

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Edna City Council met in regular session on Thursday, February 16, 2023, 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 a moment of silence, followed by the council and audience reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilperson District 1 Cipriano Palacios, Councilperson District 2 Wayne Callis, Councilperson District 3 Chris Jackson, Councilperson District 4 Mike Dodds and Councilperson District 5 Johnny Vasquez were present, City Manager Gary Broz, Investigator Derrick Berma, Finance Director Diane Pierce, Director of Utilities Brad Ryan, Street Superintendent Andy Brzozowski and City Secretary LaSonya Robinson were also present. The minutes were recorded by City Secretary Robinson.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 2, 2023 AND FEBRUARY 7, 2023:

Councilperson Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes of the city council meeting held February 2, 2023. Councilperson Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Barbara James, John James, David Webel, Mercer

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

“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. The council may not take action on any item which has not been posted on the agenda.” Please limit-two minutes.

There were no public comments.

RECOGNIZE THE 2022-2023 EDNA COWBOYS AND THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Mayor Smiga passed on the recognizing the 2022-2023 Edna Cowboys and their accomplishments until the next meeting.

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW CITY SECRETARY SONYA ROBINSON.:

Mayor Smiga

AUTHORIZE SONYA ROBINSON TO BE PLACED ON CITY BANK ACCOUNTS:

City Manager Broz stated that Becky Miska needs to be removed and add Sonya Robinson to City bank accounts. Councilperson Jackson made a motion to approve Sonya Robinson to be placed on the City bank accounts. Councilperson Vasquez seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR A ZONE CHANGE PERMIT. ZONE IS CURRENTLY RESIDENTIAL R-2 AND THERE IS A REQUEST FOR THE PROOPERTY TO CHANGE TO COMMERCIAL. LEGAL DESCRIPTION SOUTHSIDE, BLOCK 2, LOT 1-2, PT 7-8 PT ALLEY, ACRES 2.05:

Visitor John James asks visitor John Mercer is a leasing company or Dollar General wanting to buy property from him. Mercer stated a holding company is wanting to bury property. Visitor John James stated that lights will shine in the bedroom window. St. Charles is lined with houses. Visitor John James briefly described the people that live in the area. Novian is 85. She is a retired librarian, Naspril lives on the corner she is 90 they want to live in peace and tranquility. They are wanting to cover 4 lots with concrete causing more drainage problems. There will be more noise, trash, 18-wheelers coming in and out and possibly more crime. Visitor John James states if this gets approved it needs to be more than one entrance. It will cost the city more money cause Trotwood would need to widen. Dollar General will not pay because they will not

own it. If we keep it as residential, we can have more places to live. People are looking for houses all the time. Dollar General have 1900 stores in the United States. We are thinking the city is going to get rich. James states that last year out of \$600,000.00 in taxes the portion was only \$1287.00. I strongly encourage you to build houses instead. Visitor Barbara James says treat citizens right. Edna needs housing not another Dollar General. Councilperson Callis asked if approved will the Dollar General really build. Visitor Mercer answered they will sign in March. Councilperson Jackson asked if we have a way to make them pay or help with road and drainage.

ACCEPT REPORT FROM THE EDNA POLICE DEPARTMENT ON RACIAL PROFILING STATISTICS:

Chief of Police Rick Boone states that TCOLE requires every law enforcement agency to maintain a racial breakdown of stops it makes. Chief Boone reported 893 Traffic stops 105 was black, 12 were Asian, 535 Were White, 241 were Hispanic 0 Native. Demographics for Edna are 5499.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Mayor Smiga passed on the budget amendment until the next meeting.

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

Councilperson Palacios made the motion to approve the payment of current bills in the amount of \$21,120.67. Councilperson Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

CITY STAFF REPORTS:

“At this time, City Council will hear reports / updates on all committees or department assignments which may include, but is not limited to the following: City Manager-grants, projects, public information; Finance Director-finance & department reports; Police Department-grant updates, police reports; Director of Utilities-park reports, water & sewer updates; Street Department-repairs/projects; Code Enforcement-progress reports; Jonas Titus-Vice Economic Development; City Secretary-public information.” City Manager Broz stated we are hiring in utilities, accounts payable, and streets. C.O. project with Mercer should start in the next 10 days. Golden Crescent 3.4-million-dollar grant has a twist, Victoria is not happy. Charter Commission met on Tuesday, no recommendations. Election in May District 1- contested. Will have a floodplain PowerPoint put on website.

Finance Director Diane Pierce stated that everyone has stepped up and we are getting the work done with the few we have now.

Street Superintendent Andy Brozowski stated that they cleared a tree off the road at Hanover and Erie due to the bad weather. There was a culvert collapse on Caroline. They have cleaned the street yard. Just waiting for it to dry.

Director of Utilities stated that Wayne James, Daniel, and Brain passed the Wastewater D test. Had a water leak on Carver today.

Chief of Police Rick Boone stated that Seth Prochaska is no longer employed with the City of Edna. They have been receiving applications for the open position. Assaults are up, seized \$1300. Edna Junior High has a vape outbreak and will go and speak with the kids about how bad it is. In car video is working. Lone Star Taskforce stats: Traffic stop-12,654, Pursuits-322, Bailouts-204, Illegal aliens apprehended-2,186, other related arrest-1855, engaging in organized criminal activity charges-179, smuggling of person-374, vehicles seized-258, drug seizures-196.

Councilperson Palacios recognized Joe with parks that he is doing a great job. He is not just sitting around waiting.

ADJOURN:

Councilperson Callis made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Councilperson Dodds seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

Lance Smiga, Mayor

LaSonya Robinson, City Secretary