



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF EDCOUCH**

211 W. SOUTHERN AVE., EDCOUCH, TEXAS
THURSDAY, December 03, 2020
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- A. **Call Meeting to Order** Meeting was called to Order by **Mayor Gonzalez at 6:00 p.m.**
- B. **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>	Chief: J. Quintana
Alderman: John Chapa	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
Alderman: Robert Gutierrez	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	
Alderman: Lorenzo Cabrera	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	
City Attorney: Orlando Jimenez			

Mayor, we have a quorum.

- C. **Pledge of Allegiance** Pledge of Allegiance was led by Manny Hernandez
- D. **Invocation** Invocation was led by Victor H De La Cruz
- E. **Public Comments**
- F. **Discussion and Possible Action on approval of Minutes**

1. Special Meeting Minutes of Nov, 16 2020

Manny: Mayor and Commissioners it is in your email for you guys to review.

A motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of Nov 16, 2020 was made by Alderman Flores _____, 2nd by Alderman _____ Chapa _____ . All Voted Aye/ Motion Carried

G. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Employee Christmas Bonuses

Hugo: Mayor at this time this item it was an item that was budgeted. It was budgeted this year as well. Due to some financial strains that we have had this year, we had the hurricane that came by and we had the pandemic, which has really impacted our finances. I would like to ask the commission to consider giving me authorization to make that decision. The amount that we are looking at is 9,000. But I would like that commission to give me leverage so I can make that decision at a later date. And decide at that point whether the city will not be impacted negatively. At this time I cannot bring the finances and tell u exactly, there is bond payments coming up. If it is possible I don't know if legal can tell me if that is possible. **Rene:** Basically you want to be able to decide without having to bring it to a meeting. How do you see our budget right now? **Hugo:** At this time we are forecasting and when I say forecasting, is that we are dealing with some

budget constraints right now. But there is somethings that we are waiting on. And if I can I want to have that leverage to be able to decide. We are basing on last years budget what we paid out for Christmas bonuses. **Rene:** Now who would be getting these bonuses? **Hugo:** All staff **John:** How much would the bonus be for employee: **Hugo:** It varies on time, but they are averaging anywhere from \$150 to \$300. **Joel:** Don't we have like 4 to 6 people that are not on the budget from last year? **John :** What he is trying to say what was the budget this year as compared to last year? **Rene:** Basically what Joel is saying that the budget last year should not be as much. **Hugo:** The approximate amount I ate was 9,000, it could be less. Based on the numbers, they were set off last years budget. So it could be that its less. **Mayor:** And if you were to give it by when do you want to give it? **Hugo:** I want to give it in time for Christmas shopping. Maybe you can table it and bring it to next meeting. **Rene:** I don't see why we should table it, I think we should just have our city manager get together with legal and leave it to the City Managers discretion. Then get together with mayor and see if it's a good idea or not. My thing is to not waste time. **Mayor:** So OJ can we recommend for him to pay for a certain time no more than a certain amount? **OJ:** The city council can offer some financial parameters where the city manager can operate within those guidelines. That would not be a problem at all. I can recommend Hugo to come up with a plan to give our employees some Christmas Bonuses for the Dec 19 pay period. **Mayor:** If your going to pay, when are you going to pay? **Hugo:** Somewhere around Dec 11 or so.

**A motion to approve A Christmas Bonus employee plan was made by Alderman __Flores
2nd by Alderman __Segura_____ . All Voted Aye/Motion Carried.**

H. Discussion and Possible Action to hire a Police Chief for the City of Edcouch

Hugo: Mayor at this time I would like to table this item for further review. And I will bring this back when we are ready. **Rene:** Is there anyway we can approve this, so lets just say this week or next week you get more applicants, where we give the city manage approval to hire who you think is the man for the job. So we wont be wasting time. **Hugo:** My capacity as being able to interview I think I can get the right person. I think at this time the pool that we got, I would like to have a little more choice, If we could at this time have more time. If we could let the year pass and go back out and get another pool. Maybe go back in mid January and take our time. Kind of put the word out. I really think the city deserves a good police chief. **Joel:** The salary for the former chief is still the same? **Hugo:** No, his salary has changed. But I have still full staff and nothing has changed, we are still patrolling and they are still doing there job. On the administration side we are still also doing our job. The people that applied I think

we were really good applicants but I think we need more. We only got 4 applicants. **Mayor:** So your recommendation is to table?

A motion to table to hire a Police Chief for the City of Edcouch was made by Alderman _____Chapa_____, 2nd by Alderman Flores_____. All voted Aye/ Motion Carried.

I. Discussion and Possible Action on evaluation of City Manager

Hugo: Mayor I believe that you all were sent an evaluation form. I don't know if you guys filled them out or not. Myself and chief were up for evaluation but item was tabled, so I decided to put item back on here for my evaluation. I don't know if you guys took the time to fill out that evaluation form or if we are ready for it. **Rene:** I am being honest, I have not had the time to fill out the evaluation, but I m being honest, you are doing an awesome job. **Mayor:** Can I make a recommendation and have Mr. De La Cruz self evaluate himself. Just look at areas where you think you are strong in and areas where you think yoyu need help in. That way you can do your job a little bit better. You will self evaluate yourself. **Rene:** And we will tell you if you are lying or not. **Hugo:** I will do that, I want to set goals for myself and the commission. I talked to legal and there is things that I want guidance on. I m reaching out to new entities, I reached out to our new superintendent. I think it is really important for us to start creating these new visions as an area, rather than just a municipality. I will self evaluate and from there hopefully you all can give me some guidance as to what you all have. And we can come together on all of this. **Mayor:** I appreciate that and for the record you have been doing a great job. Both you and Mr. Hernandez, you guys have done wonders with the day to day operations of the city and there is always room for improvement. **Rene:** Yes I feel you can do better and there is always room for improvement. **Mayor:** I need a motion for a self evaluation.

A motion and possible action to table and a self evaluation of City Manager was made by Alderman Flores_____, 2nd by Alderman _Chapa_____. All voted.

J. Executive Session

Executive Session: Texas Government Government Code Chapter 551, Section 551:0071, Consultation with City Attorney

Pursuant to Chapter 551. 071. Consultation with City Attorney, the Council shall convene to Executive Session to discuss the following

- 1.Discussion and Possible Action to hire a Police Chief for the City of Edcouch**
- 2.Evaluation of City Manager**

A motion to table Executive Session was made by Alderman _Chapa_____,2nd by Alderman _____Flores_____. All voted

K. Adjournment

At 6:21 _ pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman: Chapa, 2nd by Alderman: Flores. 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, December 03, 2020.

Passed and Approved by the Board of Aldermen on this 03rd day of December 2020.

ATTEST

Manuel Hernandez
City of Edcouch



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, December 03, 2020
COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

THIS CITY OF EDCOUCH MEETING WILL BE HELD USING TELE CONFERENCE
SYTEM/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

- L. Call Meeting to Order**
- M. Roll Call**
- N. Pledge of Allegiance**
- O. Invocation**
- P. Public Comments**
- Q. Discussion and possible action on approval of Minutes:**
 - 1. Special Meeting Minutes of Nov 16, 2020**
- R. Discussion and Possible Action to approve Employee Christmas Bonuses**
- S. Discussion and Possible Action to hire a Police Chief for The City of Edcouch**
- T. Discussion and Possible Action on Evaluation of City Manager**

Executive Session: Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Section 551:071, Consultation with City Attorney

Pursuant to Chapter 551. Section 551.071: Consultation with City Attorney, the Council shall convene to Executive Session to discuss the following:

- 1. Discussion and Possible Action to hire a Police Chief for the City of Edcouch**
- 2. Evaluation of City Manager**

U. Reconvene: The Council shall Reconvene and take Possible Action on items discussed In Closed/Meeting/Executive Session

Chapter 551, Section 551.071: Consultation with City Attorney

- 1. Discussion and Possible Action to hire a Police Chief for the City of Edcouch**
- 2. Evaluation of City Manager**

V. 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 November 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 November 2020.

Victor H. De La Cruz
City Manager

Regular Meeting
12/03/2020
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