

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Edna City Council met in regular city council meeting, Thursday, May 7, 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, Williams Selders, Maxine Price, Jean Sorensen and Johnny Vasquez. City Manager Don Doering, City Secretary Becky Miska, Finance Director Olga Salomon, Street Superintendent Steve Sample, Director of Public Works Brad Ryan, Water Wastewater Superintendent Greg Woodring, EMS Director Loyd Chase and Chief of Police Clinton Wooldridge.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 16, 2015:

Councilmember Browning made the motion to approve minutes of the city council meeting held April 16, 2015. Councilmember Selders seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Chris Lundstrom-Jackson County Herald Tribune, David Webel, Velma Vasquez, Wayne Callis, Gene Kruppa-BEFCO Engineers and Steve Van Manen-Harrison, Waldrop & Uherek, L.L. P., Certified Public Accountants

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.”

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REPORT ON THE 2013-2014 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT FROM THE FIRM OF HARRISON, WALDROP & UHEREK, L.L.P., CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS:

Steve Van Manen addressed the council outlining the 2013-2014 fiscal year audit and answered questions as presented. Councilmember Price made the motion to accept the report on the 2013-2014 fiscal year audit from the firm of Harrison, Waldrop & Uherek, L.L.P., Certified Public Accountants. Councilmember Browning seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE JCYR ASSOCIATION FOR FUNDING FROM HOTEL-MOTEL FUNDS:

This item was tabled.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE SADDLE UP FOR ALZHEIMER’S FOR FUNDING FROM THE HOTEL-MOTEL TAX (CURRENT FISCAL YEAR):

Mayor Hermes noted this was a budgeted item in the amount of \$200.00. Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to approve the request from the Saddle Up For Alzheimer’s for funding from the hotel-motel tax in the amount of \$200.00. Councilmember Selders seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE LETTER FROM FRA (FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION):

Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to accept the Notice from the FRA (Federal Railroad Association). Councilmember Selders seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO PROCEED WITH THE NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE QUIET ZONE:

Gene Kruppa with BEFO Engineers reported to council that the City of Edna should take action to accept the letter from the Federal Railroad Administration dated April 3, 2015 approving the Quiet Zone application submitted by the City of Edna for crossings 746637E, 746640M, 746641U, 746642B and 746643H. Kruppa went onto say that all after all crossing are brought to code, the Quiet Zone should be effective August 1, 2015. The City of Edna has to have their part done by July 1st in preparation for August 1st. The FRA (Federal Railroad Association) wants the crossings ready to go at least 30 days prior to the Quiet Zone to be in effect. All crossings in the city will have non-traversable medians installed. Hickory Street will become one-way and several businesses will lose part of their parking lots. When safety measures are in place, the trains will pass through the town minus the horn blowing. Kruppa cautioned that the engineer still has the discretion to blow the horn if there is a safety issue. "If the speed of the train increase, the city gets complaints, there is increased traffic or a traffic accident, the Federal Railroad Association can revoke the Quiet Zone and the city will have to requalify," Kruppa said. Councilmember Price made the motion to accept the letter from the Federal Railroad Administration dated April 3, 2015 approving the Quiet Zone, submit the NOE (Notice to Establish) and proceed with estimate costs not to exceed \$50,000.00 to purchase posts and necessary signage. Councilmember Selders seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS FUNDING OF THE JCESD #3:

Mayor Hermes noted the city is losing 300-400 annually. Councilmember Browning added that the city is losing the same amount as in past years, nothing has changed. Browning went onto say the city would never be able to fix roads, etc if we keeping running an EMS. Mayor Hermes asked Councilmembers Sorensen, Price and Vasquez if they had something to add and they did not at this time. Mayor Hermes asked Councilmember Selders and Selders replied "we said we would give it a try and we gave it a good try." Citizen David Webel asked council if there is an avenue for federal funding. Mayor Hermes replied there is none available.

CONSIDER PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS:

Councilmember Browning made the motion to approve payment of current bills in the amount of \$244,759.22. 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 update, police report; Fire Department-grant updates, fire reports; Public Works Department-park reports, water & sewer line updates; Street Department-repairs/projects; 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."

ADJOURN:

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

APPROVED: _____
Joe Hermes, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Becky Miska, City Secretary