

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Edna City Council met in regular session Thursday, April 18, 2013 in council chambers at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Joe Hermes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Councilmember Justin Bonnot, William Selders, Jean Sorensen and Maxine Price were present. Councilmember Ray Chavarria was absent. City Manager Ken Knight, City Secretary Becky Miska, Finance Director Olga Salomon, Chief of Police Clinton Wooldridge, Street Superintendent Steve Sample were also present.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 21, 2013:

Councilmember Selders made the motion to approve minutes of the city council meeting held March 21, 2013. Councilmember Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

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

VISITORS: Melissa M. Terry, CPA/Harrison, Waldrop & Uherek, L.L.P., Richard Browning, Louise Browning, Gayle Jordan, LaNora Dollar, Gene Kruppa-BEFCO, Chris Lundstrum-Jackson County Herald Tribune, Harold Wilkins, Johnny Vasquez, Velma Vasquez, Patti Lewis and Students from the Edna Junior High.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2013-05 ON RENAMING OF A CITY STREET:

Mayor Joe Hermes asked Richard Browning to step forward to the council table. Mayor Hermes addressed the audience and stated that the council wanted to thank Richard Browning for all of his to the City of Edna. Mr. Browning was presented with a plaque and a street sign which reflected the new name, Richard Browning Lane. Effective June 1, 2013 Marvin Street will be known as Richard Browning Lane.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REPORT ON THE 2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT FROM HARRISON, WALDROP & UHEREK, L.L.P., CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS:

Melissa M. Terry, CPA with the firm of Harrison, Waldrop & Uherek, L.L.P. addressed the council giving the report on the 2011-2012 fiscal year audit from Harrison, Waldrop & Uherek, L.L.P., Certified Public Accountants.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A QUIET ZONE, ENGINEER GENE KRUPPA WITH BEFCO PRESENTING:

Engineer Gene Kruppa with BEFCO was present to explain to the council the steps and cost involved in establishing a Quiet Zone in the city. Mr. Kruppa relayed that “Under the Train Horn Rule (49CFR Part 222), locomotive engineers must begin to sound train horns at least 15 seconds, and no more than 20 seconds, in advance of all public grade crossings. If a train is traveling faster than 60 mph, engineers will not sound the horn until it is within ¼ mile of the crossing, even if the advance warning is less than 15 seconds. There is a “good faith” exception for locations where engineers can’t precisely estimate their arrival at a crossing and begin to sound the horn no more than 25 seconds before arriving at the crossing. Train horns must be sounded in a standardized pattern of 2 long, 1 short and 1 long blast. The pattern must be repeated

d or prolonged until the lead locomotive or lead cab car occupies the grade crossing. The rule does not stipulate the durations of long and short blasts. The maximum volume level for the train horn is 110 decibels which is a new requirement. The minimum sound level remains 96 decibels.” Some of the steps and cost involved include performing a site survey and contacting highway and railroad officials. He said the whole process would cost the city between \$40,000-\$50,000. The Quiet Zone would be re-evaluated every three years and could possibly not re-qualify if there was an increase in accidents or traffic count. Gail Jordan and LaNora Dollar, residents of the city, noted they were not in favor of the Quiet Zone. City Manager Ken Knight, told the council they had three options: to sign a notice to proceed, do nothing, or have a meeting to get input from the community. “If we don’t meet the criteria we may not be able to do this” Knight said. “It is not a sure thing.” Mayor Hermes noted he was unsure of how to proceed. “It is too early to act we need to spend some time and think about it.”

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR CITIZENS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES TO USE THE FIRE/EMS STATION FOR A POLITICAL EVENT:

Terry Jordan representing the Citizens for Emergency Services asked the council if the Fire/EMS Station could be used for a political event to allow citizens to see the equipment and view the station. Jordan told the council the meeting would be held at the Chamber of Commerce and was organized to provide the fact on the proposed ESD3. Fire/EMS equipment will be in the lot behind the fire station during their public meeting. Councilmember Price made the motion to approve the city equipment and apparatus be put on display for the public to walk thru and tour the station on April 25th at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Selders seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION COMMITTEE FOR FUNDING FROM THE HOTEL-MOTEL TAX:

Harold Wilkins gave a report on last year’s Juneteenth Celebration and asked for the council to consider funding again this year. Mr. Wilkin’s noted this is the 5th year for the celebration events. This year’s events will include the pageant, bar-b-que cookoff, bounce house and water slide for the kids. Councilmember Price made the motion to approve funding the Juneteenth Celebration in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the Hotel-Motel Tax. Councilmember Selders seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried. Council also agreed to waive the fee and let them use the Shelby Park building for the Juneteenth pageant contingent on cleaning up afterward.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY WANTS TO DISCUSS A RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Students from the Edna Junior High School asked council to consider starting a full recycling program in the city. Pauline Negrete, vice president of NJHS, said the members of the organization cared about the environment and hoped the city would look into recycling. City Manager Knight told the NJHS representatives that the council was already considering recycling and had included that in the request for proposal sent to several waste management companies interested in providing trash services to the city.

CONSIDER PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS:

Councilmember Bonnot made the motion to approve payment of current bills in the amount of \$56,019.10. Councilmember Selders 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 updates, police report; Fire Department-grant updates, fire reports; Public

Works Department-part reports, water & sewer line updates, 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 take on these items”

ADJOURN:

Councilmember Bonnot made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Price seconded the meeting. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

APPROVED:_____

Joe D. Hermes, Mayor

ATTEST:_____

Becky Miska, City Secretary