

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Edna City Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 6, 2020 in council chambers at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Lance Smiga called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The council stood for the moment of silence, followed by the council and audience reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember District 1 Dustin Muncrief, Councilmember District 2 Wayne Callis, Councilmember District 3 Rick Boone, Councilmember 4 Elizabeth Sommerfeld and Councilmember District 5 Johnny Vasquez were in attendance. City Manager Gary Broz, Finance Director Olga Salomon, Director of Public Works Brad Ryan, and Chief of Police Clinton Wooldridge were in attendance. In the absence of City Secretary Becky Miska minutes were recorded by Finance Director Olga Salomon.

VISITORS: Justin Weber, Velma Vasquez, John Meng – Jackson County Herald Tribune

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING JULY 16, 2020:

Councilmember Callis made the motion to approve minutes of the City Council meeting held July 16, 2020. Councilmember Sommerfeld seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

HEARING OF VISTIORS:

“At this time, comments may be heard from the audience on any subject matter that is not on the agenda. In accordance, with the Open Meeting Act, the council may not discuss or take action on any item which has not been posted on the agenda.”

During the council meeting, as each item is addressed, the council shall also allow the audience to speak on any subject matter that is posted on the agenda in accordance with HB 2840.” Please limit comments – two minutes.

There were no comments.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER ORDER OF GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE CITY OF EDNA:

City Secretary Miska addressed the council reminding them that the May 2020 election had been cancelled due to COVID-19. Miska asked the council to approve the Order of General Election to be held in November. Councilmember Boone made the motion to approve the Order of General Election for the City of Edna. Councilmember Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER JOINT ELECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN JACKSON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF EDNA:

City Secretary Miska addressed the council reminding them that the May 2020 election had been cancelled due to COVID-19. Since that time, she had spoken to the Jackson County Clerk Kate Brooks about the county conducting the City’s election in November in conjunction with the November voting. Mrs. Brooks went before the County Judge and asked if this would be feasible. Citizens from both the City and County would benefit from having a joint election. The County would need to have the Joint Election Agreement signed in order to proceed. City Secretary Miska noted that the cost would be an approximate 1/3 of the costs that the City is paying at this time. Councilmember Sommerfeld made the motion to approve the Joint Election Agreement between the City of Edna and Jackson County. Councilmember Muncrief seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER HOTEL-MOTEL APPLICATION PACKET:

City Secretary Miska noted that the council had reviewed the Hotel-Motel Application Packet last month. Miska stated in previous years organizations have asked for funding from hotel-motel funding but there

has not been an application nor guidelines in writing for them to adhere to. Miska asked that the council approve the Hotel-Motel Application Packet to be given to those requesting hotel-motel funding going forward. The guidelines as outlined in the packet will also help to protect the City. Councilmember Callis made the motion to approve the Hotel-Motel Application Packet as presented. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER QUOTE FOR WATER LINE REPLACEMENT UNDER RAILROAD:

City Manager Gary Broz and Director of Public Works Brad Ryan updated the council on the water line replacement under the railroad that was broken in February. Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to approve Mercer Construction to do the water line replacement under railroad. Councilmember Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

HEAR PROPOSED UPDATES FOR UTILITY BILLING AND TAKE ANY ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY:

City Manager Broz updated the council on the new proposed updates for the utility billing. Broz outlined the present costs and reported on the proposed savings on the new billing. The City would discontinue the pink late billing card. The new utility billing format will bring the City into the present way that most utility companies present billing. Councilmember Boone made the motion to approve the proposed updates for the utility billing and continue going forward with the process. Councilmember Muncrief seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER DITCH CLEANING BIDS:

City Manager Broz reported to Council that the City had recently gone out for bids to clean ditches within the city limits. Broz noted that only one was submitted from Mercer Construction. Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to approve Mercer Construction for the ditch cleaning project within the city. Councilmember Muncrief seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER JACKSON CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT'S BUDGET FOR THE 2021 FISCAL YEAR:

Councilmember Callis made the motion to accept the Jackson Central Appraisal District's Budget for the 2021 fiscal year as presented. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION REGARDING GOLF CARTS ON CITY STREETS AND TAKE ANY ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY:

After discussion, the consensus of council is there is an ordinance in place and it's time to enforce it. Chief of Police Wooldridge stated he would relay the message to his officers.

DISCUSS COVID-19 AND TAKE ANY ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY:

City Manager Broz reported that City Hall is in full force while maintaining mask, social distancing and disinfecting lobby areas. School has started and we have learned there are two reported cases (siblings).

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED SOLID WASTE CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH TEXAS DISPOSAL SYSTEMS:

City Manager Broz reported on his meeting with Texas Disposal Systems and noted he would be coming back to council in the near future with more information.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS:

Councilmember Sommerfeld made the motion to approve payment of current bills in the amount of \$89,587.85. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

CITY STAFF REPORTS:

“At this time, the City Council will hear reports / updates on all committees or department assignments which may include, but is not limited to the following: Police Department – grant update, police report; Public Works Department – park reports, water & sewer line updates; Street Department – Street repairs/projects; City Manager & City Secretary – public information; Finance Director – financial report; Code Enforcement – progress reports on code issues.” No formal action can be taken on these items.

City Manager Gary Broz reported that the advertisement for Chief of Police has been placed and several resumes have been received; the Generator Grant is close to going out for bids; the YMCA continues to have the city pool open on the weekends; Code Enforcement is working hard towards the city’s goals for cleaning up the city; fresh granite has been placed on the Children’s Park walking trail; budget tax rate is a little down; Municipal Court is preparing for court next week. City Manager Broz noted he had been with the City of Edna for ninety (90) days and continues to march forward. **Director of Public Works Brad Ryan** stated that work will continue on the Children’s Park next week and that LNRA has been instrumental in spreading the limestone; things are moving along steady. **Water Wastewater Superintendent Justin Weber** noted that one of his crew (Brandon) had gone to work with LNRA. There will be a new employee coming on August 17th, Cippi Palacios; Jeremy Johnson may possibly be deployed again.

ADJOURN:

Before the meeting adjourned, Mayor Lance Smiga said he wanted to personally thank Chief of Police Clinton Wooldridge for time, dedication and efforts to his department and to the City of Edna.

Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Sommerfeld seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

APPROVED: _____
Lance Smiga, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Becky Miska, City Secretary