

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Edna City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, in council chambers at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Lance Smiga called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The council stood for a moment of silence, followed by the council and audience reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilperson District 1 Cipriano Palacios, Councilperson District 2 Wayne Callis, Councilperson District 3 Chris Jackson, Councilperson District 4 Mike Dodds and Councilperson District 5 Johnny Vasquez were present, City Manager Gary Broz, Chief of Police Rick Boone, Finance Director Diane Pierce, Director of Utilities Brad Ryan, Street Superintendent Andy Brzozowski and City Secretary Becky Miska were also present. Minutes were recorded by City Secretary Miska.

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED COUNCILPERSON DISTRICT 1 – CIPRIANO “CIPPI” PALACIOS:

City Secretary Becky Miska administered Oath of Office to newly appointed Cipriano Palacios as Councilperson District 1.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 16, 2022:

Councilperson Callis made the motion to approve the minutes of the city council meeting held November 16, 2022. Councilperson Jackson seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Randy Janek-CivilCorp, Jonas Titus-Victoria Economic Development Corporation, Velma Vasquez

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

“During the council meeting, as each item is addressed, the council shall also allow the audience to speak on any subject matter that is posted on the agenda in accordance with HB 2840. The council may not take action on any item which has not been posted on the agenda.” Please limit-two minutes.

There were no public comments.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO AWARD BID FOR THE 2021 CERTIFICATE OF OBLIGATIONS FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT:

City Manager Gary Broz asked Randy Janek with CivilCorp reported that the bids received came in much higher and over budget than expect. The base bid was a wide variety. Councilperson Jackson made the motion to approve awarding the bid to Traylor & Associates, Inc. Councilperson Dodds seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2022-18 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDNA CREATING A FENCE ORDINANCE WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE TYPE OF MATERIAL SUITABLE TO BE USED FOR FENCING AND TAKE ANY ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY:

City Manager Broz stated that the city needs an ordinance that spells out specifically what can and cannot be used as fencing material in the city limits. Councilperson Callis asked if after passing this ordinance can anything be done with existing fence that is unsightly. Broz responded unfortunately those would be grandfathered in. Councilperson Jackson made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2022-18 an ordinance of the City of Edna creating a fence ordinance with special attention to the type of material suitable to be used for fencing. Councilperson Dodds seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION CONSIDER THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2022-19 AN ORDINANCE CALLING FOR A GENERAL ELECTION AND ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR SAID ELECTION TO BE HELD SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023; THE GENERAL ELECTION SHALL BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING MAYOR AND COUNCILPERSONS TO REPRESENT DISTRICT 1 AND DISTRICT 2 AND PROVIDING FOR THE TIME, PLACE AND MANNER FOR HOLDING A CITY OF EDNA ELECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF SAME AS REQUIRED BY LAW:

City Secretary Miska reported that this year's election will be for Mayor, Councilperson District 1 and Councilperson District 2. Ordinance No. 2022-19 begins the election process for the May 6, 2023 general election. Councilperson Vasquez made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2022-19 an ordinance calling for a general election and establishing procedures for said election to be held Saturday, May 6, 2023. The General Election shall be for the purpose of electing Mayor and Councilpersons to represent District 1 and District 2. Councilperson Dodds seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE BRICK PROJECT FOR COWBOY PRIDE SCULPTURE AREA:

City Manager Broz briefed the council on the possibility of engraved bricks to be sold and placed around the Cowboy Pride Sculpture area. More information will be forthcoming.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE:

City Manager Broz noted that Monica Foster has served as the representative for the City of Edna but will now be serving as the County's ex-officio. Mayor Smiga stated that he had spoken to Monica Foster and thanked her for your representation. Mayor Smiga went onto to say that if anyone on the council did not wish to serve that he felt representation should be someone in-house. Councilperson Vasquez noted that he had previously served for two years. No other council spoke up. Mayor Smiga asked if the council would consider appointing Sonya Robinson as the City of Edna's representative. Councilperson Dodds made the motion to appoint Sonya Robinson as the City of Edna's representative to the Central Appraisal District Board. Councilperson Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

City Manager Broz noted there is a vacancy on the board due to the recent appointment of Cippi Palacios as Councilperson District 1. Mayor Smiga asked that the council consider appointing Dennis Barton to the board. Councilperson Dodds made the motion to appoint Dennis Barton to the Planning & Zoning Commission Board. Councilperson Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. R-2022-18 PROCLAIMING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH:

City Manager Broz stated that previously a proclamation was approved but a resolution is now needed instead. This resolution is important when applying for grants. Councilperson Dodds made the motion to approve Resolution No. R-2022-18 Proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Edna. Councilperson Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS REPAIRS TO DIVISION LIFT STATON AND TAKE ANY ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY:

City Manager Broz noted that Director of Utilities Brad Ryan would give the report on the Division Lift Station. Mr. Ryan reported that the Division Lift Station is one of the city's three lift stations and the largest. Broz added that this was not a budgeted item but had to be done with a budget amendment. Councilperson Jackson made the motion to approve the needed repairs to Division Lift Station in the amount of \$12,000. Councilperson Dodds seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS CONTRIBUTION OF \$587.05 IN ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO CDBG-DR PAYMENT NO. 20-065-032-C109 TO BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND ENGINEERING FEE CAP AND TAKEN ANY ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY:

City Manager Broz reported on the \$587.05 in additional funds. Councilperson Dodds made the motion to approve the additional funds of \$587.05 be contributed to CDBG-DR Payment No. 20-065-032-C109 to be used for administrative and engineering fee cap. Councilperson Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Mayor Smiga stated there were no budget amendments for this meeting.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS:

Councilperson Jackson made the motion to approve the payment of current bills in the amount of \$22,015.59. Councilperson Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

CITY STAFF REPORTS:

“At this time, City Council will hear reports / updates on all committees or department assignments which may include, but is not limited to the following: City Manager-grants, projects, public information; Finance Director-finance & department reports; Police Department-grant updates, police reports; Director of Utilities-park reports, water & sewer updates; Street Department-repairs/projects; Code Enforcement-progress reports; Jonas Titus-Vice Economic Development; City Secretary-public information.” No formal action can be taken on these items.

City Manager Gary Broz reported that the construction crew is 40-50 feet short on Ash Street; they are hoping to finish up the project in the very near future.

CDBG Grant for Kerr & Ward is moving along fast and should be finished next week.

Myself, Chief of Police Boone and Mayor Smiga attended a workshop/meeting with Jackson County regarding broadband.

Four radios will be needed; \$24,000 – \$26,000 not approved in the grant funds.

Work on Gilbert Road will begin on Monday.

The Police Department has moved in the new office and functioning well. Monday & Tuesday’s move went very well.

Jaime Liepe, John Gonzales and Joseph Navarro have done a great job getting the decorations up around town.

The last zoom call for Stage 1 for the software was completed today.

The Employee Holiday Dinner will be held on Tuesday, December 13th at Shelby Hall.

The process of getting the lights installed at the Cowboy Pride Plaza is getting closer, waiting on a couple more quotes for installation.

Attended the Caterpillar Summit in Victoria, met with several from a variety of areas this a positive movement to Victoria County and Jackson County.

Positive grant application on Gayle, Jackson and Miracle Drive; asking for more information.

Next week, December 7th-8th there will be activity at the water tower when the weather station is installed.

Tomorrow at 8am the Sensus Group will be in Edna to install the main system for the new water meters.

Finance Director Diane Pierce reported all is going well in the utility department.

Street Superintendent Andy Brzozowski stated that city crews have been busy filling pot holes, cleaning ditches on Trotwood and busy cleaning up the city yard on Kleas Street.

Director of Utilities Brad Ryan noted that water leaks continue to occur but not as many as there have been. Two water leaks were repaired this week.

The crews repaired the sewer stoppage at the dog pound.

The antique fire truck may not be in the Miracle on Main Christmas Parade; it has a leaking radiator and hopefully it will be repaired in time.

Chief of Police Rick Boone stated that he was super proud of his department. Magnum Services donated their time and crews to help out with the move and assembling shelves.

IT was at the office all day on Monday and finished up on Tuesday.

Bozart rekeyed the lock at the new location.

The carport awning turned out good; thanks were given to Andy Brzozowski and crew for getting that taken care of.

Along with the move the department has kept busy: investigation into the death of an eight-month-old.

Officers have responded to several calls at the apartments at 306 Colorado for fights; three females have been arrested.

An officer had to go to the emergency room to be cleaned up and treated after being spit on by a bloody attacker during Monday morning early hours.

There was an incident last night where an illegal immigrant fell off the top of an 18-wheeler that he had been hiding and traveling on.

Animal Control Officer Susan Strickland will be out of the office for six weeks due to back surgery.

Possible new recruit from the Police Academy graduated on December 7th. She is an Edna graduate and wants to serve her community.

Jonas Titus – Victoria Economic Development reported on the Caterpillar Supply Summit and stated this was a positive move for the community. Approximately 210 attended from around the world. It was announced that the 988 Front-end Loader is now in production.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION §551.074; PERSONNEL MATTERS:

DISCUSSION REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS:

The council went into executive session at 6:40 p.m.

ADJOURN:

Councilperson Dodds made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Councilperson Jackson seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

Lance Smiga, Mayor

Becky Miska, City Secretary