

THE CITY OF EASTLAND  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

February 20, 2024

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	Richard Rossander (arr 6:10)
Commissioner	James Doyle
Commissioner	Shirley Stuart

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, Thom Cameron, Juli Cameron, Tiffany Beard, Rhyne Hobbs, Laura Hobbs, Carol Jones, Tracy Jones, Terry Simmons

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

Chairman Larry Vernon called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Chairman Vernon advised the Commissioners that we received a letter to the Governing Body from resident W.G. (Bill) Powell. In the letter, Mr. Powell praised the actions of Corporal Zachary Spruill of the Eastland Police Department on February 7, 2024. Corporal Spruill went “above and beyond” the scope of his duties and assisted Mr. Powell in a situation that could have become very dangerous for Mr. Powell.

Chairman Vernon commended Corporal Spruill for his willingness to extend great kindness and assistance to the citizens of Eastland.

**II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge**

Commissioner James Doyle offered the invocation and Commissioner Shirley Stuart 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)**

**IV. Approve Minutes of the January 16, 2024 and February 1, 2024 meetings**

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2024 Meeting.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Stuart

Nays: None  
Absent: Rossander

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Larry Vernon to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2024 Meeting.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Vernon  
Nays: None  
Absent: Rossander  
Abstain: Stuart

## **V. Financial Report**

Finance Director Leslie Zander advised the board the finance packets in front of them contain information for October, November and December of 2023. She also stated the sales tax continues to be in a favorable incline.

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

1. Discussion and Consideration of Eastland Chamber of Commerce, designating Rip's Ribs Cookoff, Wine Fest, and Jazz Festival April 13, 2024 as an Open Container Event IAW Ordinance 12-781, dated 1/12/12, and designating the event area as the premises for public consumption of Alcoholic beverages, by adult 21 years of age or older, during the event, provided that the event is approved by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), the beverages are distributed by a Licensed TABC permit holder, security personnel are present, and the event area is posted with appropriate barriers and signage.

City Manager J. J. Oznick introduced this item and stated this is the same event we have supported in the past. Chamber of Commerce managers Tiffany Beard and Julie Elrod explained their thought process on moving the Wine Fest to the Lumber Yard Pavilion. They stated there will be food trucks and other amenities available there. They will have appropriate barriers and signage to ensure people do not create an illegal situation.

Chairman Vernon led a discussion to authorize the City Manager to approve these types of events in the future, with no need to appear before the commission.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the Rip's Ribs Cookoff, Wine Fest and Jazz Festival as an Open Container Event along with authorizing the City Manager to approve these types of events in the future.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Rossander, Stuart  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

2. Discussion and Consideration of Eastland Historic Preservation Board recommendation for awarding additional funds.

Historic Board Ex-Officio Terry Simmons advised the board that we originally awarded the Eastland Centennial Memorial Library a grant of \$30,390 to help replace the roof, paint the outside and repair the cracked mortar. After getting started on the project, the roof and

ceilings had extensive damage that was unseen until they began removing the old roof. It cost the library an additional \$22,780 to continue with the renovation.

Because no one else had applied for a grant this year, there is a balance in the grant of \$4,610. The library was originally told that if there were additional expenses discovered throughout the project, to request additional grant funds.

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the additional grant funds of \$4,610 to help repair the Eastland Centennial Memorial Library

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Rossander, Stuart  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

3. Discussion and Consideration of Ordinance 24-899,  
**An Ordinance of the City of Eastland, Texas, temporarily reducing the speed limit for portions of Interstate 20 within the city limits of the City of Eastland which will be under construction.**

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated this is something new that the Texas Department of Transportation is requiring throughout the state.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve Ordinance 24-899 on the first reading.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Rossander, Stuart  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

4. Discussion and Consideration of renewing the Contract for Collection of Delinquent Municipal Court Fines and Fees.

City Manager J.J. Oznick advised the board that this contract is over due to be renewed. McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen have done an outstanding job of bringing delinquent revenue into our coffers. He recommended renewing the contract for another five-year term.

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve the renewal of the contract with MVBA.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Rossander, Stuart  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

5. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution 2024-04:  
Continuing participation with the Steering Committee of Cities served by Atmos

*A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MEMBERSHIP IN THE ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE; AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF FIVE CENTS PER CAPITA TO THE ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE TO FUND REGULATORY AND RELATED ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION*

City Manager J.J. Oznick introduced this item and stated we are part of a Steering Committee that negotiates on behalf of the city to get the best rates from Atmos Energy. We pay the Steering Committee .5 cents per capita for a total of \$198.50 to be our representative.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart to approve Resolution 2024-04 continuing participation with the Steering Committee of Cities served by Atmos Energy.

Ayes: Commissioners Rossander, Stuart, Vernon  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: Commissioner Doyle

- 6. Discussion and Consideration of the Eastland Fine Arts Association hosting “The Grammys at the Majestic” Cabaret on April 25-27, 2024.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated that Rhyne Hobbs with the Eastland Fine Arts Association was here to introduce the commission to this project. Mr. Hobbs spoke and stated this event is being patterned after the Paramount Theater event “Cabaret Under the Stars” in Abilene. There will be tables on the stage along with live music and entertainment. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served along with beer and wine if requested.

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve hosting of “The Grammy’s at the Majestic” along with authorizing the City Manager to approve these types of events in the future.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Rossander, Stuart  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**VII. City Manager Report**

**GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning**

Home buy-outs are still ongoing with details being finalized.

**TXDOT Exit 343 Ramp and Signal Light Projects**

Construction is progressing on the turn lane. The base has been set for signal lights on both access roads.

**GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning**

Contracts have been executed. The contractor has brought in equipment and clearing of the channels has commenced.

**VIII. Code Compliance Report**

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for January 2024. He stated that we are in the middle of changing database systems and the report does not truly reflect the amount of cases being pursued. There were 2 open cases at the beginning of the month, 4 new cases were opened and 1 case were closed, which ended the month with 5 cases open. One case was reported for back taxes.

**IX. Police Chief Report**

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 276 calls for service in December. 10 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 40 offense reports generated. He noted 12 arrests. A total of 350 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 194 warning citations and 156 citations issued. He also stated that 380 “business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer continues to be extremely active with 125 business calls. 13 animals were impounded and 19 were adopted and one was quarantined.

Chief Pitts advised that Recruit Auston Rose has passed all of his training courses at the Weatherford College Police Academy and is currently studying for his State Test. His graduation is scheduled for March 11, 2024.

Chief Pitts stated that we have another recruit, Alex Rodriguez, who is scheduled to graduate from the police academy in June, 2024.

**X. Fire Chief Report**

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of January 2024 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 80 which was an average of 2.6 calls per day. 64 of these were in the City Limits and 12 of them were in the county and they responded to 4 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 11 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There were 5 structure fires, 5 grass fires and 1 vehicle fire. They responded 36 Medical calls, 7 Motor Vehicle accidents and 8 Public Service assists and 13 false alarms/investigations.

Chief Williamson reminded the Commissioners of the 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off scheduled February 24, 2024. Judging will begin at 4:30 and everyone is welcome to join in enjoying the chili entries from 5-6:30 pm.

**XI. Adjournment**

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

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Larry Vernon, Chairman  
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

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Roma Holley, City Secretary