

**EASTLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC.**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**July 12, 2021**

The Eastland Economic Development, Inc. Board of Directors met in the Commission Chambers at Eastland City Hall as scheduled, and notice was posted 72 hours in advance and prior to the meeting.

Members Present:

Board Member _____	James Doyle
Board Member _____	Mark Pipkin
Board Member _____	Jason Cochran
Board Member _____	Carolyn White
Executive Director _____	Tom Bailey

Members Absent:

Board Member _____	Vicki Bradley
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City Staff Present:

City Secretary _____	Roma Holley
City Manager _____	J. J. Oznick

Guests: Donald Cate

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mark Pipkin called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The Invocation was offered by Jason Cochran and Carolyn White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Finance Report

Donald Cate discussed the finance report and reviewed the income and expense report for the month of July. He stated the sales tax is up 23.9% for the year.

Jason Cochran made a motion, seconded by James Doyle, to approve the finance report as presented. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Cochran, Doyle, White.

Nays: None

Absent: Bradley

IV. Approve Minutes of the June 14, 2021 meeting.

James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Jason Cochran, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Cochran, Doyle, White.

Nays: None

Absent: Bradley

V. Public Comment on any subject not Listed on this Agenda  
(Limited to Five Minutes Per Speaker)

No Comments

VI. Project Updates and Prospects

Director Tom Bailey gave very brief updates on several ongoing projects

Internet Fiber Project – Report on Council of Government Grant Funding with Totelcom

Director Bailey stated that though this is not really an EEDI project, businesses as well our citizens and our school students are affected by the speed and reliability of internet in the area. So, this does have an impact on economic growth. When talking with potential businesses about coming to Eastland, almost every one of them asks about Internet through Fiber. The West Central Texas Council of Governments is working on a grant to help with this Fiber project. It is due August 12, 2021 and we will know if we get the grant by November. The Council of Governments will be the “entity of record” and is working directly with Totelcom. The City only needs to provide some letters of testimony from the Mayor and probably school personnel, regarding how Fiber will enhance the lives of our citizens and students.

This grant will include both Eastland and Cisco. They needed Cisco to make the grant more competitive. By including Cisco, they can use the demographics and the diversity of the area to improve our chances of getting the grant. Regardless of whether they get the grant, Totelcom is committed to putting Fiber in Eastland.

Director Bailey and Eastland City Manager J.J. Oznick visited with Cisco City Manager Darwin Archer and Cisco is very excited about the possibility of getting the Fiber internet. By including Cisco in the grant, it tells a better story about bringing Fiber internet to Eastland County. It will include more population demographics along with more students, including Cisco College. The thought is that it will increase our chances of obtaining the grant.

EEDI Business Park – Marketing efforts

Director Bailey directed the boards attention to a power point presentation. Director Bailey had asked Dwayne Dove to take some aerial photos with his drone of the business park. The reasoning is that when trying to interest potential businesses into coming to Eastland, one of the things they want to see is the types of acreage available at the business park, not just that “we have some land available.” They want to see how it can be utilized so these slides present the land as it can be divided. They show not only the “lay of the land” but also the acreage of the potential plots. These photos are overlaid with our new plat.

Walmart – Meeting to discuss plans for future development

Director Bailey stated that it might be misleading to put “Walmart” on the agenda because Walmart is not “doing anything” but I’m actually talking about the property that adjoins the Walmart property. Discussion followed regarding potential businesses and the property owned by the Massingill family to the southeast as well as property to the west of Walmart owned by Mr. Stanley, of Stanley Ford.

The main point of discussion centered around making all of this property accessible and marketing it to potential businesses. We are trying to plan ahead in order to get easements and make a “master plan”.

VII. Adjournment

Carolyn White made a motion, seconded by James Doyle to adjourn at 12:45 p.m. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Cochran, Doyle, White.  
Nays: None  
Absent: Bradley

Approved:

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Mark Pipkin, Co-Chairman  
EEDI Board

Attest:

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Roma Holley, City Secretary