

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Edna City Council met in regular session Thursday, April 17, 2014 in council chambers at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Joe D. Hermes, Councilmembers William Selders, Maxine Price, Jean Sorensen and Johnny Vasquez. Councilmember Bonnot was not present. City Manager Ken Knight, City Secretary Becky Miska, Clinton Wooldridge-Chief of Police, Brad Ryan-Director of Public Works, Olga Salomon-Finance Director and Steve Sample-Street Superintendent were also present.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 3, 2014:

Councilmember Price made the motion to approve minutes of the city council meeting held April 3, 2014. Councilmember Selders seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Melissa Terry - Harrison, Waldrop & Uherek, L.L.P., Marcus Farquhar, Vance Mitchell, Mike Reeves-Republic Services, Velma Vasquez, Chris Lundstrum-Jackson County Herald Tribune and Vicki Hessong.

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.”

PUBLIC HEARING:

a) **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FROM MARCUS FARQUHAR FOR A USED CAR LOT TO BE ISSUED FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 201 ED LINN. LEGAL DESCRIPTION: EDNA, BLOCK 4, LOT 9-1, ACRES 0.64:**

Marcus Farquhar was present to answer any questions council may have.

b) **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FROM LITTLE FLOWER COLUMBUS CLUB FOR AN OUTDOOR PAVILION FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF ED LINN AND BOIS D' ARC. LEGAL DESCRIPTION: WILLIAMS AND BRAUNHOLZ, LOT 1-2-4-7-8:**

Vance Mitchell was present on behalf of The Little Flower Columbus Club to answer any questions council may have.

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

City Manager Ken Knight reported the Planning & Zoning Commission met on April 8th at which time they voted to approve both requests.

a) SPECIFIC USE PERMIT – MARCUS FARQUHAR / USED CAR LOT

Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to approve the request for a Specific Use Permit by Marcus Farquhar for a Used Car Lot as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission. Councilmember Price seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

**b) SPECIFIC USE PERMIT – LITTLE FLOWER COLUMBUS CLUB /
OUTDOOR COOKING PAVILION**

Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to approve the request for a Specific Use Permit the Little Flower Columbus Club for an outdoor cooking pavilion as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission. Councilmember Price seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REPORT ON THE 2012-2013 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT
FROM THE FIRM OF HARRISON, WALDROP & UHEREK, L.L.P., CERTIFIED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS:**

Melissa Terry addressed the council noting the City received a clean letter for the 2012-2013 fiscal year audit. Mayor Hermes noted the audit would be on the next council agenda for approval.

**DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING STREET AND
DRAINAGE PROJECTS:**

City Manager Knight noted at the last meeting there was some discussion at to what street and drainage projects we would need from KSA Engineers in certain areas. “After meeting with KSA Engineering, Brad Ryan, Steve Sample and myself, we essentially determined there are 3 areas that we believe that professional engineering would be required to make sure that we make sure we do this in a way that we don’t create difficulty. The first area is what we call Area One: It is essentially Martin Luther King, we want to make sure because is a long flat stretch of the city and that when we improve drainage along that it is actually going to drain that entire area, that it is going up to Cedar down to Third, the side streets and ultimately get the water down to what is called East Ditch. We want to make sure our depth and size of our pipes are correct. It is believed we do need additional engineering on that. The second are is Area Two which is Vanderbilt: this is an area that currently drains well but because of some street work we want to do on there we would like to start the engineering as we have discussed. As I believe we have discussed I believe we must do. What we are going to add some bypass for the high school that would ultimately go down to Vanderbilt. We want to make sure that while we are working on streets now and that drainage will be sufficient for whatever work we are going to do. I would hate to see us work on the streets and in a year or two have to go back to when we do the bypass and have to do and any upgrades there. The last area is Area Three: Gilbert Street to include Asbeck to Dry Creek because that again is a long flat stretch. As Mrs. Sorensen will tell you that the road has sloughed off into the ditches to the point of practically making it a one lane road. As the ditches have sloughed off citizens have moved their mailboxes in closer to the road. The road is in really bad shape. We need to make sure when we start at Alba back to Gilbert and up that we have sufficient depth so that when we do the work rebuilding the foundation of the road, put in culverts and do ditches that we’re deep enough at Alba that we are actually going to drain Gilbert Street. Those three areas are actually going to be seeking professional engineering. As you can see by the scope you have a budget area. The total cost for these three areas for engineering to include field visit, drainage analysis and proposed drainage improvements is \$7,620.00 out of your total budget of close to \$230,000 - \$240,000 for streets, drainage and engineering. We will then compare those with the street repair and improvement list that Brad and Steve are going to report on.” Director of Public Works Brad Ryan distributed a list of proposed street and drainage projects asking the council if there were any questions or

comments. There were no questions on the list presented. Councilmember Selders stated “before we go any farther with this drainage thing are we ever going to ever admonish the manager for the misuse of that money and where it went to? I’m prepared to hear what he has to say before city council.” Mayor Hermes replied “Mr. Selders I don’t really know. I think that is...” Mayor Hermes was stopped in mid sentence. Councilmember Selders said “he specifically asked for money. We gave it to him for one thing and he went and did something else.” Mayor Hermes asked if he could explain further. Councilmember Selders stated “that when the city manager came and asked for money for one thing from East Street starting from the track on with exception of what you asked for at Division Street. Money wound up being spent all over town and he didn’t come back before the city council to ask for an exception for that. I think there is something wrong with that.” Hermes replied “I think that action would be up to the city council. Lord knows that anything that we can do to help solve something in town definitely helps the entire city.” Selders replied “that’s not the point and you know it.” Hermes noted he did not recall the exact areas. Selders asked “for this item to be tabled and minutes presented up from that meeting. That is not the right thing to do with city money.” City Secretary Miska was asked to research the minutes that were referenced in this discussion and this item be placed on the next agenda. Councilmember Price made the motion to get started on the street repairs and improvements according to the list presented. Councilmember Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM JUSTIN BONNOT, COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 1:

Mayor Joe Hermes noted that Justin Bonnot has built a new home outside the city limits and has turned in his letter of resignation. Councilmember Sorensen made the motion to accept the letter of resignation from Justin Bonnot, Councilmember District 1. Councilmember Selders seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

APPOINT A REPLACEMENT FOR THE REMAINING TERM OF COUNCIL DISTRICT 1. (MAY 2015):

Mayor Hermes stated Richard Browning had approached him stating he would like to finish out Justin Bonnot’s unexpired term. Councilmember Price made the motion to appoint Richard Browning for the remaining term of Council District 1 (May 2015). Councilmember Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON APPOINTING A COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE JACKSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE:

Mayor Hermes stated Johnny Vasquez would like to serve as the City of Edna’s representative to the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. Councilmember Price made the motion to appoint Johnny Vasquez as council representative to the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. Councilmember Selders seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO APPROVE CUSTOM FLAG DESIGN FOR THE FLAG CITY PLAZA:

City Manager Knight distributed renderings of the proposed design. Mayor Hermes and Councilmember Price asked for the rendering to reflect wider planks for the fence, possibly outer poles to be wider, no tapering on the fence. For the sign to be in stone instead of brick. Councilmember Selders asked where the service seals were going to be located. It was noted they will be on the back of the Welcome to Edna sign. City Manager Knight was asked to get price quotes on design #1, design #2 and possibly the city seal eliminating the green background. No action was taken on this item.

ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR SPECIAL PROJECT:

City Manager Knight reported that there were no other donations for the special project.

CONSIDER PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS:

Councilmember Price made the motion to approve payment of current bills in the amount of \$138,772.40. Councilmember Vasquez 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/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 Ken Knight answered questions regarding the Quiet Zone noting there should be a report regarding their response on the April 20th agenda. Flag City Kookers will be at the Fiddlers Frolics in Hallettsville this weekend. **Director of Public Works Brad Ryan** reported that the Texas Department of Transportation wants to take out the yellow blinking light at the intersection of State Hwy 111 and Division. TxDot would like to know if there are any objections from the City of Edna. Council replied they did not have any objections to the light being taken down. **City Secretary Becky Miska** reported Early Voting for the May 10th election will begin Monday, April 28th.

ADJOURN:

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

APPROVED: _____
Joe D. Hermes, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Becky Miska, City Secretary

