

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Edna City Council met in regular session, Thursday, September 21, 2017 in council chambers at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Joe Hermes presided over the meeting. Councilmember Dustin Muncrief, Wayne Callis, Johnny Vasquez and Lance Smiga were present. Councilmember Maxine Price was absent. City Manager Don Doering, City Secretary Becky Miska, Finance Director Olga Salomon, Director of Public Works Brad Ryan, Chief of Police Clinton Wooldridge and Street Superintendent Steve Sample were also present.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING AND THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AUGUST 29, 2017:

Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to approve minutes of the budget workshop/special meeting and the city council meeting held August 29, 2017. Councilmember Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Velma Vasquez, Bertha Brooks

HEARING OF VISITORS:

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

HEAR CONCERNS FROM BERTHA BROOKS:

Bertha Brooks addressed the council regarding the former George Washington Carver Elementary School property now known as the George Washington Carver Community Center located on 12.95 acres on Martin Luther King Street in Edna. The property was purchased from the Edna Independent School District in 2008 for \$100. Ms. Brooks noted the possibilities the center could be to the community if there were funds available. One of the obstacles is the amount of taxes that are due on the property. Ms. Brooks asked if the City would remove the taxes owed and future taxes. The council listened to Ms. Brooks concerns. Afterwards Mayor Hermes stated the City of Edna could not remove any taxes owed nor future taxes. Hermes stated she would need to address this with the Appraisal District.

When the George W. Community Center was purchase the property in 2008 it was assessed at \$663.770. Members include Bertha Brooks, Norma Renfro and Rufus Diggs. In 2009 the taxes due on the property were \$34,631. The new owners were unable to pay the taxes and contacted the taxing entities asking for the taxes to be removed. None of the entities were able to accommodate the request.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER HALLOWEEN ON MAIN ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017 AND THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MAIN STREET FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

City Manager Doering noted this is an annual event. *Halloween On Main* creates a safe environment for children to trick or treat. Councilmember Smiga made the motion to approve the temporary closure of Main Street on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 in order to hold *Halloween On Main* from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Councilmember Muncrief seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EDNA AND THE EDNA YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION:

City Manager Doering noted that is a yearly agreement and there are no changes to the agreement. Councilmember Callis made the motion to approve the agreement between the City of Edna and The Edna Youth Football Association. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT / REAPPOINTMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE:

Mayor Hermes stated that Julio Espinosa is the current municipal court judge and is doing an excellent job. Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to approve reappointing Julio Espinosa as the Municipal Court Judge. Councilmember Muncrief seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER APPROVING A PROCLAMATION IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL COURT WEEK, NOVEMBER 6-10, 2017:

Councilmember Muncrief made the motion to approve the proclamation in support of Municipal Court Week, November 6-10, 2017. Councilmember Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS / REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

Councilmember Callis made the motion to appoint Barnell Rawls to serve on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS / REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD:

Mayor Hermes asked that this item be tabled. Hermes stated he would make the appointments / reappointments by the end of the month.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS / REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE BUILDING & STANDARDS COMMISSION:

This item was tabled until the next council meeting.

CONSIDER PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS:

Councilmember Callis made the motion to approve payment of current bills in the amount of \$213,004.15. Councilmember Smiga seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

CITY STAFF REPORTS:

City Manager Don Doering noted he had several items to report: **1)** He had address the area municipal service representative for Republic Services in regards to forced majeure. Doering went onto say that Director of Public Works Brad Ryan and himself met with Mike Reeves. Republic Services gave a proposal to remove debris on Monday. **2)** Mr. Doering stated he had gone to the courthouse and researched the deed for George Washington Carver. **3)** The city received a refund on utilities from TCAP in the amount of \$674.06. **4)** Our previous City Attorney Pam Guenther prepared a letter to release funds on the Country Club Estate to Mr. Prihoda. The city was given the \$912 of interest by Mr. Prihoda. **5)** **Finance Director Olga Salomon** noted her office has been preparing year-end files. **Director of Public Works Brad Ryan** stated that he and city staff has picked of 15,000 cubic yards of limbs and brush over the past 12 days. The abundance of limbs and brush were from the recent Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Ryan noted that the staff has been excellent and have worked around the clock. **Chief of Police Clinton Wooldridge** reported that National Night Out will be held Tuesday, October 3rd from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Chief Wooldridge asked the council to consider closing one block of Ed Linn during that time. Wooldridge noted the event get bigger each year.

ADJOURN:

Before adjourning the meeting City Manager Doering noted that the next regular city council meeting will be October 5th but several of the council will be attending the TML Conference. Councilmember Callis made the motion to adjourn the meeting, cancel the October 5th meeting which would make the next regular council meeting to be held on October 19th. Councilmember Smiga seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

APPROVED: _____
Joe Hermes, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Becky Miska, City Secretary