

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

October 18, 2021

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	J.J. Oznick
Finance Director	Leslie Zander
Planning & Zoning Director	Tony Stubblefield
City Secretary	Roma Holley
Police Chief	David Hullum
Fire Chief	Joe Williamson

Guests: Julie Elrod, H.V. O'Brien, Sam Williams, Jayton C. Bailey, Rhyne Hobbs, Daniel Wooldridge, Alondra Alvarez, Cheyanne Trevino

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Ben McNabb offered the invocation and Chairman Larry Vernon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

No comment

IV. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 Meeting

Commissioner McNabb advised that he was not at this meeting as was stated in the minutes. City Secretary Roma Holley stated that she will correct the minutes before Chairman Vernon signs them.

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Richard Rossander, to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2021 meeting with the correction.

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

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Leslie Zander stated that the sales tax graph shows an additional date of 2011-2012. The estimated sales tax for this year in comparison to the sales tax 10 years ago is estimated to be \$500,000 more. This shows great growth in our city and our economy. Budget summary 2021 shows that our surplus in the General Fund is \$74,000 more than at this time last year. Our Utility Fund deficit is \$200,000 less than at this time last year. This is all good news.

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 the Eastland Fine Arts Association seeking additional Hotel/Motel Tax Funds to make necessary structural Repairs to the Majestic Theatre

Rhyne Hobbs represented the Eastland Fine Arts Association and addressed the Commission. He stated they have started the renovations and repairs of the Majestic Theater stage and its equipment in order to be able to host live events. At this time there are several issues with the age of some of the essential ropes, chains and other necessary equipment. He asked for an additional \$46,000 to cover the cost of the repairs. He noted that in June, 2021, the City of Eastland generously allocated \$17,500 from the Hotel/Motel Tax Funds to help get this project started but that they are in need of additional funds to complete the subject.

City Manager J.J. Oznick told the Commission that it is the recommendation of the City staff to allocate \$25,000 from last year's Hotel/Motel Tax Funds that had not been spent and \$5,000 from the 2021-2022 Budget.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr, to approve allocating \$30,000 to the Eastland Fine Arts Association from Hotel/Motel Tax Funds, for the repair of the Majestic Theater. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

2. Discussion and Consideration of Approval Updated Rate and Fee Schedule

City Manager J. J. Oznick stated there are only minor changes to the Rate and Fee Schedule at this time. 1. The City will no longer be accepting used motor oil and oil filters. 2. Because the Convenience Center attendant does not carry change, it was decided to change the fees to even dollar amounts. The fees were "rounded" down.

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to approve the updated Rate and Fee Schedule. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

3. Discussion and Consideration to Approve Firefighting Contract with Eastland County

City Manager J. J. Oznick advised the Commission that Eastland County will pay City of Eastland \$5,750 per quarter for Firefighting services. This has been the same amount since 2018.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to approve the Firefighting Contract with Eastland County as presented. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

4. Discussion and Consideration to Approve Dispatch Contract with Eastland County

City Manager J. J. Oznick told the Commission this has been the same contract since 2014. We pay the county “12.85% of the calculated population percentages times operating budget plus allowable two percent less total annual support from Eastland Memorial Hospital and Cisco College.”

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the Dispatch Contract with Eastland County as presented. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

5. Discussion and Consideration of Second Reading to Approve Ordinance **21-878**
AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF EASTLAND, EASTLAND COUNTY, TEXAS; EXTENDING THE BOUNDARY LIMITS OF SAID CITY TO INCLUDE SAID PROPERTY WITHIN SAID CITY LIMITS; AND GRANTING TO ALL THE INHABITANTS OF SAID PROPERTY ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF OTHER CITIZENS AND BINDING SAID INHABITANTS BY ALL OF THE ACTS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND REGULATIONS OF SAID CITY.

City Manager J.J. Oznick advised the Commissioners that this is the second reding of this ordinance which will annex property on the east side of the EEDI Business Park. Marcus Barte, with Barte Metal, requested several months ago to have his property annexed by the City. He signed a service agreement and is using City services. This annexation will not go into effect until 30 days after approval.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to Approve the second reading of Ordinance 21-878. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

6. Discussion and Consideration of Second Reading of **Ordinance 21-879**
AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF EASTLAND, TEXAS ADJUSTING AND AMENDING THE CITY'S FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 BUDGET

Finance Director Leslie Zander explained to the Commission that this adjustment is a result of the 3% salary increase that was made in March 2021.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr to approve the second reading of **Ordinance 21-879**. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

7. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution **2021-13** Authorizing City Manager and Mayor to negotiate and execute all leases of hangars and ground space at the Eastland Municipal Airport.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated there is some unclear language in the Lease Agreement of 2006, which had any lease or sale coming before the Commission for approval. This resolution states the following: *“The City Manager of the City of Eastland, Texas is hereby authorized to negotiate and execute leases for use of hangars and ground space at the Eastland Municipal Airport, after consulting with the Airport Manager. If the City Manager and Airport Manager do not agree to the terms of any given lease, the decision regarding the terms of the lease must be made by the Board of Commissioners and the final lease must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. The authority granted in this Section 1 shall fall to the Mayor if no City Manager is currently appointed or if the current City Manager is absent for more than two (2) weeks.”*

Commissioner Richard Rossander, made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr to approve Resolution 2021-13. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

8. Discussion and Consideration of **Resolution 2021-14** *A RESOLUTION SETTING A DATE, TIME, AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY BY THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS, AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO PUBLISH NOTICE OF SAME.*

City Manager J.J. Oznick advised the Commission that Andy Hansen, of EMH Cattle Company, has requested to annex this property in to the City Limits of Eastland. He has signed the required service agreement in which he agrees to be serviced by City of Eastland Utilities. The property is directly adjacent to the property he now owns where he has built Maverick Townhomes.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb to approve Resolution 2021-14, setting a public hearing for November 15, 2021 at 6 p.m. at the Eastland City Commission meeting to be held in the Commission Chambers. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

9. Discussion and Consideration of Approval of GLO Contracts

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated these contracts have not been sent to us yet. Chairman Larry Vernon stated that if the contracts come in before the next scheduled meeting, then a Special Meeting will be called in order to expedite the process of signing and returning the contracts.

Chairman Vernon tabled this item.

VII. City Manager's Briefing

City Manager J.J. Oznick briefly covered the report that the commissioners have in their packet.

Mr. Oznick stated that, as was just stated, the GLO MIT contract should be here any day now. Regarding the Flood Infrastructure Grant: we think the H & H Study will begin shortly. This goes hand in hand with the GLO grant.

Regarding the new generator at the ground storage tanks, the generator was set and wired in. Mr. Copeland, the electrician, brought in someone to test it to make sure that when the generator kicks on, it's putting out the correct amount of voltage.

Mr. Oznick stated we are still repairing a lot of potholes. We are waiting on getting a bond refinanced in hopes of getting a better deal on a Durapatcher

VIII. Code Enforcement Report

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for September 2021. There were 50 open cases at the beginning of the month, 48 new cases were opened and 58 cases were closed which ended the month with 40 cases open. 1 citation was issued and fines assessed were \$1,055 and \$924 was paid.

IX. Police Report

Chief David Hullum stated there were 270 calls for service in September. 14 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 37 offense reports generated. He noted 8 arrests. A total of 469 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 354 warning citations and 115 citations issued. Chief Hullum stated these are pretty good numbers considering he had two officers out with Covid in September. He also highlighted that the calls for service jumped to 270. The reason for the increase is the installation of the new CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) system at our County Dispatch center. This system keeps track of every single call that comes through the center. It captures data that gives a better idea of what exactly what is happening. He pointed out that he receives a specific report detailing when an officer calls on the radio and states that they performed a "business check" while the business is closed. Last month they did at least 41 "business checks". Chief Hullum also stated that Officer Katie Thompson is now certified as a drug dog handler and is doing a great job with Buck!

X. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of September for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 76 which was an average of 2.53 calls per day. 62 of these were in the City Limits and 11 of them were in the county and they responded to 3 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 10

incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. They responded to 1 structure fire, 1 grass fire and 2 vehicle fires. They responded to 35 Medical calls, 5 Motor Vehicle accidents and 26 Public Service assists and 6 false alarms/investigations. They installed two Smoke Detectors.

Chief Williamson stated they held elections among the Volunteer Fire Department. He asked to give a short slide presentation introducing the officers and also to showcase what the Fire Department has been doing in the past month.

Officers elected were

- Joe Williamson - Fire Chief
- Sam Williams - Deputy Chief
- Kelley Fron - Assistant Chief
- Bryan Kellar - Captain
- Charlie Torrez - Captain

Program Appointments:

- Walter Williams – Chaplain
- Rick Wende – Fire Prevention / Safety Officer “Chief”
- Phillip Arther – Safety Officer “Chief”
- Terry Hastings – Protective Equipment Officer
- Amanda Woodley – Public Information Officer and Assistant to Fire Prevention

Chief Williamson talked about their increased membership through recruitment. They have also been making modifications to the building to utilize it for training of new members. They’ve made improvements to the living quarters to give it another entrance/exit. He stated that they have more improvements planned for the future regarding a Physical Fitness Station.

Overall, the Fire Department is really making strides to become a premier fire department serving the citizens of Eastland and Eastland County.

All of this information is available on the Fire Department’s FACEBOOK page.

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

 Larry Vernon, Chairman
 Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

 Roma Holley, City Secretary