



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 SEPTEMBER 02, 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 07/22/21
 - 2. Regular Meeting Minutes of 08/05/2021
- G. Consent Agenda
 - 1. Fire Dept Report
 - 2. Police Dept Report
 - 3. Engineer Report
 - 4. Water Dept Report
 - 5. Municipal Court Report
 - 6. City Manager Report

- H. Discussion and Possible Action on to Accept Interlocal with the City of Elsa regarding manpower and use of equipment**
- I. Discussion and Possible Action to approve Resolution 2021-23 regarding the American Rescue Plan**
- J. Discussion and Possible Action to approve Ordinance 2021-25; Adoption of M & O Tax Rate and Levy for Fiscal Year 2021-2022**
- K. Discussion and Possible Action to approve Ordinance 2021-25; Adoption of I & S Tax Rate**
- L. Discussion and Possible Action to approve an Interlocal with the City of Weslaco to provide the City of Edcouch Animal Control Operations and Impoundment**
- M. Discussion and Possible Action to approve preliminary plat approval of Santa Areanna Estates, legally described as West Tract S402.9'-N721.9'-E692.2' FT 562 6.0 AC presented by Izaguirre Engineering Group LLC**

- N. 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 30th 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 30th DAY OF AUGUST 2021.

Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF EDCOUCH
211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 02, 2021
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- O. Call Meeting to Order** Meeting was called to Order by Mayor Gonzalez at 6:03 p.m.
- P. 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_	_____	Police Chief., Roel Guerra
Alderman: John Chapa	_____	_X_	Fire Chief., Victor Nieves
Alderman: Robert Gutierrez	_X_	_____	
Alderman: Lorenzo Cabrera	_____	_X_	
City Attorney: Orlando Jimenez			

Mayor, we have a quorum.

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

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of 07/22/21
2. Special Meeting Minutes of 08/05/21

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2021 and Special Meeting Minutes of 08/05/2021 was made by Alderman Segura, 2nd by Alderman Gutierrez. All Voted Aye/Motion

U. Consent Agenda

1. Engineer Report
2. Police Report
3. Fire Dept Report
4. Water Dept Report
5. Municipal Court Report
6. City Manager Report

A motion to was made to table Item G by Alderman Gutierrez 2nd by Alderman Segura. All Voted Aye/Motion Carried.

V. Discussion and Possible Action to Accept Interlocal with the City of Elsa regarding manpower and use of equipment

Mr De La Cruz: At this time we are requesting approval on this item. I don't know if OJ wants to elaborate on something that we discussed, but I would recommend at this time approval.

OJ Jimenez: Mayor, city council, just briefly upon reviewing the contract it does appear to be very general and non-specific but in speaking to Mr De La Cruz I think it was by intent and by design to keep it that way and so because of that I am also recommending approval

A motion to approve Interlocal with City of Elsa regarding manpower and use of equipment was made by Alderman Segura, 2nd by Alderman Gutierrez. 3 voted Aye Motion Carried.

W. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Ordinance 2021-23 regarding the American Rescue Plan

Mr De la Cruz: Mayor, at this time we are recommending approval on this item.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2021-23 regarding the American Rescue plan was made by Alderman Segura 2nd by Alderman Gutierrez. 3 voted Aye Motion Carried.

X. Discussion and Possible Action to approve Ordinance 2021-25; Adoption of M & O Tax Rate and Levy for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Mr De La Cruz: I believe at this time Manny had sent the M&O rates and just seeking for approval.

Manny Hernandez: I just want to touch base on this. Basically, this is what we discussed the last time we had a meeting and Mr Flores was here to do a presentation. There was a notice of meeting to vote on tax rate. WE put it on the monitor two weeks ago that we would decide on a tax rate . Just to refresh your mind we did go with the No New Revenue Tax Rate of .8456 and this is just following up to approve the ordinance to adopt.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2021-25: Adoption of M&O Tax Rate and Ley for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 was made by Alderman: Segura 2nd by Alderman Gutierrez. All voted Aye/Motion Carried.

Y. Discussion and Possible Action to approve Ordinance 2021-25; Adoption of I & S Tax Rate

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor, for this item I am recommending approval. Its pretty much the same as the M&O. So we are recommending approval.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2021-25; Adoption of I & S Tax Rate was made by Alderman Gutierrez 2nd by Alderman Segura. 3 voted Motion Carried.

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor before we continue, just for the record, I wanted to say a little bit on the I&S Fund and basically what I wanted to comment is that the past administrations didn't really consider this rate. The division of the collection of taxes and anything that comes into the city. This fund is now active and is being used by our current administration., We are not 100% where we want to be but just so you know with the audits coming and all that those are some of the issues in the finances and the city have been lacking but we are working on it. The first year that I was here it had zero amount and now we have amounts in it. The I&S fund is the one that is paying our bonds. So just so you know those accounts are working now and are trying to get them up to par.

Mayor: Hugo, quick question, is there enough in the I&S fund to pay for the existing bonds that we now have?

Mr De La Cruz: The answer to that would be no at this time but what we do is as we receive funds we start moving money to accommodate for those bonds. Unfortunately, the city does not make enough but we want to get to that point because whenever we talk about tax, it scares us. If we ever get recommendation to increase the taxes obviously it is going to be something that is fearful but if we ever get to that point to where we can actually see that it will make a difference we might have to make those decisions or maybe we will lower it.

Z. Discussion and Possible Action to approve an Interlocal with the City of Weslaco to provide the City of Edcouch Animal Control Operations and Impoundment

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor at this time I would recommend approval with a condition, and I will pass it on to OJ.

OJ Jimenez: Mayor, city council upon reviewing this inter-local agreement it was brought up that the fees associated with the services are a little ambiguous, for instance there is for reference when the City of Weslaco picks up a dog for instance, there is a certain amount that the City of Edcouch has to pay there is no reference if it is per dog, per day, per week and so its very general and so we would need some guidance from the city council to go into either negotiations with the City of Weslaco or just get clarification from the City of Weslaco as to what is meant by their contract because as it currently stands it is open ended. It just says for instance, \$25 per dog and then there's some reference in there of \$125 to euthanize a dog but it is to my understanding dogs are no longer being put down and so that means dogs are being kept at the kennel for longer periods of time. So does that mean that the City of Edcouch is going to be charged \$25 a day while the dog is there. So there is some leg work and research that I think we need to do but we certainly don't want to waist the city's council in bringing it back if we don't have to and so one of the things Mr De La Cruz and I were talking is that we can have it approved subject to or condition upon a certain amount. So for instance, the city council can say we approve it subject to it being \$25 per dog period or something along those lines.

Mayor: What is your recommendation on the fee, Hugo?

Mr De La Cruz: The fee is pretty much the same. Unfortunately, it is one of those items that is necessary and it is an item that we all know that we have issues with strays here in the City of Edcouch. I am happy that they are not euthanizing them anymore but at the same time I would like to know if it's a one time fee or a daily fee because that would make it different from before.

Mayor: OJ, so can we authorize Hugo to negotiate the fees for this contract?

OJ Jimenez: We can do that and once it is negotiated we would have to bring it back unless the city council would want to do a cap. It would be capped at this amount. So that way if it is within that range we can go ahead and go forward and we still have the authority to enter into that binding agreement.

Mayor: All right, so no more than what amount? No more than \$50 a dog like we were paying before for the whole duration

Manny Hernandez: Mr De La Cruz, can you let Ernie in please?

OJ Jimenez: There is approximately 4 separate line items per dog for euthanization and so on and so forth. So if we could go maybe one at a time so we can know what is the cap on each of them .

Mayor: What are the line items Manny?

Manny Hernandez: We shall pay city \$55 per animal impounded at city shelter, Edcouch shall pay \$45 per deceased animal taken to shelter, Edcouch citizens seeking to reclaim animal shall pay fees as set by the city, Edcouch citizens who drop off animals at facility will no be assessed a fee. Then theres 2 more that say city will pay \$150 to tranquilize or euthanize an animal on site and city shall pay \$250 to quarantine an animal. So there is 6 items. Not including the citizens one which there is 2 items for the citizens.

Mayor: They are not charging us for those, they are going to charge the customers.

Manny Hernandez: And of course the City if Weslaco will assess that fee.

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor, what we can do is we can take a look at last years, and I don't know Manny if you have that available, and if it hasn't changed if you will authorize me to proceed with the contract and if it has changed and its substantial, I can bring it back.

Mayor: So we can authorize Hugo to make negotiations to be not higher than what we paid last year for service and if there is we can can back and seek approval from council

A motion to approve an Interlocal with the City of Weslaco to provide the City of Edcouch Animal Control Operations and Impoundment was made by Alderman Segura _____2nd by Alderman Gutierrez. All Voted Aye/Motion Carried

AA. Discussion and Possible Action to approve preliminary plat approval of Santa Areanna Estates, Legally described as West Tract S402.9'-N721.9'-E692.2 FT 562 6.0 AC presented by Izaguirre Engineering Group LLC.

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor, at this time we are recommending approval on this item and if you have any questions Mr Rosales is available.

Commissioner Segura: When will they be able to break ground?

Ernesto Rosales: I did speak to the engineer today and she said normally on projects like this it takes about 45 days after approval so 45 days after today because after we approve it then they do the final plans and that gets sent out to Irrigation District, I believe, and they have to put their stamp of approval and then they will break ground. But I did talk to her about the grass issue and the grass growing and she said she might move some machinery in there before they start moving dirt.

Mr De La Cruz: Added to that. I was there when Mr Rosales spoke to her he also mentioned the sign. They are going to fix the sign with a new number and everything.

Ernesto Rosales: That is correct, I asked for them to come in and put a new sign, fix the broken one, and put up updated numbers and she agreed. Unfortunately she was going to try and make the meeting, I know shes in vacation somewhere in Mexico so she said she might not be able to but when she got back we are going to get together so we can discuss the rendering of the new site.

Mayor: This is the one o 1015, correct?

Ernesto Rosales: That is correct Mayor.

Mayor: So what is going o with that little house that is next door? It's like a little shed. Is that part of the land?

Ernesto Rosales: As I understand Mayor, I was not part of those talks with the lady, but it is my understanding that she was given permission to put the house there pending the breaking ground and the development of the new development. Once that takes place she is under the understanding that she is going to have to move it out of there.

A motion to approve preliminary plat approval of Santa Areanna Estates Legally described as West Tract S402.9'-N721.9'-E692.0 FT 562 6.0 AC presented by Izaguirre Engineering Group LLC was made by Alderman Segura 2nd by Alderman Gutierrez. All Voted Aye/Motion Carried.

BB. Adjournment

At 6:23_ pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman: Gutierrez, 2nd by Alderman: Segura. All Voted Aye. Motion Carried.

Take Notice that this are the true and correct minutes taken of the Regular Meeting of the City of Edcouch held on Thursday, September 03, 2021.

Passed and Approved by the Board of Aldermen on this 3rd day of September 2021.

ATTEST

Manuel Hernandez
City of Edcouch