



REGULAR MEETING

TAKE NOTICE THAT A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE CITY OF EDCOUCH WILL BE HELD
AT 211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS, ON
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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 09/01/2021
- 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 to SA NO. 2 with CSJ Group to provide engineering services with Lift Station at Santa Arianna Subdivision
- I. Discussion on water and wastewater masterplan for City of Edcouch.
- J. Discussion and possible to Approve Audit Fiscal Year 2018-2019
- 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 13th day of September 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 13th DAY OF September 2021.

Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF EDCOUCH
211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- L. Call Meeting to Order** Meeting was called to Order by Mayor Gonzalez at 6:05 p.m.
- M. 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_	___	Engineer, Eddie Saenz
Alderman: Lorenzo Cabrera	_X_	___	
City Attorney: Orlando Jimenez			

Mayor, we have a quorum.

- N. Pledge of Allegiance** Pledge of Allegiance was led by: OJ Jimenez
- O. Invocation** Invocation was led by: Victor H De La Cruz
- P. Public Comments** No Public Comments

Q. Discussion and Possible Action on approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of 09/01/ 2021

A motion to table the Regular Meeting Minutes of 09/01/ 2021 was made by Alderman Chapa , 2nd by Alderman Gutierrez . All Voted Aye/ Motion Carried.

R. Consent Agenda

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor, I'd like to request that we table this item.

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

A motion to table Consent Agenda items was made by Alderman Segura, 2nd by Alderman Cabrera. All voted Aye/Motion Carried.

S. Discussion and Possible Action on SA No. 2 with CSJ Group to provide engineering services for the Lift Station at Santa Arianna Subdivision.

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor, this is an item that we are requesting at this time so we may proceed so that our engineer on record can proceed with preparing and starting to look at the lift station that will be a part of the Santa Arianna Development Project that is coming up. So at this time I am recommending approval of this item and if you all have any questions we have our engineer here.

Many Hernandez: Mayor, I just realized that Mayor Pro-Tem Flore is on screen. So technically he is here in this meeting.

A motion to approve SA No. 2 with CSJ Group to provide engineering services for the Lift Station at Santa Arianna Subdivision was made by Alderman Segura, 2nd by Alderman Gutierrez. All voted Aye/Motion Carried.

Commissioner Cabrera opposed this item.

T. Discussion on water and wastewater masterplan for the City of Edcouch.

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor, at this time I am recommending that we go

Commissioner Cabrera: You got my Neigh?

Mayor: Yes sir, I got it. It was on record.

Mr De La Cruz: Can I proceed?

Mayor: Yes

Mr De La Cruz: I am recommending that we approve this item. This is for our engineer on record to start a masterplan for the water treatment plant and the wastewater treatment plant. These two plants have been left, for many many years, have been left unattended in a sense of maintenance. We have pumps, we have wiring, we have things, scata systems that have not been working for the past two or three years that I have been here. We have been working with some of these things and changing some of these things. For us to be able to, of course everything needs money. As we know, we are receiving some monies from the ARP, the American Rescue Plan, and at this time I think it is beneficial to us to use some of that money and start working on these plans. This is our biggest money getter. I mean that is our water. Water is where we get our finances. Why hadn't this been happening before, I don't know but I think that at this time it is time to invest in the future and invest in whatever is making us money, which is the water. So what a masterplan is going to do is it allows for us to actually take a look and see some of the things that are needed. Right now we have an idea but with a masterplan we will be able to see everything in full and at that time we will be able to prioritize. So id kike to pass it on to our engineer on record, Mr. Eddie Saenz.

Eddie Saenz: Mayor, alderman, Eddie Saenz with CSJ Group. In talking to Mr De La Cruz in regard to this. There is a lot of areas that need to be addressed in the water plant and obviously the sewer plant we basically need a new one but for the purpose of being able to get funding you need to have

something that you assess it is a lot easier for the agencies to go ahead and fund as well because you have done your homework, you have looked into it, you have made recommendations in regards to after the assessment of the plant, and not just the plant but the whole system which included lift stations, water and sewer lines. Now you are going to have a masterplan that you have a basis to start implementing these recommendations where you may have deficiencies where you may have some areas that need upgrading and repairs. Like for an instance for the lift stations, you want to make sure that all these lift stations are talking to each other and if you have some pumps go out you are automatically going to know. You can go out there and assess and also fix it. Also, a lot of these lift stations they didn't have backup generators. This way they go off if the power off and on if the power goes on. So having this master plan is your bible in regard to how to address the utilities. So its basically making the assessment and start the process and making the assessment for the whole city.

Mayor: So what would be a realistic timeline to complete the masterplan?

Eddie Saenz: It is usually having meetings with staff. You are talking about 4 to 5 months.

Mayor: And you will be in charge?

Eddie Saenz: Yes, I will be coordinating with the staff and the pen operator and talking to them in regards to what they have experienced and their needs locating all the lines. You have all this in a computer system. You don't have to have this on paper but if you make an upgrade to a system, you put it in a computer, you also have a history of what you have been doing in that area.

Mr De La Cruz: One of the biggest things mayor, and I think we have encountered it, we are putting all our trust in one person, people that have been here, because they have already rigged the system and they can move around it. When there's rain, they know when they can go turn on a pump and turn off another pump and all of that. And that's great! It is great that we have someone like that but at the end of the day if that person is not there a scata system is going to allow us to bring somebody that is qualified and pretty much anybody sit in front of a computer and be able to maintain those issues. Some of the things that we are looking at are going to help out with that.

Eddie Saenz: Basically, and adding on, now you can have a pan operator that is licensed and most of them are already up to speed with all the software systems, all the computer systems. They will be able to monitor the levels of the tanks, the towers, also the levels of all the lift stations that are there. Be able to get a large system that will go in. You can even go in on your handheld phone and say oh I got to record here. I have to go check lift station 1 and make sure that its operating or why did the power turn off and go check it out. It's a system where a licensed pen operator who is familiar with it will be able to monitor it from his desk.

Mayor: And any expenses that we incur for this plan are eligible expenses that we can use

Mr De La Cruz: Everything is eligible through ARP, American Rescue Plan, and I think it is a wise investment for us to go that route. Like I said, it is not nearly enough for us to be able to fix a lot of it but I think that after talking to Eddie we can make a good dent on fixing a lot of these things.

Eddie Saenz: And its not, like you said, you can use this report and it is going to have priorities in regard to whether its 4, 5, 7 projects, whatever it is and now you can submit those reports to agencies. A big GLO hazard mitigation grant that is out there that is coming to Hidalgo County. It can be used for that as well aside from the monies you already have or you can get with other agencies.

Mr De La Cruz: We always find ourselves at the last-minute mayor, trying to find, you know we went out to Austin and Eddie created a report for us. You remember that trip. With this masterplan we can show up wherever we need to and if there is funding out there the plan will be ready. So we

will be able to answer the needs that the city has right there and then. There is a difference when you plan ahead and maintain.

Mayor: In a sense to be more proactive

Eddie Saenz: Right, have it ready and know that the state agencies are government federal agencies are going to know that you have done your assessments, your homework. You know what you need. You're not guessing and they will be able to fund as much as they can but at least they know you're prepared.

Commissioner Cabrera: Did we get fined this passed year or no?

Mr De La Cruz: Not at all

Commissioner Cabrera: So its running good then?

Mr De La Cruz: Its running good.

Commissioner Cabrera: Ok

Mr De La Cruz: The times that we brought people in to take a look at it they saw a lot of need. They are amazed at the fact that we have the good people running it.

Commissioner Chapa: When was the last time we serviced it? Or brought up to date?

Mr De La Cruz: I don't know. I mean as far as

Eddie Saenz: It is meeting code requirements, but I think from the freeze to now you've been able to put repairs. You know the pumps that were repaired. You don't really know when they are going to go out because they are old and that is what the assessment is for. Its to determine how long have you had this pump or why are you putting this together when you should have a full-blown route water pumping system going into the clap wire? Why aren't the clamp wires turning around right now? Cause they don't have a motor, obviously. What's being done is meeting but its because you ate working hard at making sure it stays that way. Verses letting the mechanical side work on its own and that what you should be having the mechanical side work on its own instead of having to constantly monitoring it personally because that is what the computer does.

Mr De La Cruz: One of the things, and I know this mayor, as soon as I started working here. I got 2 or 3 letters from TCEQ and we had been fined \$15,000 each item so right there we had over \$45,000 in fines that we had to pay TCEQ. I said to myself I can not let this things happen so we have done everything that we can to maintain and I'm glad that we have not been fined not one fine from TCEQ and I challenge anyone that wants to check to do it.

A motion to approve on water and wastewater masterplan for the City of Edcouch was made by Alderman Chapa_____, 2nd by Alderman Gutierrez_____. All voted Aye/Motion Carried.

Commissioner Cabrera opposed this item.

Commissioner Cabrera :Yes, its working properly and we did not get fined so

U. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Audit Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019

Mr De La Cruz: Mayor at this time I recommend that we approve this item. We just went through a workshop and Mr. Orosco is here to answer any questions that anyone might have so I recommend at this time that we approve this item.

A motion to approve Audit Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 was made by Alderman Chapa, 2nd by Alderman Gutierrez. All voted Aye/Motion Carried.

Commissioner Cabrera opposed this item

Mr De La Cruz: Before you continue id like to reiterate that we had already voted in the past that I could go ahead and talk to Mr Orosco, so just so you know we will be starting the next audit to put us back in order. We were behind about 4 audits when I came on board and this will catch us up.

Commissioner Cabrera: Can you give me a copy of the audit Mr De La Cruz. I didn't get no paper on the audit.

Mr De La Cruz: You weren't here for the workshop and I will get you a copy.

Commissioner Cabrera: Thank you very much.

V. Adjournment

At 6:20_ pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman: Segura, 2nd by Alderman: Cabrera. 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, February 04, 2020.

Passed and Approved by the Board of Aldermen on this 04 th day of February 2020.

ATTEST

**Manuel Hernandez
City of Edcouch**