

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Edna City Council in regular session on Thursday, September 15, 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 the moment of silence, followed by the council and audience reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilperson District 2 Wayne Callis, Councilperson District 3 Chris Jackson and Councilperson District 5 Johnny Vasquez were present. Councilperson District 1 Dustin Muncrief and Councilperson District 4 Mike Dodds were absent. City Manager Gary Broz, Finance Director Diane Pierce, Investigator Derrick Bermea, Director of Utilities Brad Ryan and Jonas Titus-Victoria Economic Development were also present. Minutes were recorded by City Secretary Becky Miska.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 1, 2022:

Councilperson Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes of the city council meeting held September 1, 2022. Councilperson Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Matt Glaze – Urban Engineering, Jessica Coleman-Jackson County Herald Tribune, 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 any action on any item which has not been posted on the agenda.” Please limit – two minutes.

There were none.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2022-04 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDNA, TEXAS ADOPTING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF EDNA, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1, 2022; AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 REVISING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022. APPROPRIATING THE VARIOUS AMOUNTS THEREOF; REVEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE:

City Manager Gary Broz asked if there were any questions. There were none. Councilperson Jackson made the motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2022-04 an ordinance of the City of Edna, Texas adopting the budget of the City of Edna, Texas for the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2022; and ending on September 30, 2023 revising the budget for the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2022. Appropriating the various amounts thereof; revealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith and declaring an effective date. Councilperson Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDNA, TEXAS FIXING THE TAX RATE AND THE TAX LEVY AND LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE CITY OF EDNA, TEXAS FOR THE YEAR 2022-2023 REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE:

Councilperson Callis made the motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2022-05 an ordinance of the City of Edna, Texas fixing the tax rate and the tax levy and levying ad valorem taxes for the City of Edna, Texas for the year 2022-2023 repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith and declaring an effective date. Councilperson Vasquez seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

REVIEW BIDS FOR THE CITY OF EDNA TxCDBG CONTRACT AND CONSIDER AWARDDING A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO J&R CONTRACTING SERVICES, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$77,190.00 CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE STATEMENT MODIFICATION NO. 1 BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

Matt Glaze with Urban Engineering was present to report to the council on the construction contract bid from J&R Contracting Services, LLC in the amount of \$77,190. Councilperson Jackson made the motion to approve awarding the bid for the construction contract to J&R Contracting Services LLC in the amount of \$77,190.00 contingent upon approval of performance statement modification No. 1 by the Texas Department of Agriculture. Councilperson Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE JACKSON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR BOARD FOR FUNDING FROM THE CURRENT CITY'S BUDGETED HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FOR THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR:

City Manager Broz noted that the budgeted amount is \$5,000.00. Councilperson Callis made the motion to approve the request from the Jackson County Youth Fair Board for funding in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the current city's budgeted hotel/motel tax for the 2022 fiscal year. Councilperson Vasquez seconded the motion. Councilperson Jackson abstained from voting. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER MASTER FEE SCHEDULE AND TAKE ANY ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY:

City Manager Broz referenced the updates to the present Master Fee Schedule. Councilperson Jackson made the motion to approve the Master Fee Schedule as presented. Councilperson Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT(S) TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

City Secretary Miska reported on the terms that were expiring on the Planning & Zoning Commission Board. City Manager Broz asked the council to consider appointments / reappointments but not to do so at this meeting. To think it over for the upcoming meeting.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT(S) TO THE BUILDING & STANDARDS COMMISSION:

City Secretary Miska reported on the terms that were expiring on the Building & Standards Commission Board. City Manager Broz asked the council to consider appointments / reappointments but not to do so at this meeting. To think it over for the upcoming meeting.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT(S) TO THE EDNA HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD:

Mayor Smiga listened to Councilperson Callis's concerns. It was noted that the Edna Housing Authority Board appointments / reappointments are the Mayor's appointments. Mayor Smiga will be taking concerns into consideration.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

City Manager Broz asked this item to be passed over.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER RE-SCHEDULING THE OCTOBER 6TH COUNCIL MEETING TO OCTOBER 13TH DUE TO THE TML CONFERENCE AND THE JACKSON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR WEEK:

City Manager Broz noted that two of the council will attending the Texas Municipal League Conference in San Antonio the week of the next council meeting. The remaining council have responsibilities to the Jackson County Youth Fair that same week. Councilperson Jackson made the motion to approve re-scheduling the October 6th council meeting to October 13th. Councilperson Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

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

City Manager Broz reviewed the bills presented to the council for consideration of payment in the amount of \$124,322.78. Councilperson Callis made the motion to approve payment in the amount of 25,696.00. Councilperson Jackson 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, community involvement updates; Director of Utilities-park reports, water & sewer updates; Street Superintendent-department updates repairs/projects; Code Enforcement-progress reports; Jonas Titus-Victoria Economic Development Corporation; City Secretary-public information.” No formal action can be taken on these items.

City Manager Gary Broz noted that with the recent rains grass is growing and we are enforcing code violations for tall grass, weedy lots and persons blowing grass clippings into the city streets.

Code Enforcement Samantha Idlett has been busy sending letters to those violating city ordinances; she is currently preparing 188 letters; five citizens will appear in court on Sept. 9th for violations;

additional letters sent for someone who reconnected their own water services and to a couple of citizens who are living trailer trailers which against city ordinance also.

Municipal Court Clerk Alecia Sparkman has entered 48 citations; has eight set up on the court docket to go before the Judge and fourteen letters have sent for the next court date in October.

The Judge and City Attorney have been stricter on those with violations.

The renovation at the Edna Police Department is coming to completion and hoping to begin the move at the end of September and relocated by October 1st. Fiber and telephone installation are being coordinated; Construction and touch up painting are winding down.

Shelby Hall is under upgrades and renovation. The building was in desperate need of repairs.

Parks Foreman Mike Gasch has given his resignation and will be leaving the City of Edna to go to work for the City of Hallettsville.

Auditors will be in City Hall on Monday, September 19th.

Working on mitigation money through the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission.

Gilbert Road project is scheduled to begin somewhere between October 1st and October 10th.

City crews are continuing to spray for mosquitoes.

Contracts have been signed and purchase of new water meters are moving ahead.

Software paperwork has been completed and submitted.

In receipt of a letter from Texas Disposal Services regarding a rate increase; this will be on the next council agenda.

Spoke to contractor and demolitions that are in progress should be completed by the end of the month.

The budget is tight for the end of the fiscal year.

Finance Director Diane Pierce stated that she has been busy working on year-end.

Christy has been working on inventory and the girls in the utility office have been very busy.

Street Superintendent Andy Brzozowski reported city crews are spraying for mosquitoes, mowing, patching poles and working on projects as they arise.

Director of Utilities Brad Ryan noted that water leaks continue but have started to decrease. Crews have been mowing and weeding around the lift stations.

Investigator Derrick Bermea reported that officers have been speaking with people that are mowing and blowing the clippings out into the street. Warnings are being given at this time.

Watch Guard Cameras have come in and will be utilized soon.

New firearms are in, and the department has been busy rotating the old firearms out.

The Stonegarden Grant is in full operation.

The department has been busy going thru old records that are no longer needed; these can be possibly boxes for destruction or processed for records retention.

Jonas Titus-Victoria Economic Development noted that he will be presenting a draft of incentive

Guidelines in October to council for review.

Project NEMO: VEDC is actively working a two phase project with Global Location Strategies: Phase 1 – 25 acres, 64 jobs and \$80 m capex; Phase 2 – 300 acres, 800 + jobs and \$2.8 B capex.

VEDC submitted sites at POV and Calhoun County Port for Phase 1 and Alcoa for Phase 2.

Project crunch time for Blue Ammonia Project #3: VEDC began working with a development firm

based in Houston on this project: Intermittent Blue and Green Ammonia

Caterpillar Supplier Summit: VEDC and Caterpillar Victoria Staffs are co-organizing 3 day large supplier summit for November 28 – 30; anticipating up to 250 attendees; VEDC Staff is working on an agenda, budget and sponsorship opportunities.

Rare Earth Element Prospect – Project Roo; VEDC Staff is working on Rare Earth’s mining company that has an agreement with the US Gov to build commercial Light Rare Earth’s separation plan in the US.

Nursing Initiative: VEDC is working with stakeholders to share information about a potential new initiative to bring a new college and nursing clinical training program to the area.

ADJOURN:

Councilperson Jackson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

APPROVED: _____
Lance Smiga, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Becky Miska, City Secretary