

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Edna City Council met in regular session Thursday, May 19, 2016 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 presided over the meeting. Councilmembers Wayne Callis, Johnny Vasquez, Jean Sorensen and Maxine Price were present. Councilmember Smiga was sworn in at this meeting. City Manager Don Doering, City Secretary Becky Miska, Finance Director Olga Salomon, Chief of Police Clinton Wooldridge, Street Superintendent Steve Sample and Water Wastewater Superintendent Greg Woodring were also in attendance.

VISITORS: Chris Lundstrom-Jackson County Herald Tribune, Cynthia M. Airhart, Donny Sparks, Velma Vasquwz, Jimmy Barnes, Diane Metcalf, Jimmy Metcalf, Gus Westhoff, Martha Gene Myers, Wayne Myers, Mike Myers, Sara Smiga, Sandra Smiga, Ken Smiga, William Selders, Melissa Terry-Harrison, Waldrop & Uherek, L.L.P., Certified Accountants, David L. Webel, Tange Hamilton and Jerry Hamilton.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 21, 2016:

Councilmember Callis made the motion to approve the minutes of the city council meeting held April 21, 2016. Councilmember Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR THE MAY 7, 2016 GENERAL ELECTION:

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 3 MAXINE PRICE – COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 4 LANCE SMIGA – COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 5 JOHNNY VASQUEZ

At this time, City Secretary Becky Miska administered Oath of Office to elected officials: Councilmember District 3 Maxine Price – Councilmember District 4 Lance Smiga – Councilmember District 5 Johnny Vasquez.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO APPOINT MAYOR PRO-TEM FOR A 1-YEAR TERM BEGINNING JUNE 1, 2016 TO MAY 31, 2017:

Mayor Joe Hermes stated he wished to reappoint Maxine Price as Mayor Pro-Tem for the term beginning June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017. Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to approve the reappointment of Maxine Price as Mayor Pro-Tem for a year term beginning June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017. Councilmember Callis 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, 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.

There were no comments.

PUBLIC HEARING:

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR THE PLACEMENT OF MANUFACTURED HOMES BY DONALD SPARKS ON CHURCH STREET. LEGAL DESCRIPTION: MARVIN 1ST, BLOCK 1, LOT 7-8 & 50 FT. 5-6, ACRES 0.46:

Cynthia Airhart, resident of Edna who lives next to the proposed area, said homes that are lived in by their owners are usually better maintained than those lived in by renters. She also said that manufactured homes are classified as mobile homes in the state of Texas and depreciate at a higher rate. “The homes that these mobile homes are going next to are some of the oldest homes in Edna,” she said. “One of the homes was moved in from Lake Texana. Another home was built in 1885 that housed soldiers in World War II. How is it going to help putting in manufactured homes?” Airhart went onto to say that the historical significance of these homes will be lost if the manufactured homes are placed there. “If you allow manufactured homes to be placed there, when my kids graduate from school, we are leaving.” Mrs. Airhart said the average tax value on Sparks’ manufactured homes is \$20,000 which does not bring much

tax revenue for the city. “How does that compare to the \$3,000 in taxes we pay?” she asked. Airhart said “I just think that Edna is losing its history and our kids are losing the history?” Councilmember Price defended Mr. Sparks by saying “Donald Sparks has not put one single thing in this town of any type that he has not kept top notch. When he puts it in it is kept up. I have to give him props for that. I’ve heard he has done the same thing in Ganado. I see both sides and I don’t know how you make everybody happy.” Resident Mike Myers also spoke regarding his parent’s home that is located in the area as well. He reminded council of a manufactured home that council allowed to be placed in the neighborhood that was never lived in by the original owner. He suggested another location there be another location for the manufactured homes. “You have one person here that wants to do something and you have a number of people here who are unopposed to it. No one will want to buy a house as a historical home if there are manufactured homes there.” Myers stated. Myers continued saying that people that own historical homes are just caretakers of those properties who will pass them along someday. He asked council to honor their wished by not putting manufactured homes in their neighborhood. Donald Sparks addressed the council stating that his intention was to maintain the manufactured homes with the upkeep as he has all his properties. Sparks noted he too will be passing his business and properties down to his children.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR THE PLACEMENT OF MANUFACTURED HOMES BY DONALD SPARKS ON CHURCH STREET:

Mayor Joe Hermes called for the council’s wishes. Councilmember Wayne Callis made the motion to approve the request for a Specific Use Permit for the placement of manufactured homes by Donald Sparks on Church Street. Councilmember Johnny Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REPORT ON THE 2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT FROM THE FIRM OF HARRISON, WALDROP & UHEREK, L.L.P., CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS:

Melissa Terry addressed the council noting that the City of Edna received a clean opinion. After a review of the 2014-2015 Mayor Hermes asked that the council take the audit home, look over and it will be on the next council meeting agenda for approval.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE SADDLE UP FOR ALZHEIMER’S FOR FUNDING FOR THE CURRENT CITY’S BUDGETED HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FOR THE 2016 FISCAL YEAR:

Mayor Hermes noted this is a budgeted item in the amount of \$250.00. Councilmember Callis made the motion to approve the request from the Saddle Up for Alzheimer’s for funding from the current city’s budgeted hotel/motel tax for the 2016 fiscal year. Councilmember Smiga seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MAY 15-21, 2016 AS HURRICANE AWARENESS WEEK:

Councilmember Price made the motion to approve the proclamation designating May 15-21, 2016 as Hurricane Awareness Week. Councilmember Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MAY 21-27, 2016 AS NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK:

Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to approve the proclamation designating May 21-27, 2016 as National Safe Boating Week. Councilmember Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

SET DATES FOR THE 2016-2017 ANNUAL BUDGET WORKSHOPS:

Council set the dates for the 2016-2017 annual budget workshops for Monday, June 6th at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday, June 8th at 5:30 p.m. Both will be held in council chambers.

CONSIDER PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS:

Councilmember Callis made the motion to approve payment of current bills in the amount of \$127,217.73. 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; Public Works Department-park reports, water & sewer line updates; Street Department-street repairs/project; 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 Don Doering reported great things are going on in the City of Edna. Finance Director Olga Salomon stated she will be working to prepare budget packets for council. Street Superintendent Steve Sample noted that for the last four days city crews have been working on drainage and pipe installation on Moody Street. Crews have also been spraying ditches to help control the weeds. Water Wastewater Superintendent Greg Woodring reported that his department has been working on valves and boxes as preventive measures for upcoming street work. City Secretary Miska noted that she had received a phone call from a gentleman praising the City of Edna for the Flag City Plaza. He went onto say that he would like information on contractors, etc. because they are planning to construct one outside of Wharton.

ADJOURN:

Councilmember Callis 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