

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Edna City Council met in regular session on Thursday, March 21, 2019 in council chambers at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Joe Hermes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem / Councilmember District 2 Wayne Callis, Councilmember District 1 Dustin Muncrief, Councilmember District 3 Rick Boone, Councilmember District 4 Lance Smiga and Councilmember District 5 Johnny Vasquez. City Manager Don Doering, Chief of Police Clinton Wooldridge, Director of Public Works Brad Ryan and Finance Director Olga Salomon. Minutes were recorded by City Secretary Becky Miska.

VISITORS: PJ Ulbricht, Velma Vasquez, David L. Webel, Ethan Carrasco-YMCA Sports & Aquatics Director, Glenda Specht, Harlan J. Specht, Sue Quinn, Pat Tally and Jessica Coleman

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, the City 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.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 21, 2019:

Councilmember Boone made the motion to approve the city council meeting held February 21, 2019. Councilmember Muncrief seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

HEAR UPDATE FROM COURTNEY MERCER REGARDING THE JACKSON COUNTY FARM TO TABLE GALA:

Courtney Mercer was not present.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER YMCA OF THE GOLDEN CRESCENT POOL MANAGEMENT CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF EDNA:

Ethan Carrasco-YMCA Sports & Aquatics Director addressed the council. Carrasco noted some minor changes to the contract. Several of the councilmembers questioned the new YMCA Safe Pool Rules. It was noted these are the rules that the YMCA complies with at each pool that they operate. Mayor Hermes stated that if children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by a guardian it is going to limit a lot of children that this may be there only summer pastime. Mr. Carrasco stated this is for the safety of the children. Councilmember Muncrief made the motion to approve the YMCA of the Golden Crescent Pool Management Contract with the City of Edna. Councilmember Boone seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM JR ASSETS LLC REGARDING ABANDONING THE 75' ROAD RIGHT-A-WAYS BETWEEN CITY BLOCKS 78, 99 AND 98; CITY BLOCKS 98 AND 79; CITY BLOCKS 79 AND 80; CITY BLOCKS 98 AND 97 THAT RUN BETWEEN NORTH COLORADO AND NORTH TRINITY. ABANDONMENT IS REQUESTED FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT:

Matt Riehs was present to address the city council and answer any questions they may have. Riehs stated that the land is undeveloped with undeveloped roads. His plans are to replat and make five sites. His home will be on a three acre site and then he will develop two other tracts for additional modular homes. Councilmember Callis made the motion to approve the request from JR Assets LLC to abandon undeveloped roads that run between North Colorado and North Trinity. Councilmember Boone seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE JUNETEENTH COMMITTEE FOR FUNDING FROM THE CURRENT CITY'S BUDGETED HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FOR THE 2019 FISCAL YEAR:

Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to approve the request form the Juneteenth Committee for funding from the current city's budgeted hotel/motel tax for the 2019 fiscal year in the amount of \$2,000. Councilmember Smiga seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CONSIDER PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS WITH FERAL CATS & STRAY ANIMALS:

P.J. Ulbricht addressed the council as spokes person for a number of downtown merchants that the back of their businesses face the alleyway. Mr. Ulbricht stated it started off with a couple of ladies feeding a few cats behind our offices. Not it has grown to 10-12 cats. I'm not the only having a problem. I'm the spokesperson for the other business owners who feel the same way as me. We have to make people stop feeding stray cats. If you love them so much, take them home. Don't feed them behind businesses. Ulbricht said he mows and weedeats behind three buildings along Main Street and cat feces gets thrown all over the place. Ulbricht noted there is the health aspect of the feral cats. What if someone gets sick and wants to blame it on the cats then a lawyer gets involved. People need a penalty on feeding feral cats or it will never stop.

DISCUSS AND HEAR CONCERNS FROM GLENDA SPECHT REGARDING FERAL CATS; TAKE ANY ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY:

Glenda Specht spoke on behalf of the feral cats. She said she understood Mr. Ulbricht's position, but there would always be strays. Specht said God put us all here and we all have a purpose. Cats help with rats, mice and insects. Every cat my husband and I have is from the alleyway. We take them, spay and neuter them. I want Edna to be known as a friendly and compassionate place. Mrs. Specht introduced Pat Talley from the Trap, Neuter and Return of Victoria, who told council there was a better way to handle feral cats. Mrs. Talley noted that cats are suited to outdoor living and millions of cats are living outside will find a source of food. It is not an easy problem to deal with and is unique to different areas. The best way to trap, neuter and release. It ends the breeding cycle and stops the reproducing issues. If you remove the cats it creates a vacuum and more cats move in. Talley noted that grants are available to help with the costs of spaying and neutering the cats, but it takes someone who wants to dedicate the time to the cause. Harlan Specht said he and Glenda were originally feeding more than 20 cats out behind Cowboy BBQ on N. East Street. Spay and neuter came in and fixed 23 cats and now, we only have about 4 left. Jessica Coleman, a local wildlife and a member of the Jackson County Happy Tails said she could help trap and transport feral cats to get them fixed. Mayor Joe Hermes remarked that without a concerted effort nothing would happen. Councilman District 1 Dustin Muncrief told Specht and Coleman the city would be working on an ordinance. Muncrief said he would like you guys to start a non-profit. From the city's side we need to create an ordinance to protect our residents and business owners. Specht replied give us some time to start spaying and neutering.

The City Manager was directed to place this on the agenda after information was compiled to begin writing an ordinance.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-2019-03 COMMITTING THE CITY OF EDNA TO 25% MATCH IF CDBG-DR FUNDS DO NOT BECOME AVAILABLE AND WHERE THE FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED FROM:

City Manager Doering reported the State of Texas will pay 75% for a generator from the CDBG-DR funds and if funds do not become available the City of Edna must commit to a 25% match. Councilmember Muncrief made the motion to adopt Resolution No. R-2019-03 committing the City of Edna to a 25% match if CDBG-DR funds do not become available and note where the funds will be allocated from. Councilmember Callis seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO APPOINT AN ELECTION JUDGE FOR THE MAY GENERAL ELECTION:

City Secretary Becky Miska noted that Chris Lundstrom has been the Election Judge for several years and asked the council to appoint her as the Election Judge for the May General Election. Councilmember Muncrief made the motion to appoint Chris Lundstrom as the Election Judge for the City of Edna May General Election. Councilmember Boone seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

CONSIDER PAYMENT OF CURRENT BILLS:

Councilmember Callis questioned #122 USTI-Professional Services & Support. Finance Director Olga Salomon stated is the annual fee for the city's software for billing, meters and accounts payable. Councilmember Vasquez made the motion to approve payment of current bills and bond payments in the amount of \$343,434.45. Councilmember Callis 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/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 Don Doering reported that City Hall is experiencing a few personnel changes; Family Dollar has set their temporary electric service pole. **Director of Public Works Brad Ryan** stated that the water department currently has more licensed operators than the city has had in the last four years. **Finance Director Olga Salomon** noted that the auditors will possibly be an agenda item in April. **Chief of Police Clinton Wooldridge** reported that the new patrol car will possibly be here next week. Officer Chastain will be leaving the department and moving to Florida.

**HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE §551.074:
PERSONNEL MATTERS: CITY MANAGER EVALUATION:
HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE §551.072;
DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY:**

At this time, Mayor Hermes asked the visitors to clear the room so that the council could go into executive session. Council went into closed door executive session at 7:50 p.m.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION(S) ON EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council came back into executive session at 9:07pm

ADJOURN:

Councilmember Callis made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Muncrief seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

APPROVED: _____
Joe Hermes, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Becky Miska, City Secretary