

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Edna City Council met in regular session, Thursday, May 11, 2017 in council chambers at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Joe Hermes presided over the meeting. Councilmember Wayne Callis, Johnny Vasquez, Lance Smiga and Maxine Price. City Manager Don Doering, City Secretary Becky Miska, Finance Director Olga Salomon, Director of Public Work Brad Ryan and Chief of Police Clinton Wooldridge.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 6, 2017:

Councilmember Callis made the motion to approve the minutes of the city council meeting held April 6, 2017. Councilmember Price seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO THE FAMILY OF COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 1 DOUG KELLEY:

The family of Doug Kelley were presented at plaque thanking/honoring Mr. Kelley for his service to his district and the City of Edna.

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR THE MAY 6, 2017 GENERAL ELECTION:

MAYOR JOE HERMES AND COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 2 WAYNE CALLIS

City Secretary Miska administered Oath of Office to Mayor Joe Hermes and Councilmember District 2 Wayne Callis.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO APPOINT A MAYOR PRO-TEM FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JUNE 1, 2017 TO MAY 31, 2018:

Mayor Hermes appointed Maxine Price as Mayor Pro-Tem. Councilmember Smiga made the motion to approve the appointment of Maxine Price as Mayor Pro-Tem for another one year term. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Chris Lundstrom-Jackson County Herald Tribune, James Franklin, Velma Vasquez Cippi Palacios, Adrian Palacios, Dustin Muncrief and Patrick Brzozowski.

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, the council may not discuss or take action on any item which has not been posted on the agenda.” Please limit comments to two (2) minutes.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER POSSIBLE ACTION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mayor Hermes noted the corporation was established to make the city more viable, but after it was set up nothing happened. Patrick Brzozowski, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee under the Jackson County Chamber, addressed the asking the council to active the corporation and appoint a committee to plan future growth. Brzozowski noted the county has struggled to manage economic development and it's been a challenge to find communication between the groups such as the cities, county and LNRA. In 2010 the Jackson County Industrial Foundation ceased operations and rolled under the umbrella of the Chamber. He went onto say that it has been difficult to be productive with the changing of directors. Brzozowski added that the new Edna Economic Corporation could focus on things like community pride. He asked council to appoint citizens to the committee who would be willing to invest time and longevity. Mayor Hermes said “the only funding available for the Edna Economic Corporation would be

through state sales tax. He noted that back in the 80s the people chose to take a portion of the sales tax to offset the property taxes. The city could take 1/8 of that which would be about \$50,000 annually, but then property taxes would have to be stepped up by that much. We would have to find out how much the tax rate can change to offset that \$50,000. The first step is to get the corporation active. Council will soon start working on a new budget so we will see what we are able to do. We will need to choose people to serve on the committee that will keep on it and see that it happens.” Councilmember Smiga made the motion to activate the Economic Development Committee. Councilmember Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO BUILDING & STANDARDS COMMISSION:

City Manager Doering noted that Evelyn Callies was previously appointed to the Building & Standards Commission in 2015 but her work schedule has not allowed her to attend the meetings nor has she been sworn in. Therefore, there is a vacancy to be filled. Mayor Hermes stated that Pat Brzozowski is interested and willing to serve on the Building & Standards Commission. Councilmember Price made the motion to approve appointing Patrick Brzozowski to the Building & Standards Commission. Councilmember Smiga seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON A REQUEST FROM JACKSON COUNTY FOR ASSISTANCE WITH DISPATCH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT:

City Manager Doering reported that Judge Dennis Simons had spoken to him a couple of weeks ago about the upgrades with the dispatch system and the need for assistance with the cost. Doering stated that the cost to the City is for \$15,000 for a two (2) year period and that the City could make two payments of \$7,500. Chief of Police Wooldridge noted that the current consoles and tower are not compatible. Wooldridge went onto say that the County does all the dispatching for the City. Councilmember Price made the motion to pay \$15,000 in two payments to Jackson County for assistance with dispatch capital improvements. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MAY 7-13, 2017 AS HURRICANE AWARENESS WEEK:

Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to approve the proclamation designating May 7-13, 2017 as Hurricane Awareness Week. Councilmember Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MAY 20-26, 2017 AS NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK:

Councilmember Callis made the motion to approve the proclamation designating May 20-26, 2017 as National Safe Boating Week. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. R-2017-03 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EDNA, TEXAS FINDING THE AEP TEXAS INC.'S APPLICATION TO AMEND ITS DISTRIBUTION COST RECOVERY FACTORS TO INCREASE DISTRIBUTION RATES WITHIN THE CITY SHOULD BE DENIED; FINDING THAT THE CITY'S REASONABLE RATE CASE EXPENSES SHALL BE REIMBURSED BY THE COMPANY; FINDING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS RESOLUTION IS PASSED IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW; REQUIRING NOTICE OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE COMPANY AND LEGAL COUNSEL:

City Manager Doering reported the council is requested and needs to pass the resolution to deny rate increases. Councilmember Price made the motion to approve Resolution No. R-2017-03 a resolution of the City of Edna, Texas finding the AEP Texas Inc.'s application to amend its distribution cost recovery factors to increase distribution rates within the city should be denied; finding that the city's reasonable rate case expenses shall be reimbursed by the company; finding that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law; requiring notice of this resolution to the company and legal counsel. Councilmember Smiga seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

CONSIDER PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS:

Councilmember Price made the motion to approve payment of current bills in the amount of \$302,835.84. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE §551.074 – TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE OR DISMISSAL OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE:

At this time, Mayor Hermes asked everyone to exit the council chambers exception of Cippi Palacios and Dustin Muncrief. Mayor Hermes explained to the gentlemen the council would interview them and make their decision at the next meeting. Both gentlemen stepped out of the chamber council and waited to be interviewed.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ANY ACTION AS RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At this time, the council returned to open session at 8:00 p.m. Mayor Hermes noted that both were outstanding candidates. During the interviews Mr. Palacios stated he would not have as much time as he would like to devote to council if selected due to his jobs and children's school activities. Mr. Palacios said that Dustin Muncrief would be an excellent councilmember. Palacios did say that if the city ever needed volunteers that he would be there willing to help. Mayor Hermes reported that Dustin Muncrief will be the Councilmember for District 1. The Council welcomed him.

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; 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.

ADJOURN:

Before the meeting was adjourned Mayor Hermes stated the next council meeting will be held June, 1, 2017. Councilmember Callis 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

