



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, August 05, 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 July 22, 2021
- G. Department Reports
 - 1. Fire Dept Report
 - 2. Police Dept Report
 - 3. Engineers Report
 - 4. Water Dept Report
 - 5. City Managers Report

- H. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve and see if the proposed tax rate will exceed the rollback rate or the effective tax rate**

- I. 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 02, 2021**

- J. Discussion and Possible Action to Amend Ordinance No. 2021-20 Order of Elections for the City of Edcouch Municipal Election**

- K. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Interlocal Agreement with the City of Edcouch and City of Weslaco for Mid Valley Regional Communication Center and Tyler Technology New World Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management Systems RMS**

- L. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Resolution 2021-21 with Texas National Bank**

- M. 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 2nd day of August 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 2nd DAY OF August 2021.

Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager

Regular Meeting
08/05/2021
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**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF EDCOUCH**

211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 05, 2021
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- N. Call Meeting to Order** Meeting was called to Order by **Mayor V Gonzalez** at **6:07 pm**
- O. Roll Call** Roll call was called by **Mr. Manuel Hernandez Jr** as follows:

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

Mayor, we have a quorum.

- P. Pledge of Allegiance** Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Mr. De La Cruz**
- Q. Invocation** Invocation was led by **Mr. De La Cruz**
- R. Public Comments** No Public Comments
- S. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2021

Mayor: Any corrections needed on the minutes?

Manny: Mayor, I send the minutes to you guys through email so you guys should have them.

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes, there is a correction when I asked Mr Jimenez about whether it was legal or illegal to or about the property and you know, I just wanted to know if it was legal or illegal. It was just a question but the didn't put it on the minutes and I asked you specifically Mr Hernandez to put that question on there. To put it on the record and on the minutes and it is not on there.

Mayor: Alright, so if there is anything that we can correct we can table it and come back ans let Mr Jimenez review the minutes.

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes

Manny: On my defense Mr. Cabrera, if its no on there I apologize but I know that when I did the minutes there was many times where I know that you commented where you were asking a question so I

Commissioner Cabrera: Mr. Hernandez, I did ask the question. I told you the three times. I'm sorry I interrupted you, but I asked you the three times to put it on record and on the minutes.

Mayor: That I some of the things that we can do today. We can table it and review the minutes again and send it out. That way Mr. Jimenez Can review the minutes as well.

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes, ok but I am going to vote neigh because it's not on there.

Mayor: No, we are going to vote to table it.

Commissioner Flores: We are going to vote to table it or if you want to vote neigh then we will just vote to approve it.

(Inaudible)

Commissioner Flores: But we are going to go ahead and help you so we can table it so we can add it and put it on the next meeting if that's your concern but you want to neigh it, pos then we will just move forward, I mean its up to you Lencho, I mean I don't know.

Commissioner Cabrera: No, I already said to table the item. I motion to table the item because the question that I asked Mr. Jimenez is not on there and I asked Mr. Hernandez

A motion to table Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of 07-22-21 of Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Alderman __Cabrera_____, 2nd by Alderman _____ Flores_____. All Voted Aye/ Motion Carried.

Mr De La Cruz: I would just like to ask council and only because we do have the recording on the actual meeting, council. I don't think they recorded the Zoom but I know they actually have the audio recording of the minutes. Mr. Hernandez had a very difficult time, I went in their to see when he was actually typing out the minutes. Lets please understand that when we are having these meetings just like when we have the meeting s in person it makes it even a hundred times harder when we are actually trying to do this through Zoom and so for him to cover every aspect of the minutes, just keep in mind that there is a recording of those minutes and that is also, I think, I don't know if I am correct or not, but that is also admissible anywhere. Is that correct , council?

Mr. Jimenez: That is correct, regarding the actual recording device. That is the actual devise and the actual recording of the minutes of the city council. The minutes that Mr. Hernandez prepares that is just a synopsis. It is not word for word. It is not a stenographic recorder so it is just a synopsis of what basically occurred or fundamentally occurred.

Mr De La Cruz: So basically, what I am trying to say mayor, one is if we can respectfully let people talk and number two cause it is very hard for Mr. Hernandez to write this synopsis that council is talking about. For him to actually be typing and listening to people talking over each other, it's really hard. So I am just asking please be considerate of that. I know you already voted to table, that's fine, but like I said, there is a recording of the actual minutes if you ever want to use that. Its already on file. Thank you.

Commissioner Flores: Mr. Hernandez, if you could please do your job a little bit better

Mr Hernandez: Yes, sir

Commissioner Flores: and document everything that you hear. Please.

Mr Hernandez: Yes, sir

Commissioner Flores: Because we do read what you hear.

Mr Hernandez: Yes, sir but in my defense like Mr De La Cruz did say, when I was typing up those minutes, it was very hard to go back and forth cause there was a lot of interruption, and everyone was bickering back and forth. So it would be good if you guys would honor Mr De La Cruz's request.

Mayor: Also, on that note, I will be chairing the meeting so I will be leading it. I will be calling order. So that way we can give Manny the proper information that he needs to record.

T. Consent Agenda

**A motion to move Item G to the bottom of the meeting. Motion was made by Alderman Segura, 2nd by Alderman Flores. All Voted Aye/
Motion Carried**

For the record Hugo, you are the host now.

1. Engineers Report

Mr. De La Cruz: Yes sir, on the engineer report basically the only thing I have to report on is our engineer Eddie Saenz dropped by to drop off. All the streets, off course, have been completed. CV Mendez aka Victoria St, Los Laureles, El Jardin, Crenshaw St, FM 1015 to McDaniel's St, Cochran St and all of that has been completed. Basically, he is also mentioning the water treatment plant. We are looking into upgrading some of the things there. And of course, on the development projects that we are talking about. We are also talking about some lift stations that are going to be needed and that is pretty much the report for engineer.

2. Police Dept Report

Mr. De La Cruz: The chief had an emergency and couldn't stay so basically on the police department I just want to briefly touch up. The basketball tournament was a success, a great success by the way. We had seven teams. I want to commend the fire chief, I want to commend Marcy Aguilar, who volunteered their time, they were out there, and it was just an awesome event. Based on that is pretty much the first event that the PD has put on and I think they did an awesome job. So that is pretty much on the police department side.

3. Fire Dept Report

Chief Nieves: Ok for the fire department we had a total of 36 service calls last month. We had two calls to La Villa, 6 EMS calls, and 11 county calls, overall city calls we had 25. For the year we are at 323 calls so far from year to date of calls that we have had this year. We average about

40 calls a month for the fire department and that would put us over the numbers of last year so we are doing more call volume than we did last year. Last year we were at 400 in December, this year we are already at 323 as of last month. So, our call volume has increased in a significant amount. We have about 40 active members and 10 reserve members. We do have one unit out of service which is Rescue 1. I did discuss that with Mr. Hugo. We are working on fixing that truck. Other than that, everything in the fire department is running smooth. Any questions for me?

Mayor lost signal in Zoom meeting. Mayor called in via phone and asked Mayor Pro-Tem Flores to take over the meeting

4. Water Dept Report

Mr. De La Cruz: Water department basically, the water department is collecting right now. We just started collecting. We are in our forth day and have collected about 50,000

Commissioner Cabrera: How much did we collect Mr. De La Cruz?

Mr. De La Cruz: Right now, we are in our third day and we have collected 50,000.

Commissioner Flores: That is for our water accounts, right? Or are you talking about the courts?

Mr. De La Cruz: For the water

Commissioner Flores: Yeah that's normal

Mr. De La Cruz: We are like on the third or fourth day of collections and we are about 50. Normally in a month we collect about 105, 106 thousand.

5. Municipal Court Report

Commissioner Flores: Ok and on the courts?

Mr. De La Cruz: I think this past month, I think we collected about 6,000 dollars. Is that correct, Victor? Approximately.

Chief Nieves: Approximately yes. We have collected over that. Over that amount. Year to date we are at 100,000 dollars. Just to compare last year we raised 72,000 dollars this year at year to date we are already at 100,000. So our collection process has been doing a lot better. We have been using Scofflaw and different techniques to collect with the court system. And of course when we corrected the court fines and court cost, it allowed us to collect properly and not pay out of pocket for some of these expenses, these fines, I'm sorry.

6. City Manager Report

Mr De La Cruz: I will report on the next meeting if I may.

U. Discussion of Possible Action to Approve and see if the proposed tax rate will exceed the rollback rate or the effective tax rate.

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor, at this time we have, I am going to pass the floor to Rudy from the Tax Office. He will explain what is going on with the tax front and then we will take a recommendation at that point.

Mayor: Thank you, Rudy you have the floor.

Rudy: Good afternoon, beginning with the No New Revenue we have the .8456 and then the VAR, which is what use to be called the Rollback before and the No New Revenue use to be called the Affective, they changed the names as of last year. So this year the VAR, which use to be the Rollback, is broken down into two different sections, according to the benchmark that I emailed earlier. It is a .8480 but then now there is an adjusted for a used increment rate which goes up to 1.0599. The reason for the change of the No New Revenue, it did go down. That is one of the reasons for that is the values for the city did go up compared to last years based of the worksheets and the calculations that I did. It did go from 2020 the total tax values was 65, 875,815 whereas for 2021 the certified values provided by the appraisal district the tax rolls indicate that 70,942,923 so on that benchmark the levy would be 498,841 off of that No New Revenue. Last year that No New Revenue was 497,000 which was based of of last years No New Revenue, which was a tax rate that was adopted, so there was a difference of about 1500 dollars of levy. Now its 1500 more than last year. Even though the tax rate for the No New Revenue rate goes down because of the 5 million in values that have gone up. This is why the rate went down in difference.

Mayor: (Inaudible) So our tax rate is going down? We are not taxing the tax rate itself.

Rudy: Correct. The No New Revenue tax rate, yes it did go down, and that is due to that increase in the values of the properties.

Commissioner Flores: So, does this have to do any with , you know how every year they try to raise our taxes on your home or your property. Some people do go protest and they leave it the same but some of them get sneaked on and they raise. So, is this a total of everyone that got raised in property taxes? It higher everything all together. Is that where this is coming from?

Rudy: Well, it doesn't include the protest. That still is not included in the tax roll, anybody that has protested. When we get the certified roll, it doesn't include protest, correct.

Commissioner Flores: So basically, like a new home comes in. That also increases the value of the neighbor right, and lets say , and our problem is some of the properties are abandoned, that maybe got sent a letter to increase their taxes, but nobody is there to protest. Does that affect us or what do we have to do to make sure we are on top of that?

Rudy: I think that is more with th appraisal district. Anything that has to do with the values of why the neighbors went up and mine didn't, that is all on the appraisal district. The appraising and their calculations on how they determine the values. I can't really answer on that as far as why but it does affect. If the value goes up from a new home, a new home gets built, and your home value goes up, that is going to be included on here. It will reflect here and that is what I am seeing. Compared to last year, that 5 million difference of total values of all the properties in the city.

Mayor: Any other questions for Rudy?

Mr. De La Cruz: So, Rudy, what would be the recommendation form the tax office?

Rudy: I always recommend the No New Revenue. That has always been my stay on that. That is only because that is what balances it out but its up to you all as far as your budget and the work shops you all have for your budget and what you all need for the city. The only thing I can say and explain is that you cant go above the VAR because that will automatically trigger an election, or you will have to get approval from the voters. That is what the VAR is, the Voter Approval Rate, so anything above that will trigger, so staying below that I sup to you all and your budget.

Mayor: So bottom line if we approve your recommendation, the city will collect at least the same amount as last year as far as property values is concerned, without raising the taxes? Actually, its going to go down, the tax rate.

Rudy: Yes sir, correct.

Mayor: And that is your recommendation for the city?

Rudy: Yes sir.

Mayor: All right so we have a recommendation by Rudy to approve the tax rate as presented

Mr. Hernandez: I think mayor, Rudy, correct me if I'm wrong, I think it would be best to say to recommend the No New Revenue tax rate.

Mayor: Thank you, The No New Revenue tax rate. Thank you, Mr. Hernandez.

A motion to approve and see if the proposed tax rate will exceed the rollback rate or the effective tax rate was made by Alderman Flores, 2nd by Alderman Chapa. All Voted Aye/ Motion Carried

V. 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 02, 2021

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor, we are seeking approval on this item.

A motion to go into full contract with Hidalgo County Elections Department on the City of Edcouch Municipal Elections for Early Voting and Election Day November 02, 2021 was made by Alderman Segura, 2nd by Alderman Flores. All Voted Aye/Motion Carried.

W. Discussion and Possible Action to Amend Ordinance 2021-20 Order of Elections for the City of Edcouch Municipal Election.

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor, we are seeking approval on this item.

A motion to Amend Ordinance 2021-20 Order of Elections for the City of Edcouch Municipal Elections was made by Alderman Chapa 2nd by Alderman Flores. All Voted Aye/Motion Carried.

X. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Interlocal Agreement with City of Edcouch and City of Weslaco for Mid Valley Regional Communication Center and Tyler Technology New World Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management Systems RMS

Mr. De La Cruz: I want to discuss briefly and I am going to ask Mr. Jimenez because he took a look at the Interlocal, but I am at this point going to recommend we table this item until we further investigate some of what we are talking about. But I did want to bring up some of the benefits of actually having a centralized dispatch center but also saw some things, and also OJ saw some things on the agreement itself, because there is going to be some costs to the city and there is also going to be some expenses upfront that the city is going to have. And so, I don't want to jump into something until I firmly know what exactly we are going to be looking at. But this is in reference to the dispatch moving over and centralizing over in Weslaco which I am 100% for and I would recommend it any day but after seeing the agreement I have some questions so I will pass it over to Mr. Jimenez.

Mr. Jimenez: Mayor, city council, there was a couple provisions, in particular the first one in clause 7, it exposes the liability to the City of Edcouch a little to honorously, and so I did mention that to Mr. De La Cruz so I would like the opportunity to revisit the contract before we go forward with it. That's on the first one. On the second, there was like Mr. De La Cruz said, there was some economic numbers that we need to calculate. That way the city will not be left with too much of a burden, and so, before we go forward, I think it is only prudent for us to investigate everything and then once we come back to present to the board, we will feel much more comfortable with the terminology, the clauses, and the sections of the contract.

A motion to table Interlocal Agreement with City of Edcouch and City Weslaco for Mid Valley Regional Communication Center and Tyler Technology New World Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management Systems RMS was made by Alderman Segura 2nd by Alderman Chapa. All Voted Aye/Motion Carried.

Y. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Resolution 2021-21 with Texas National Bank

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor, we are seeking approval on this item.

A motion to approve Resolution 2021-21 with Texas National Bank was made by Alderman Flores 2nd by Alderman Segura. All voted Aye/Motion Carried.

Return to item G

Z. Adjournment

Time is pm A motion to Adjourn was made by Alderman Chapa , 2nd by 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, August 05, 2021.

Passed and Approved by the Board of Aldermen on this 5th day of August 2021.

ATTEST

Manuel Hernandez
City of Edcouch