

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

August 19, 2019

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	Richard Rossander
Commissioner	Zac Darr
Commissioner	Ben McNabb

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

City Manager	Ron Duncan
Director of Finance	Leslie Zander
City Secretary	Roma Holley
Director of Planning / Zoning	Tony Stubblefield
Fire Chief	David Branch
Police Chief	David Hullum
Code Enforcement	Terry Simmons

Guests: Jim Schafer, Pat Schafer, Ronnie Harris, Crystal Harris, Kevin Harris, Collin Harris

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Larry Vernon called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Zac Darr offered the invocation and Commissioner Richard Rossander led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Special Presentation to Collin Harris

On behalf of the City of Eastland, the Board of Commissioners and the Eastland Police department, I would like to express our sincere thanks for your dedicated service to the City of Eastland and our entire community. While we often commend our citizens for contributions made to our city, we believe yours is especially important.

During the last month you took several hours out of your summer fun to operate a Lemonade Stand on W. Main Street in order to earn money for the City of Eastland Animal Shelter. On August 8, 2019, you delivered a check to the city in the amount of \$600 for the Animal shelter. We will use your generous gift to provide Veterinary care and supplies for the animals at our shelter.

We all deeply appreciate the time and efforts you made in completing your project. Your efforts set an outstanding example of service for everyone in our community. All of us at the City of Eastland cannot thank you enough. It is through the work of volunteers such as you which make Eastland a great place to live. We are absolutely certain your parents are very proud of you.

Once again, thank you for your service and your generous gift. Please accept this letter as a sincere token of our appreciation for your efforts.

*Sincerely,
Larry Vernon
Mayor*

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

There were no comments from the public.

V. Approve Minutes of the July 15th and August 7th, 2019 Meetings.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to approve Minutes of the July 15th and August 7th, 2019 Meetings. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

VI. Financial Report

City Manager Ron Duncan commented that this year’s Sales Tax Revenue will be better than our best year to date. We are still behind in Water sales, However, we are gaining ground.

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

1. Discussion and Consideration of second reading of Ordinance No. 19-851 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 692, NUISANCES, OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND; REVISING ARTICLE IV, JUNKED MOTOR VEHICLES; UPDATING DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR ABATEMENT AND REMOVAL OF JUNKED VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF SAME; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to Approve the second reading of Ordinance 19-851. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

2. Discussion and Consideration of the First Reading of Ordinance No. 19-852 AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF EASTLAND, TEXAS ADJUSTING AND AMENDING THE CITY’S FISCAL YEAR 2018/2019 BUDGET

City Manager Ron Duncan and Finance Director Leslie Zander explained the adjustments that have been recommended for this year’s budget.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr, to Approve the first reading of Ordinance 19-852. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

3. Discussion and Consideration of the FY 2019-2020 Rate and Fee schedule

City Manager Ron Duncan shared with the commissioners about some minor changes. Regarding the water tap charges, the 2” water tap charge increased by \$100 due to increase in materials. Also, a note was added that charges for any taps larger than 2” will be determined on a case by case basis.

One other change involved after hours 2” curb stop replacement. The fee also increased.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to Approve the FY 2019-2020 Rate and Fee Schedule. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

4. Discussion and consideration of the appointment of a new fire marshal.

City Manager Ron Duncan noted that this will fill the vacancy that was left when Bill Dolen retired in June. Mr. Duncan recommended David Branch be appointed.

Discussion revolved around the requirements of the position as well as the necessity of the position. It is required by City Ordinance Article II Section 6-16.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr, to Approve the appointment of David Branch as the new fire marshal. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

5. Discussion and Consideration of a request from Eastland Historic Board For FY 2018-2019 Historic Preservation Grant for the Eastland Community Foundation for Repair to the Second Floor Windows at the Connellee Hotel

Eastland Historic Board staff member Terry Simmons explained the Eastland Community Foundation is replacing the windows on the second floor of the Connellee Hotel. This second floor has been leased to the Eastland Independent School District for their administration offices.

The EHPB has \$11,762.85 left over from the FY 2018-2019 budget. This money does not roll over from year to year. It is recommended that the entire sum be given to the Eastland Community Foundation for the replacement of the windows on the second floor of the Connellee Hotel.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr, to Approve the \$11,762.85 be given to the Eastland Community Foundation for replacing the windows on the second floor of the Connellee Hotel. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

6. Discussion and Consideration to Approve Historical Preservation Grants as Recommended by the Eastland Historic Preservation Board

The Eastland Historic Preservation Board approved three applications for the 2020 Historic Preservation Grant period.

Applications approved are:

- 1) Michael & Anne Zoellick to repair, reseal and repaint wood trim around 44 windows at the Eastland Historic Hotel at 112 N Lamar St. Total cost of the project is \$2,202.57. The board approved their request of \$1,100.00 for this project.
- 2) Eastland Fine Arts for repair of plaster work on the front of the Majestic Theatre, repainting the front and for installing ADA approved ramp at the rear door of the building. Total cost of this project is \$10,887. The board approved a grant in the amount of \$5,443.50 for this project.
- 3) Eastland Centre for the Arts/Lyric Theatre for replacement of the wood windows on the front of the building with vinyl windows due to termite damage. Total cost of the project is \$17,813. The board approved a grant in the amount of \$17,813 for this project.

Total amount award by the board is \$24,356.50 towards the projects totaling \$30,902.57.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to Approve the three projects as presented. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

VIII. City Manager’s Briefing

Ron Duncan said there are plans to complete a couple of street repairs in the near future. He also stated the next budget meeting is scheduled for noon on August 29th, 2019 and that is for the first public hearing regarding the 2019 Ad Valorem Tax Increase.

Woodland Nursing Center Expansion: A meeting was held today regarding University Drive and the issues with the property line and easements.

Eastland Memorial Hospital Rural Health Clinic: The city has completed the sanitary sewer line on the south side of the property.

Waste Water Treatment Plant: Construction is ahead of schedule for the new plant.

Water System Improvements: The easements are almost complete and eHT is verifying survey and utility line locations in planning.

Park Projects: The next goal is to install underground wiring for the ball fields. Also the Lions Club is looking to make a significant investment towards installing new playground equipment.

IX. Code Compliance Report

Code Enforcement Officer Terry Simmons presented the Code Compliance Department July Report. He reported there were 41 open cases at the beginning of the month, 26 new cases were opened and 24 cases were closed which ended the month with 43 cases open. He also issued four citations and recorded two properties for back taxes. Also, 6 annual notices were issued. Fines that were assessed were \$1030 and fines that were paid were \$272. One property was abated for \$250 and a lien was filed. The property at 1501 S. Seaman now belongs to the City of Eastland. An ad has been placed stating that the mobile home that is on the property is free to anyone who will pull it off of the property and take it outside of the city limits of Eastland including the ETJ. If no one wants it the Public Works department will tear it down. The structure is secured from access.

X. Monthly Police Department Report

Chief David Hullum stated the calls for service for July were almost as high as June with 50 reports being written. Traffic picked up but citations are still down little bit which is explained by the department still having one officer in training. Animal control wrote 17 citations and 10 warnings for the month. Chief Hullum spoke about an animal cruelty case that was initiated at the beginning of July. He also mentioned a pursuit of an 18-wheeler which resulted in the seizure of the vehicle as well as 45 grams of edible THC and another arrest later in the month for 155 grams of edible THC. Chief Hullum also noted that our K-9 Officer assisted DPS troopers and one pound of marijuana was seized. Chief Hullum spoke briefly about an accident in which Officer Kolton Preston was involved on Saturday the 17th.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to adjourn at 6:56 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

Roma Holley, City Secretary