

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

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

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD MAY 16, 2013:

Councilmember Price made the motion to approve minutes of the city council meeting held May 16, 2013. Councilmember Bonnot 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: Lenora Dollar, Gail Jordan, Mary Beth LaPier, Donny Sparks, Dorothy Parker, Skipper Muncrief, Wesley Atkinson, Mike Reeves-Republic Services, Frank Hartman, Twinkie Harter, David Webel, Shirley Odell, Harry Odell, Mark Taylor, Nancy Schaffer, Rockne Schaffer, Velma Vasquez, Johnny Vasquez Jr., Tomi Sue Ferrell, Esther Garza, David Garza, Martha Lopez, Ismelda Lopez, Lewis Jackson, Martha Gene Porter, Linda Traylor Browning, Betty Brickam, Jane Monuz, Pat Fiat, Gloria Muniz and Amos Zatopek.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QUIET ZONE:

After hearing the concerns, council decided to move ahead with the process of making Edna a Quiet Zone. City Manager Ken Knight told council he would contact BEFCO Engineering to find out what the city needed to do. He reassured the council that the process could be stopped at any time if they felt it was going to be too costly. Gene Kruppa with BEFCO told council at the April 18 meeting that the city could pay as much as \$50,000.00 to meet the requirements for a Quiet Zone and would have to be re-evaluated on a regular basis to see if it still qualifies. “We could find out we no longer qualify and they could start sounding the horns again,” Knight said. He added that the trains would still be sounding their horns at the road crossing going to Shelby Park, because it was located in the county and the county would have to establish a Quiet Zone to include that road. Mr. Knight said public safety is the city’s first concern and reassured council the train operators would still blow the horn if they saw someone on or near the tracks. Councilmember Sorensen said she had concerns about the Quiet Zone. Sorensen said, “there are lots of people concerned about the safety of this and what if the cross arms and lights malfunction?” Mayor Hermes added, “Some of us remember the old arms (at intersections) that acted up and resulted in serious accidents. We’ve been told they are much more operable and safer.” Councilmember Price made the motion to advise the City Manager to send a letter of intent to accomplish implementation of the Quiet Zone. Councilmember Bonnot seconded the

motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE THE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH REPUBLIC SERVICES:

City Manager Knight reported city residents will see a decrease in their trash bill. Republic Services will provide blue waste receptacles bearing the Edna Cowboy logo. After an initial proposal of providing recycling at a central location, council requested curbside recycling with separate bins, which could be implemented by January 1st. Councilmember Price made the motion to approve the contract with Republic Services. Councilmember Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE CITY'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD:

City Manager Ken Knight noted that the City is supposed to annually choose a newspaper of record. Knight went onto to say that the Jackson County Herald Tribune is weekly while the Victoria Advocate is daily. Councilmember Price made the motion to approve the Jackson County Herald Tribune as the City of Edna's newspaper of record. Councilmember Bonnot seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE CHANGE TO ALLOW THE CITY MANAGER TO GRANT MINOR VARIANCES TO THE EDNA CODE OF ORDINANCES:

Councilmember Bonnot made the motion to table this item. Councilmember Chavarria seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING ADDING LED LIGHT FIXTURES TO A BILLBOARD ON HWY 59:

Mark Taylor, representative of SignAD, Ltd. stated they own and operate a billboard structure on the north line of Highway 59. Mr. Taylor asked the council to consider SignAd, Ltd. permission to convert (1) face of the sign, Top Right Hand Read, currently displaying from static to an LED module. This conversion would not add extra sides to the existing structure and would be in compliance with all TxDot regulations and requirements. Councilmember Price made the motion to approve or deny permission to convert one face of the sign located on the north line of Highway 59 next to the motel to LED light fixtures. Councilmember Bonnot seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

CONSIDER PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS:

Councilmember Bonnot made the motion to approve payment of current bills in the amount of \$74,969.88. Councilmember Chavarria 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 reports; Fire Department-grant updates, fire reports; Public Works Department-park 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 taken on these items."

City Manager Knight reminded the council that the next council will be June 27th; Staff is being compiling information for the new budget and should be presented the first week of July. Texas Municipal League (TML) meeting to be held June 21st in Refugio; the City of Edna is continuing it's clean up efforts by paying an off duty jailer to supervise the trustees. **Director of Public Works-Brad Ryan** reported street repairs begin on Monday morning and will take 2-3 weeks to complete.

ADJOURN:

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

APPROVED:_____

Joe D. Hermes, Mayor

ATTEST:_____

Becky Miska, City Secretary