



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Surigao del Sur
MUNICIPALITY OF CAGWAIT

Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIAN BAYAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAGWAIT, SURIGAO DEL SUR, HELD AT THE BARANGAY UNIDAD COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTER, UNIDAD, CAGWAIT, SURIGAO DEL SUR ON AUGUST 13, 2026.

Present:

See attached attendance sheet

I. CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Officer Melchie C. Tuscano, Municipal Vice-Mayor, called the public hearing to order at 8:30 in the morning.

II. NATIONAL ANTHEM

The national anthem was sung through an audio visual presentation.

III. INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Ms. Haivy Lamela.

IV. OPENING MESSAGE

Hon. Joseph E. Estrada, Punong Barangay of Barangay Unidad, delivered his welcome message to the attendees of the public hearing. In his message, he warmly welcomed all participants and expressed his sincere appreciation to the Sangguniang Bayan for choosing Barangay Unidad as the venue for the conduct of the public hearing.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Alan A. Cabrera, Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan, acknowledged the representatives of the six (6) barangays, as well as the invited guests and resource persons from various agencies and offices.

VI. MESSAGE

Municipal Vice-Mayor Melchie C. Tuscano thanked the general public for their presence and encouraged everyone to listen attentively to the presentation of the eleven (11) proposed ordinances. He emphasized that proposed ordinances imposing fees and penalties must first be presented to the public through a public hearing before finalization. He also encouraged the attendees to raise questions and seek clarifications regarding the proposed measures and to follow the official Facebook page of the Sangguniang Bayan of Cagwait for updates and announcements.

VII. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

- 1. An Ordinance Establishing the Integrated Preemptive/Forced and Emergency Evacuation System in response to disasters in the Municipality of Cagwait, Province of Surigao del Sur imposing penalties and violation thereof and for other purposes.
Authored by Hon. Guardiano C. Lozada**

Hon. Bernard V. Loma presented the first proposed ordinance and briefly explained its key provisions and objectives. He emphasized that the measure aims to ensure the safety of the constituents during calamities such as floods, tsunamis, and earthquakes. He also explained the

three (3) alert levels and their corresponding colors as indicators of the severity of the situation. He further highlighted the provision imposing a penalty on individuals who refuse to comply with a forced evacuation order, as well as the specific roles and responsibilities of each barangay during calamities and emergency situations.

After the presentation, the open forum followed.

Barangay Kagawad Jed Taripe greeted the body and shared that the evacuation center in Barangay Unidad is located in the upper-level area. He noted that some residents prefer to remain in their homes because they believe they are safer there than in the evacuation center. He also expressed concern about how barangay officials can enforce forced evacuation, especially when evacuation centers have limited capacity. He further highlighted the insufficient transportation to bring evacuees to designated evacuation centers. Although the barangay has available vehicles, these are not enough to accommodate all evacuees. He shared that during previous evacuations, LGU vehicles also assisted in transporting residents. However, the process remained challenging due to the large number of evacuees. By the time the LGU vehicles arrived, the transportation of evacuees was already nearly completed.

Hon. Loma answered based on his personal view. For example, if we are not yet able to establish a safe evacuation center, that would be the responsibility of the barangay. Of course, we cannot implement the evacuation if our evacuation center is not safe either. We have seen the situation, so we will have to make the necessary arrangements. As for transportation, there are vehicles from the barangay and the LGU. There can also be augmentation from other agencies. The barangay may call for additional vehicles if needed, since the available vehicles are already on standby.

Punong Barangay Felix Vasquez said that his concern was the distribution of relief goods. He asked whether the barangay still needs to coordinate with or seek permission from the LGU before distributing the relief goods.

Hon. Loma clarified that the distribution referred to is after a calamity, such as when the GMA Foundation or other private organizations want to provide assistance. He explained that these organizations are expected to coordinate with the LGU, as they most of the time do not coordinate with the LGU.

Mrs. Avelina Taripe raised a concern regarding evacuation. She said that in Barangay Unidad, the evacuation area is on their land. However, their concern is the cleanliness of the comfort rooms, as users do not properly clean them. She suggested that the municipality should support the barangay, particularly in identifying or establishing a suitable location for an evacuation center.

Hon. Loma thanked Mrs. Taripe for allowing the use of her area. He suggested that the concern be discussed by the Barangay Council to address the problem, or that it could be referred to the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC).

There being no further comments, the discussion was concluded.

- 2. An Ordinance providing for the streamlined guidelines for the Issuance of Permits, Licenses, Clearances and Certificates for Business and Non-Business related transactions in all offices/departments of the Municipal Government of Cagwait, pursuant to the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 2019-001, series of 2019, entitled: Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 11032, otherwise known as the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018", and for other purposes.**

Authored by Hon. Guardian C. Lozada

Hon. Guardian Lozada made the presentation and explained the content of the said ordinance.

After the presentation, the open forum followed.

No comment.

3. **An Ordinance declaring all water bodies, coastal resources and other tributaries as biodiversity and conservation areas of the Municipality of Cagwait for the purpose of protection and preservation, and imposing penalties for violations thereof and for other purposes.**

Authored by Hon. Guardiano C. Lozada

Hon. Amelito E. Estrada presented the proposed ordinance and explained its contents and salient provisions, particularly the prohibited acts and penalties for violations.

After the presentation, an open forum was conducted.

Barangay Kagawad Juanito Antoniano expressed his concern regarding the penalty provision. He asked whether a ₱1,000.00 penalty for the first offense could be imposed immediately even without a prior warning. He suggested that a warning should be given first.

Hon. Estrada answered that this public hearing itself serves as a warning to the public. He stated that the matter will be further discussed and considered during their deliberation in the session, and noted the concern.

Punong Barangay Raymunda Prado stated that in Arangasa Island, she is hoping that a schedule will be established for the collection of their garbage so that their waste can be collected regularly.

Hon. Estrada thanked Punong Barangay Prado for raising the concern. He stated that the Mayor already has a program addressing the matter, and that a coastal clean-up in Arangasa is scheduled for tomorrow.

Mr. Rogelio Nozares stated that his concern was regarding the reservoir. He said that the surrounding rainforest should be included in the protected area and that the cutting of trees in those areas should be prohibited. He noted that AURWASA has an insufficient water supply and expressed that this was his suggestion to help protect the watershed.

Presiding Officer Tuscano said that, as he remembered, the provisions concerning watershed management had already been incorporated into the ordinance, including the prohibition of such activities. He then requested Mr. Arthur Luengas, MENR Officer, to provide additional input.

Mr. Arthur Luengas greeted the attendees. With regards to the question about the watershed, we are currently finalizing the Watershed Management Plan, which may be completed this month. Despite the plan not yet being finalized, our municipality is making efforts to preserve our watersheds. In fact, we have hired four (4) Bantay Gubat personnel to monitor and protect our forest areas. Trees in the sources of our water should not be cut. Fortunately, our rivers still have flowing water, while in other places, some rivers have already dried up. This means that there are still trees in the surrounding areas; without water, it may mean that there are no longer large trees in the mountains. Second, our Bantay Gubat personnel were deployed to Cagburao after receiving information that trees were being cut in the area. With regards to the garbage in Arangasa, we have already discussed this with the Mayor and the other concerned offices. Last week, we were supposed to conduct an IEC in Arangasa to establish a schedule for garbage collection and discuss the proper way of collecting the waste. However, due to a conflict in schedule, it did not push through and may be conducted next week. After that, we will have a regular schedule for garbage collection, especially since the Tourism Office also has plans to include Arangasa in tour packages. Tomorrow, there will be a coastal clean-up in Arangasa.

Mrs. Avelina Taripe said that last year, there were reports that someone from Mat-e was allegedly causing trouble by putting poison at the AURWASA water reservoir here in Unidad. She said that the AURWASA water consumers were affected and concerned by the incident.

Hon. Estrada said that it is one of the prohibited acts and that it carries a corresponding penalty.

Mr. Arthur Luengas added that, with regards to AURWASA, they have requested seedlings for the reforestation of the watershed. We are providing them for free, and they have already requested seedlings about four times. The LGU's program is not limited to monitoring and protecting the watershed; we also provide ready-to-plant seedlings for watershed reforestation.

There being no further comments or concerns, the discussion was concluded.

- 4. An Ordinance Institutionalizing the Safer Municipality Program of the Municipality of Cagwait, Surigao del Sur, pursuant to DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2026-029 and the Approved TSP Resolution No. 1117-26, providing guidelines for its implementation, appropriating funds therefore and for other purposes.
Authored by Hon. Arthur M. Sanchez**

Hon. Arthur M. Sanchez presented the fourth proposed ordinance and briefly discussed its key provisions and salient features. Following the presentation, an open forum was conducted to allow the attendees to raise questions and concerns.

Mr. Rogelio Nozares stated that in Barangay Unidad, the most prevalent act is the violation of Republic Act No. 9344, or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006. He suggested that the Municipal Government conduct Information Education Campaign (IEC) activities in schools or directly with parents. Based on what he has observed, some parents hesitate to discipline their children because they fear that they may be reported to the DSWD if they physically punish them. He noted that the problem is particularly serious among high school students. He also stated that the PNP personnel in Cagwait is depleted and suggested requesting additional personnel or force multipliers. He further suggested to have police visibility in schools.

Presiding Officer Tuscano said, I do believe that the IEC is ongoing, as there is already a group assigned to conduct the campaign and they are going around. I may also request our PNP Chief to address the concern regarding police visibility.

PNP Chief Sugian greeted. He stated that the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) regularly conducts lectures in schools. Unfortunately, no matter how much we try to instill fear of the law, discipline must start at home. He urged parents to discipline their children, as this responsibility cannot be left to the police, and police officers are also prohibited from physically disciplining children because they may face legal consequences. He emphasized that parents, not teachers or PNP personnel, should be primarily responsible for disciplining their children. Regarding police visibility in schools, he stated that police personnel are present every morning. However, we are not allowed to enter the school premises due to an existing memorandum. Police personnel may conduct inspections only when authorized; otherwise, our role is limited to police visibility. While classes are ongoing, PNP personnel are not allowed to roam around the school premises except during authorized activities. He also noted that schools may have their own security guards, whose salaries are included under the Local School Board.

There being no further comments or concerns, the discussion was concluded.

- 5. An Ordinance Regulating the Serving, Sale, Distribution, and Promotion of Carbonated Soft Drinks and High-Sugar Juices in Government Offices, Government-operated Canteens, and during official meetings, trainings, seminars, conferences, and other similar activities, and Promoting healthier beverage options in support of Healthy Eating, Nutrition, and Wellness initiatives in the Municipality of Cagwait, Surigao del Sur.
Authored by Hon. Joanne Socorro L. Ubongen**

The proposed ordinance was presented by Hon. Rogen P. Tabugoc and explained its contents and salient provisions, particularly the prohibited acts and the corresponding penalties for each offense.

After the presentation, an open forum was conducted to allow the attendees to raise questions, concerns, and clarifications.

Mrs. Avelina Taripe stated that the proposed ordinance is beneficial. She raised a concern regarding the use of cellophane and suggested prohibiting its use in stores, as it contributes to the accumulation of waste.

Hon. Tabugoc clarified that the ordinance does not include provisions prohibiting the use of single-use plastics or cellophane. However, he noted the concern for consideration.

Presiding Officer Tuscano added that there is already an existing ordinance prohibiting the use of single-use plastics, although its implementation remains a concern. He then clarified that the proposed ordinance should not be taken to mean a total prohibition on soft drinks, as the matter will still be discussed during the plenary session.

With no further comments or concerns raised, the discussion was concluded.

- 6. An Ordinance Strengthening the Implementation of Executive Order No. 51, otherwise known as the "Philippine Milk Code of 1986", Promoting, Protecting, and Supporting Breastfeeding, Regulating the marketing, promotion, distribution, and donation of Breastmilk Substitutes, Breastmilk Supplements, Feeding Bottles, and Teats, Establishing local mechanisms for compliance and enforcement, and providing penalties for violations thereof in the Municipality of Cagwait, Surigao del Sur.
Authored by Hon. Angelyn P. Prado**

Hon. Angelyn P. Prado presented the sixth proposed ordinance and explained its contents and salient features. She emphasized the importance of breastfeeding, particularly for infants aged zero (0) to six (6) months, and the prohibition against encouraging mothers to discontinue breastfeeding in favor of purchasing infant formula from stores.

After the presentation, an open forum followed.

Dr. Mantilla stated that he was very thankful for the proposed ordinance. He noted that during postnatal check-ups, some mothers shift to bottle-feeding because they said that they no longer have enough breast milk. He emphasized that it has long been known that breastfeeding is more beneficial to infants, as there is a significant difference in the health of children who are breastfed compared to those who are bottle-fed. He added that artificial milk is cow's milk.

With no further comments raised, the discussion was concluded.

- 7. An Ordinance Establishing the Rental Fees, Rates and Charges, Rules and Regulations for the use of Municipal Badminton and Pickleball Courts, Sports Equipment, Multipurpose and Evacuation Center, Commercial Stalls, Stores, Canteen Spaces and other facilities therein, providing funds for its Maintenance and Operation and for other purposes.
Authored by Hon. Rogen P. Tabugoc**

Hon. Joel E. Bayogbog presented the seventh proposed ordinance and briefly discussed its key provisions and salient features, highlighting the fees and charges and the penalties for violations.

After the presentation, an open forum was conducted to allow the attendees to raise questions, concerns, and clarifications.

Barangay Kagawad Beltran Epondulan greeted. As a member of the Cagwait Paddle Mates group, I am in support of the proposed rental rates of ₱100.00 per hour during daytime and ₱160.00 per hour during nighttime. My concerns are regarding the facility, particularly the damaged lights, the lack of water in the restroom causing an unpleasant odor, and the absence of chairs for players. And also there are players from other municipalities sometimes visit the evacuation center to play. He then asked whether families are allowed to hold celebrations, such as birthdays, and eat inside the facility.

Hon. Bayogbog answered that the concern would be further discussed during their deliberation in the session. He also stated that all the concerns were noted and would be referred to the Municipal Engineer's Office for appropriate action.

Since there were no further concerns raised, the discussion was concluded.

- 8. An Ordinance requiring Operators, Owners or Proprietors of Restaurants, Fast Food Chains, Eateries, Canteens, Food Courts/Hubs, Carenderias, Bars and other similar**

establishments operating within the Municipality of Cagwait to put-up a potable drinking water system accessible to the customers or serve the same without cost and providing penalties therefore.

Authored by Hon. Guardiano C. Lozada

The proposed ordinance was presented by Hon. Joanne Socorro L. Ubongen and explained its contents and salient provisions.

After the presentation, an open forum was conducted.

No comment.

- 9. An Ordinance Revising Municipal Ordinance No. 07-04, expanding its area of coverage as declared Arangasa Marine Eco-park, Organizing the Arangasa Marine Eco-Park Project Management Group as well as the Project Management Office, defining its duties and functions, allocating funds thereof and for other purposes.**

Authored by Hon. Guardiano C. Lozada

Hon. Guardiano C. Lozada presented the ninth proposed ordinance and explained its contents and salient features. He explained that the ordinance introduces new tourism offerings in Cagwait, consisting of various tour packages and activities, including snorkeling, diving, surfing, and other applicable recreational activities.

After the presentation, an open forum followed.

Presiding Officer Tuscano stated that this is different from the beach area, as the capacity is limited to a maximum of fifty (50) persons allowed in the marine eco-park.

There being no further comments, the discussion was concluded.

- 10. An Ordinance Enacting the 2026 Revised Revenue Code of the Municipality of Cagwait, Province of Surigao del Sur.**

Authored by Hon. Guardiano C. Lozada

Hon. Guardiano C. Lozada presented the proposed ordinance and highlighted its salient features. He explained that once the ordinance prescribing the fees and rental rates for the pickleball court, as presented earlier, is approved, the same will be incorporated into the Revised Revenue Code.

After the presentation, an open forum was conducted.

There being no comments, the discussion was concluded.

- 11. An Ordinance providing for a Community Based-Mental Health Program and Delivery System in the Municipality of Cagwait, Province of Surigao del Sur, Establishing Mechanisms and Guidelines for its implementation and appropriating necessary funds therefore and for other purposes.**

Authored by Hon. Guardiano C. Lozada

Hon. Angelyn P. Prado presented the eleventh proposed ordinance and explained its contents and salient features. She emphasized that stress is among the primary causes of the problem being addressed by the ordinance.

After the presentation, an open forum followed.

Presiding Officer Tuscano requested Ms. Yrica Jie Colongan and Dr. Sherwin Mantilla to provide additional inputs.

Ms. Yrica Jie Colongan stated that the MSWD Office will be responsible for conducting the stress debriefing, as their office is part of the team assigned to conduct the activity.

Dr. Sherwin Mantilla added that the purpose of the ordinance is not to penalize individuals with mental health conditions, but to ensure that patients with mental health concerns are not neglected by their families. He emphasized the importance of parents being attentive to the mental health needs of their children. He also noted that the ordinance is needed as part of the requirements for the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG).

No further comments raised, the discussion was concluded.

Presiding Officer Tuscano announced that, after the closing message, a raffle would be conducted for twenty (20) lucky attendees, with each winner receiving five (5) kilograms of rice.

VIII. CLOSING MESSAGE

There being no further matters to discuss, Hon. Armando P. Reyes was requested to deliver the closing message and formally close the public hearing. In his message, he emphasized the importance of public participation in the conduct of the public hearing and expressed his appreciation for the attendees' presence and support.

After the closing message, twenty (20) lucky names were drawn, with each winner receiving five (5) kilograms of rice. The lucky winners expressed their appreciation and delighted upon receiving the assistance. In addition, Hon. Armando P. Reyes personally gave ₱500.00 each to additional four (4) lucky winners as his own personal gesture of support.

The public hearing adjourned at 12:05 in the afternoon.

Prepared by:


ESTELA MARIE T. LAURENTE
Records Officer II

Approved by:


MELCHIE C. TUSCANO
Municipal Vice Mayor