

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Edna City Council met in regular city council meeting, Thursday, February 5, 2015 in council chambers at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Joe Hermes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Hermes, Councilmember Richard Browning, William Selders, Maxine Price, Jean Sorensen and Johnny Vasquez. Also present were City Secretary Becky Miska, Chief of Police Clinton Wooldridge, Director of Public Works Brad Ryan, Street Superintendent Steve Sample, Water Wastewater Superintendent Greg Woodring and Finance Director Olga Salomon.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 5, 2015:

Councilmember Browning made the motion to approve the minutes of the city council meeting held January 5, 2015. Councilmember Selders seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

J. Thakore-General Manager/Best Western Lone Star, Bonnie Siecko-Mr. Bar-B-Que, Tommy Yarbrough, Sherrel A. Mercer –Mercer Controls, Chris Lundstrom-Jackson County Herald Tribune and Alex Alvarez-Red, White & Bulls.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

“At this time, comments will be heard from the audience on any subject matter this is 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.”

J. Thakore – Best Western / General Manager asked the council if there was a board who decided if and when hotel/motel funds were dispersed. He offered his help in future decisions of how funds would be dispersed from hotel/motel funds.

Sherrell Mercer – Mercer Controls addressed the council commending staff for the care and maintenance that is provided to take of the city’s water wastewater equipment. Mercer went onto say that replacement and upgrades of some of the equipment would be forthcoming in the future.

PUBLIC HEARING:

a) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FROM JOE GRANADOS FOR LOT VARIANCE TO BE ISSUED FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 409 AND 411 W. CYPRESS, (EDNA, BLOCK 41, NW 2-7 AND LOT 8, ACRES .08 AND .61)

Director of Public Works Brad Ryan stated that Joe Granados was cleaning the area and wanting to put houses, but in order to do so would need lot variances.

b) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BONNIE SIECKO TO CHANGE THE ZONING OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 907 N. EAST FROM R-2 TO COMMERCIAL. (ROSEMONT, BLOCK 2, LOT PT 11-16)

Director of Public Works Brad Ryan noted that Mr. Bar-B-Que Restaurant is requesting to change the zoning of the property located at 907 N. East. Councilmember Browning stated that he had owned and sold the property years ago. At that time of the sale, the property was to be re-zoned to commercial.

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

a) SPECIFIC USE PERMIT / LOT VARIANCE-JOE GRANADOS

Councilmember Browning made the motion to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission's recommendations for a Specific Use Permit for lot variances for properties located at 409 and 411 W. Cypress. Councilmember Price seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

b) ZONING CHANGE – BONNIE SIECKO

Councilmember Browning made the motion to approve zoning change of the property located at 907 N. East to commercial. Councilmember Price seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM TEXAS BATTLE BUDDIES d.b.a. RED, WHITE & BULLS FROM THE CURRENT CITY'S BUDGETED HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUNDING:

Mayor Hermes noted this request was submitted, reviewed and budgeted for during budget workshops last year. Alex Alvarez addressed the council on behalf the Texas Battle Buddies d.b.a Red, White & Bulls. Mr. Alvarez thanked the council for their tremendous support. It was noted that the rodeo benefits veterans from every branch of service and this year will include first responders. Councilmember Price made the motion to approve the request from Texas Battle Buddies d.b.a. Red, White & Bulls from the current city's budgeted hotel/motel tax funding in the amount of \$1,000.00. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE JACKSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & AGRICULTURE FROM THE CURRENT CITY'S BUDGETED HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUNDING FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE 2015 FISCAL YEAR:

Mayor Hermes noted this request was submitted, reviewed and budgeted for during budget workshops last year also. Councilmember Sorensen made the motion to approve the request from the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture from the current city's budgeted hotel/motel tax funding in the amount of \$7,500.00. Councilmember Selders seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE FLAG CITY OPRY FROM THE CURRENT CITY'S BUDGETED HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUNDING FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE 2015 FISCAL YEAR:

Mayor Hermes noted this request was also submitted, reviewed and budgeted for during budget workshops last year. Councilmember Browning made the motion to approve the request from the Flag City Opry from the current city's budgeted hotel/motel tax funding for the first half of the 2015 fiscal year. Councilmember Price seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER CITY COUNCIL TO ORDER A GENERAL ELECTION FOR MAY 9, 2015 AND AUTHORIZE MAYOR HERMES TO SIGN THE ELECTION ORDER:

Mayor Hermes noted that this year's election is to elect Mayor, Councilmember District 1 and Councilmember District 2 to represent the City of Edna. Councilmember Price made the motion to approve the city council to order a general election for May 9, 2015 and authorize Mayor Hermes to sign the election order. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER THE CITY OF EDNA ORDINANCE NO. 2015-01 CALLING FOR A GENERAL ELECTION TO ELECT MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 1 AND COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 2 AND PROVIDING FOR THE TIME, PLACE AND MANNER FOR HOLDING A CITY OF EDNA ELECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF SAME:

Councilmember Browning made the motion to approve City of Edna Ordinance No. 2015-01 calling for a General Election to elect Mayor, Councilmember District 1 and Councilmember District 2 and providing for the time, place and manner for holding a City of Edna election; and providing for notice of same. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

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

Chief of Police Clinton Wooldridge submitted the department's annual report on racial profiling statistics. The report shows 1,709 traffic stops were made in 2014, resulting in 1,624 citations issued and 85 arrests of those stops; 22 were Asian, 210 were African-American, 552 were Hispanic and 925 were white. According to the report, the racial makeup of Edna is Asian 27; Black 806; Hispanic 1,871; Middle Eastern 1; Native American 25; and White 2,217. Chief Wooldridge said the report does not distinct between stops made on Edna residents or on people from out of the area, which in his opinion, removes the information that makes the report useful in identifying any profiling problems that may exist. Councilmember Browning made the motion to accept the Racial Profiling Statistics Report as presented by the Edna Police Department. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

CONSIDER 2-1-1 PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF THE REGIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY:

Mayor Hermes stated the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission asked the city recognize "2-1-1" which is the toll-free statewide dialing code that links individuals to critical health and human services available in their area. Councilmember Price made the motion to approve the 2-1-1 Proclamation recognizing the value of regional information and referral services to our community. Councilmember Browning seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON MARTIN LUTHER KING CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT:

Councilmember Selders stated his district was in need of culvert replacement in order to have proper drainage. After discussion, Councilmember Browning made the motion to install three pipe culverts as designed and presented by engineers as amended with headwall and rip rap downstream. Councilmember Price seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

CONSIDER PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS:

Councilmember Browning made the motion to approve payment of current bills in the amount of \$294,909.32. 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-park reports, water & sewer line updates, street repairs/project; City Secretary & City Manager-public information; Finance Director-financial report; Code Enforcement-progress reports on code issues. No formal action can be taken on these items".

Finance Director Olga Salomon and Street Superintendent Steve Sample everything is running smoothly. **Director of Public Works Brad Ryan** reported work it being done at Shelby Park in preparation for baseball season; painting has been completed and ready for the first scrimmage. **Water Wastewater Superintendent Greg Woodring** noted city crews have been working on a couple of sewer lines. Mercer Construction has worked on one of the lift chambers that was in need of repairs at the sewer plant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT CODE §551.74 (FORMERLY EXECPTION 2 (g) SETS OUT THE FOLLOWING:

TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE OR DISMISSAL OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE:

At this time, the council chamber was cleared. Council went into executive session at 7:30 p.m.

TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went back into open session at 8:00 p.m. Council will begin interview process of city manager candidates on February 10, 2015.

ADJOURN:

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

APPROVED: _____
Joe Hermes, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Becky Miska, City Secretary