things happening with the pandemic so the project itself is showing now. We are finishing in phases but I think it's a blessing that we're actually going through this because like Mr. Rosales is saying the wow factor is there. People are appreciating these things and one of the things I like to do with Vicente Gonzalez and if State Rep Oscar Longoria comes in the VR, the virtual reality maybe we will have the program so that they can go to Egypt or Paris or something and they can actually work. I think for PR purposes that would be ideal because there is not a lot of digital libraries out there. This is going to be a very unique setting for that.

**Commissioner Segura:** Did they guarantee you that it will be done in two weeks?

**Mr. De La Cruz:** The thing is again pandemic and all of that there is delays on computers all of that but they assured me that VR would be here because they are getting that local.

**Commissioner Segura:** That way if we can have them both at the same time because its awesome your idea but if we don't have everything that we need to actually showcase the community center and the library I would rather wait for it all to be there and then do that.

**Mr De La Cruz:** And its like I said the virtual reality systems and I think they got some play stations and all of that. That is going to be on the main area of the community center so if they come in we could do a grand opening, do a showcase there and then once we get the computers and desks, printers and all of that when we can showcase it. We dedicate the whole effort to the Segura family. We dedicate this whole effort to the opening of the community center and the Rodriguez family for instance. So we are not going to take anything from anybody.

**Mr. Rosales:** And what I like about that idea Commissioner Segura from the EDC perspective is that again you have to look at wow factors so you are show casing instead of throwing everything out at once. You kind of have that wow factor but then you lose it now you have 4 or 5. Because its true, I was speaking to Commissioner Flores earlier today and he says its because people don't understand everything that we have done in the community center. They think a million dollars they think the pool and no its like and I like the way that Hugo did it. He showcased he pool, whether it be by accident or it was thought of that way. It is a great idea because you do the pool and u think we can all agree that it was a wow factor. I mean that thing had over five hundred and some shares. I think it was at 600 this morning.

**Mayor:** We are 700 right now.

**Mr Rosales:** 700 I mean it's the talk of the area. So that one is going to wear of in two weeks. So in two weeks we come back and its like boom the community center and once people see the community center there is nothing like it in Edcouch. I don't think Edcouch has ever had anything like that. So that is going to be another wow factor. And then you wait another 2 or 3 weeks when it wears off and we can even do the virtual library or the food park if it ready and boom and then virtual library. Its like every 2 to 3 weeks we have something new coming and maybe in between that we do the streets. Go take a video of the streets and have a little press conference about that.

**Mayor:** The other thing that I want to emphasize and I'm sure you guys are going to agree I know we have awarding of funds and completion of projects. Two different things and a successful project. The city has been awarded millions of dollars that the project has not been completed nor the full effect of what it was meant for. Right, so we need to give ourselves credit and recognize a million dollars well spent. Then we got another 300 for the library and here it is. We got another 500 from this and here it is. All the funding sources that were awarded have been used for a completed project. Nothing half ways and it was done. And we have seen especially with some of the payments that we have to do right now for bonds of items at 40% working on the water meters that is not working. Engineer costs that were paid for on projects that were not completed. Maybe we can not go in details of certain things but I want to make sure that for us, we got the money, we spent it the way it was suppose to be utilized, and we completed and now the citizens are using it.

**OJ:** It shows transparency and accountability

**Mayor:** Transparency and accountability

**Mr. De La Cruz:** And that is one of the things that we are doing mayor, phase 1 is pretty much complete. I had Manny gather up all the expenses everything all the receipts. Everything is in a box that will be scanned, and it will be posted on our website. That is the transparency that we are going to be showing. One of the things, like I mentioned right now, it shows who you are as leaders when we focus not on one person, giving them a key or whatever, we are actually focusing on the community. This is yours; This was done with the money we got from this grant and his belongs to you. It doesn't belong to one person. I mean to me CARES Act Rescue Plan, everybody is getting that. I don't know how that is historic. I think what is historic is the City of

Edcouch, in o don't know how many years, has been able to show the city and used in the correct way.

**Mayor:** And used the correct way. That is the historic part. The fire department is not here today so we will wait for the report next month.

**Q. Discussion of Possible Action to Approve Interlocal Agreement Between County of Hidalgo and the City Of Edcouch.**

**Mr. De La Cruz:** Ok mayor, this item you here you have the details in the attachment there. This is an interlocal that was completed that ended. So this interlocal, by going through the attachments you will see that it has certain items that are concerning to the council but I will explain a little bit and we will kind of dialogue here but basically the Interlocal with Hidalgo County is a broad Interlocal. It covers, and I'll give you an example, one of them is the vector. We were able to get the vector person from the county to share his license with us here. That is why we were able to go out there and do that. So that is just one example. We are always going to county asking them for help with this, with the dumpsters, with going out there and dumping or whatever. And so I know that there is amounts and I'll pass it on over to you.

OJ: Mayor city council in reviewing the contract there is questions that I have regarding the contract and if you turn to page 2 of that contract. Page 2 of page 7 at the very top paragraph the first full sentence starts with

**R. Adjournment**

**Time is 6:47pm A motion to Adjourn was made by Alderman Chapa, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flores. All voted Aye/ Motion Carried.**

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**Take Notice that this are the true and correct minutes taken of the Special Meeting of the City of Edcouch held on Thursday, May 24, 2021.**

**Passed and Approved by the Board of Aldermen on this 24 th day of May 2021.**

**ATTEST**

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**Manuel Hernandez  
City of Edcouch**

