



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, OCTOBER 01, 2020
COMMENCING AT 6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

- A. Call Meeting to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Public Comments
- E. Discussion and possible action on approval of Minutes:
 - 1. Regular Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2020.
- F. Discussion and possible action on
- G. Discussion and possible action on
- H. Discussion and possible action on
- I. Discussion and possible action on
- J. Discussion and possible action on
- K. Discussion and possible action on
- L. 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 Meetings of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Edcouch was posted on the main entrance to Edcouch City Hall on the 29th day of September 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 29th OF SEPTEMBER 2020.

Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager

Regular Meeting
10/01/2020
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**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF EDCOUCH**

211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS
THURSDAY, Oct 01, 2020
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- M. Call Meeting to Order** Meeting was called to Order by **Mayor Gonzalez at 6:00 p.m.**
- N. Roll Call** Roll call was called by **Mr. Manuel Hernandez Jr** as follows:

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

Mayor, we have a quorum.

- O. Pledge of Allegiance** Pledge of Allegiance was led by
- P. Invocation** Invocation was led by Victor H De La Cruz
- Q. Public Comments** No public comments

looking at. Maybe a street with some detention fund, maybe cover the detention pond that is there because we are noticing that there is some elevation differences there on that pond and it is really not serving the purpose. That was a project that was done by Urban County prior to my administration.

Eddie: Yes, thank you for bringing that up. We did have a meeting with them. I was at one of their school board meetings in August and we were requesting their assistance in regard to utilizing a strip of their land on the eastside of Ybarra Middle School and they were fine with it. It is land they are not using. This would also put in play trying to extend Railroad St to the north and connect with Mile 17 1/2. It would also provide another outlet or connection because we only have a connection at Mile 4 and Mile 3 and there is nothing in-between that connects 107 to Mile 17 and we could use that as an Urban County project as well but we need to go through the motions of getting some memos with the school district and also getting some properties in place so that it could be environmentally cleared as well but these are just the initial steps to try to do that so we are looking onto that option.

Mayor: Alright, so the funding is going to be through Urban County?

Eddie: Yes, Urban County, we presented it to them preliminarily, but we do need to get all these properties in our hands before because they are not in the property acquisition mode for funds and they will say And the city owns the property for the street and has an agreement also with the school district for relocating that ditch and doing a retention pond within their property. Right now, we are in the preliminary stages but their funding isn't available for another year so we have some time to get all that in place and at the same

time we are still trying to acquire some way the plans on the ditch that was there so we can know how it should have been built to begin with.

Mayor: What are we doing concerning Casa Mesina and Dolores Huerta area over to the south side of the city? Are there any projects in that area?

Hugo: Mayor, I will answer that. No there is not but at this point at this time we have addressed the Casa Mesina and Dolores Huerta area. I had mentioned in a meeting before this. We had talked about an area that we found that there was infrastructure already set there. It seemed to us like that project was abandoned and we had a meeting with Senator Lucio, and I believe it was Housing Authority as well and I think you were there Mayor, and we talked about maybe researching and see. We know the property belongs to the Julio Cesar Chavez Foundation, but we don't know what the status of this particular project is. That would really help if we could do something at that location, maybe a detention pond or maybe even look at the infrastructure, if it is something that will help with the flooding issue. Now I will tell you that we have met with the county also and I know that Eddie has been meeting with the county as well and there are some big projects that the county is bringing in. I don't quite remember the amounts that they are talking about, but it is a big amount.

Eddie: I met with Commissioner Fuentes last week and they are doing some work. I am doing some work for them on the drainage projects, but they also were awarded some additional monies, around ten million or so we need to stay on top of that and try to use some of that money. Cause he said he was going to use that money somewhere else in the precinct. So, we just need to stay in touch with him on a continuous basis and we probably need to make an assessment pretty quick at how much it would take to address these areas here.

Mayor: At least on those priority areas which would be Casa Mesina area and the Mile 17 area. Hopefully, we can get something quick.

Hugo: And that is what I was going to mention Mayor, both of the areas that we are talking about are going to impact our city. We feel that it is really going to help our city to save us time when these storms hit us and we really feel that Mile 17, if we are able to do something there in Mile 17 with that ditch and with the detention pond, we really feel that that is going to help the north part of the 107 in the city of Edcouch. The southern part, unfortunately, is one of the things that Commissioner Fuentes did mention was that the impact that they have to study that area a little more because they have issues on Mile 15, Mile 14, they have some issues in those areas so what ever we do here at the city impacts them a lot more. So that is why that has to be studied a little more.

R. Discussion and possible action on approval of Minutes:

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of Sept 03, 2020

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 30, 2020, was made by Alderman Segura , 2nd by Alderman Chapa . All Voted Aye/ Motion Carried.

S. Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 2020-10; Adoption of M & O Tax Rate and Levy for Fiscal year 2020-2021

Manny: For this you have the Ordinance 2020-10. The only reason why there are two items, items H and I is because the tax office wants us to approve the maintenance and operation and the principle and interest separately. If you combine it together it goes to the tax rate that we adopted a few weeks ago of .9152

Mayor: So for this item you are recommending that

Manny: I am recommending that we go with maintenance and operation and that we approve the .4425 for the purpose of maintenance and operation.

A motion to approve Ordinance No 2020-10; Adoption of M & O Tax Rate and Levy for Fiscal year 2020-2021 was made by Alderman Cabrera, 2nd by Alderman: Segura. All voted Aye/ Motion Carried

T. Discussion and Possible Action on Ordinance No. 2020-10; Adoption of I & S Tax Rate

Hugo: Mayor, I will let Mr. Hernandez present this.

Manny: Good afternoon mayor, good afternoon members of the city council, back in the meeting on Thursday August 20th the tax office proposed that we go with the tax rate and the tax rate that they proposed with the No Revenue New Tax Rate. This No New Revenue Tax Rate means that our taxes will not be increased nor decreased due to the evaluation of properties we wanted to be in a position where we were not collecting, you know how properties go up in value every year, so we had to find a tax rate that was going to match the collection rate of the previous year. So, speaking to the tax office they recommended the No New Revenue Tax Rate so what we want to do now is we want to adopt a tax rate. The tax rate we are going to adopt first is the maintenance and operation one which is .4425. This would be for fiscal year 2020 and 2021. .4425. This is for your consideration and for your approval today. (Returned to Item H)

(Continued from Item H)

Manny: Ok Mayor, city council members again this item pertains to item H on the agenda. This is the second part of our tax rate. This is for payment of principle and interest. This rate is at .4727 and I recommend that we go with this tax rate today.

A motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-10; Adoption of I & S Tax Rate was made by Alderman Segura, 2nd by Alderman Cabrera. All voted Aye/Motion carried

U. Discussion and Possible Action to approve Ordinance 2020-11; Adoption of the Proposed Budget for Fiscal year 2020-2021

Hugo: Mayor at this time I would like to request that we table this item and schedule a workshop. We do have preliminary numbers, the only this is that when I was going through them today the CARES Act funding that we are hoping to get soon is interfering a lot with what we are trying to do.

So, I am going to request that we schedule a workshop so I can start to break up this item and we can separate the CARES Act funding.

Mayor: Let's look at our calendars. The budget is due by October 1?

Hugo: I would like to request a workshop and then at that point of we have to organize a special meeting at this time but at this time I think if we can do maybe a workshop for Tuesday that would really be helpful because it is a little different. The CARES Act is impacting a lot of our decision making and so I don't want to count on it, but it is causing a little chaos in our accounting.

Mayor: All right so your recommendation is to table and come up with a workshop.

Hugo: Yes Mayor.

**A motion to approve Ordinance 2020-11; Adoption of the Proposed Budget for Fiscal year 2020-2021 was made by Alderman ___ Cabrera_____,
2nd by Alderman ___ Chapa_____. All voted**

V. Discussion and Possible Action to approve Resolution No 2020-12. A resolution Authorizing the creation of The Rio Grande Valley Regional 9-1-1 Emergency Communication District

Manny: Mayor, city council members today we have present Mr. Chapa and Mr. Cruz from The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council. I was contacted by them, I believe about two weeks ago, and today they want to do a presentation on a resolution that they have created, and I will go ahead and let them take over from here.

Mr. Chapa: Good afternoon mayor and council members, I will not take up much of your time. I want to say thank you for having this special meeting. Today I ask for support in passing this resolution in declaring emergency communications district. I have a couple of bullets in considering the reason behind it to passing such a declaration. Currently we are governance by the state and moving forward passing the resolution will allow us to be different government bodied by the local municipalities and elections people here in Hidalgo and Willacy County. Moving forward, it will allow us to improve the infrastructure of 911 and the possibility to create new innovative projects here in Hidalgo and Willacy County. As you can see the state has its own goals and agendas. Sometimes it is really hard to improve certain things because we have to follow certain bylaws from the state. E are just pretty much asking that we can pass this declaration in moving forward for this resolution. Mr. Cruz, I don't know if you want to add anything.

Mr. Cruz: No, just a real quick, Mayor Gonzalez good evening. Council members, good to see everyone, hope everyone is doing well. And so basically, just to elaborate a little bit on what M. Chapa presented, basically what it boils down to is to get local control and having our own emergency communications district here at home, managed, and overseen by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council. Nothing will change in the form of operations at the 911 centers locations other than the governance and the money that currently is remitted to the state, and we have to wait for them to allocate the funds whenever they see fit. And so, we really cannot work with that situation the way it is. We need to have that money remitted here locally and have local control in collecting it as well as managing, overseeing, and conducting the projects or implementing projects to further enhance all sixteen 911 communications or 911 centers. So, we humbly ask for your support and off course we come before you at the direction of our current 911 Communications Advisory Committee which Edcouch is a part of and also on behalf of our Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council board of director which both committees have

unanimously approved for us to go forward and venture into this project to create our own emergency communication district. At this time, we would be happy to answer any questions if you have any.

Mayor: Will there be a governing body over a member board of the city officials or city residents?

Mr. Cruz: Yes Mayor, the way the statute reads, we have already done a lead work of researching out of the twenty-four councils of government I believe only twenty-two are currently with the state program and two others have ventured on their own to become emergency communications district. And so the way they have it is the governing body that oversees that particular program will be made up of elected officials. And traditionally the last two ventured off for the same program have use their LRGV board of directors to be that governing body and oversight of the program and so that is how it would function. As per the Texas Administrative Code or the legislative bulletin that is written.

Mayor: Any concerns OJ, regarding this resolution?

OJ: No mayor, I did review it when I got it in my email. I did look at every section and every provision and there are no concerns

A motion to approve Resolution No 2020-12. A resolution Authorizing the creation of the Rio Grande Valley Regional 9-1-1 Emergency Communication District was made by Alderman: Segura, 2nd by Alderman Cabrera. All voted

W. Adjournment

At 06: _ pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman: _____, 2nd by Alderman: _____. 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, October 01, 2020.

Passed and Approved by the Board of Aldermen on this 1 st day of October 2020.

ATTEST

Manuel Hernandez
City of Edcouch