

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

March 20, 2023

EASTLAND, TEXAS §

EASTLAND, COUNTY §

The City Commission of the City of Eastland, Texas, met in Open Session at Eastland City Hall as scheduled, and notice was posted 72 hours in advance and prior to the meeting.

CITY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman	Larry Vernon
Commissioner	Cecil Funderburgh
Commissioner	Zac Darr

CITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner	Ben McNabb
Commissioner	Richard Rossander

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

City Manager	J.J. Oznick
Finance Director	Leslie Zander
City Secretary	Roma Holley
Police Chief	Tim Pitts
Fire Chief	Joe Williamson
Planning Director	Tony Stubblefield

Guests: Julie Elrod, Tom Reeves, Trinity Dempsey, Jack R. Lambert, Patrick Winters

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Larry Vernon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Larry Vernon offered the invocation and Commissioner Zac Darr led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY SUBJECT NOT LISTED ON THIS AGENDA (Limited to Five Minutes Per Speaker)

Chairman Vernon called on J.R. Lambert to speak. Mr. Lambert addressed the Commissioners and stated that since his father passed away, he has struggled but not given up and he expects the commissioners to not give up either. He expressed that there are no fun activities for the children to do when they are out of school. He suggested building a community center for the youth that would “build the future”. He said “do not destroy the future.” Mr. Lambert then challenged the Commissioners to a Pokemon game.

Chairman Vernon thanked Mr. Lambert and stated “we hear your concerns and we are working to address them.”

IV. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2023 MEETING

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr, to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting.

Ayes: Commissioners Darr, Funderburgh, Vernon

Nays: None
Absent: McNabb, Rossander

V. Financial Report

Both January and February Finance Reports are in the packets. Finance Director Leslie Zander stated the Sales Tax continues to increase.

No action at this time.

VI. The Board of City Commissioners May Discuss and Take Action on the Following Agenda Items:

1. Discussion and Consideration of a request from Tom Reeves for Hotel Motel Tax Funds for sponsorship of Wild Horses Building Champions, Inc. events.

City Manager Oznick introduced Tom Reeves with Wild Horses Building Champions Inc.

Mr. Reeves addressed the Commissioners and shared a little about his program.

Tom Reeves founded the program in 2018 and has been on a mission to bring our Nation's Youth alternative coping mechanisms. He is in four different Halls of Fame for coaching rodeo and the western lifestyle. This includes the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, The South Dakota Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center, The Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, and Museum of the American Cowboy in Pierre, South Dakota. He was also the coach of the Ranger Rodeo Team that won several events at the National Finals Rodeo in 2007

Mr. Reeves has purchased 26 acres along with the Rodeo Arena in Ranger and is bringing many events to the area, including Rodeos, Concerts, multiple rodeo training events as well as teaching the Western Lifestyle to area youth. One of the goals of this program is to make it available to everyone, regardless of a person's ability to pay.

For 2023, Wild Horses Building Champions Inc. will attract countless overnight stays at local hotels and motels. Our last two bronc riding schools attracted ninety participants from three (3) countries and eight (8) states.

Since the beginning of this program here in Eastland County, the theme of "Build, it, and they will come" has resonated. As a result, several local individuals from the community have started coming out to be part of the "team."

We plan to have at least one event each month. Each event will be focused on helping the area's youth. This will bring a different temporary population during each event, contributing to the tax revenue stream to the area.

Mr. Reeves asked the Commissioners for funding from the Hotel/Motel Tax Funds.

Chairman Larry Vernon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to give \$1,000 to Wild Horses Building Champions and he requested follow-up information.

Ayes: Commissioners Darr, Funderburgh, Vernon
Nays: None
Absent: McNabb, Rossander

2. Discussion and Consideration of a Presentation by Trinity Dempsey

asking for a Proclamation Proclaiming the Month of April 2023
“Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month”

Childrens Advocacy Center spokesman Trinity Dempsey addressed the Commissioners and asked that The City of Eastland proclaim April 2023 as “Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month”

PROCLAMATION
Proclaiming the Month of April
Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month

Whereas, children are vital to our community’s future success, prosperity, and quality of life as well as being our most valuable assets;

Whereas, nearly 60,000 children receive services from a Children’s Advocacy Center in Texas annually;

Whereas, child abuse prevention is a community responsibility and finding solutions depends on involvement among all people;

Whereas, communities must make every effort to promote programs that benefit children and their families;

Whereas, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships among agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;

Therefore, the City of Eastland Commissioners do hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month and call upon all cities, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr, to proclaim April 2023 as “Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month” in the City of Eastland.

Ayes: Commissioners Darr, Funderburgh, Vernon
Nays: None
Absent: McNabb, Rossander

3. Discussion and Consideration of Updating the Corporate
Authorization Resolution with First Financial Bank

City Manager J. J. Oznick stated that this was an authorization for their Bank that needed to be updated when the signatories changed and it was unknowingly missed. It will have to be repeated when a new treasurer is elected in May 2023, since the current Treasurer, Ben McNabb is not seeking reelection.

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to authorize the Resolution.

Ayes: Commissioners Darr, Funderburgh, Vernon
Nays: None
Absent: McNabb, Rossander

4. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution 2023-04 Accepting a
Donation for the Animal Control Shelter

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated a person, who wishes to remain anonymous, donated \$10,000 to be used for and in support of the City's animal shelter.

Chairman Larry Vernon read Resolution 2023-04:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS ACCEPTING A DONATION TO THE CITY; DESIGNATING SAID DONATION TO BE USED FOR THE CITY'S ANIMAL SHELTER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Eastland (the "City") is a home rule municipal corporation which provides multiple services to its citizens, including animal control, and, to that end, operates an animal shelter to house animals that have been impounded;

WHEREAS, an individual has offered to donate Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to the City to be used for and in support of the City's animal shelter; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of City of Eastland wishes to accept this generous donation and direct that the donation be used as requested by the donor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the above and foregoing premises are true and correct and are incorporated herein and made part hereof for all purposes.

Section 2. That the City Commission of the City of Eastland, Texas hereby accepts the anonymous donation of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

Section 3. That the City Manager, or his designee, is hereby directed to use such donated funds for and in support of the City's animal shelter.

Section 4. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 20th day of March, 2023.

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh to approve Resolution 2023-04 accepting the anonymous donation of \$10,000 for the Eastland Animal Shelter.

Ayes: Commissioners Darr, Funderburgh, Vernon
Nays: None
Absent: McNabb, Rossander

5. Discussion and Consideration to designate City Secretary Roma Holley to serve as Records Management Officer for the City of Eastland.

City Manager Oznick stated this is in response to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission asking for updated Designation of Local Government Records Management Officer for non-elected offices in Texas. The City Secretary is traditionally known as the RMO for the City. He asked the Commission to designate City Secretary Roma Holley to serve as Records Management Officer for the City of Eastland

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to designate City Secretary Roma Holley to serve as Records Management Officer for the City of Eastland

Ayes: Commissioners Darr, Funderburgh, Vernon
Nays: None
Absent: McNabb, Rossander

VII. City Manager Report

GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning

The channel clearing design is complete and will be ready for bid soon.

TWDB Flood infrastructure Fund Grant

HDR is almost complete with the study and will be ready to make recommendations for flood mitigation soon.

Downtown Sidewalk Repairs

Unknown timeframe.

TXDOT Exit 343 Ramp and Signal Light Projects

I have inquired about rebidding and waiting for an answer.

DAM REPAIRS

Engineers from EH&T and HDR are beginning to work through different designs for Eastland Lake and Ringling Lake dams.

EASTLAND MUNICIPAL AIRPORT UPDATE

The project is scheduled to start the any day.

Rips Ribs

April 15-16 on the square

VIII. Code Compliance Report

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for February 2023. There were 33 open cases at the beginning of the month, 8 new cases were opened and 7 cases were closed which ended the month with 34 cases open. 1 Citation was issued and a fine assessed for \$412. This resulted in the compliance of the case and the fine was dismissed. 1 lien was issued in the amount of \$584.94

IX. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of February 2023 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 79 which was an average of 2.82 calls per day. 49 of these were in the City Limits and 28 of them were in the county and they responded to 2 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 11 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There were 3 structure fires, 7 grass fires and 1 vehicle fire.

They responded to 39 Medical calls, 10 Motor Vehicle accidents and 5 Public Service assists and 13 false alarms/investigations. Volunteer membership remains steady at 25.

Chief Williamson stated they had one unusual occurrence. They executed a rescue for people trapped inside an elevator.

X. Police Chief Report

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 303 calls for service in February. 17 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 39 offense reports generated. He noted 10 arrests with 14 charges. A total of 311 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 246 warning citations and 65 citations issued. He also stated that 127 “business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer continues to be very active with 80 business calls and 10 citations issued.

Chief Pitts briefed the Commission on a recent arrest made at the airport. A female was arrested for possession of Methamphetamine. He shared that a Burglary of a Habitation case is nearing a conclusion due to the diligent work of the officers and the Detective.

Chief Pitts also stated there were 3 Driving While Intoxication arrests in February. Also, the K-9 Officer assisted the Eastland County Sheriff by conducting a K-9 search in the Eastland County Jail. 5 bags of methamphetamine were found.

Chief Pitts noted the “Stop Stick” Training was completed in February and two Officers completed Intermediate Crime Scene Investigation classes.

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

Roma Holley, City Secretary