

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

August 15, 2022

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	Ben McNabb
Commissioner	Richard Rossander

CITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner	Zac Darr
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PERSONNEL PRESENT:

City Manager	J.J. Oznick
Finance Director	Leslie Zander
City Secretary	Roma Holley
Public Works Director	Bobby Jacoby
Planning Director	Tony Stubblefield
Police Chief	David Hullum

Guests: Julie Elrod, Jon Denman, Nicole Smith, James Doyle, Joshua Williams, Sam Williams

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 Richard Rossander offered the invocation and Commissioner Ben McNabb 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 July 18, 2022 and August 3, 2022 Meetings

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve minutes from the July 18, 2022 Meeting with a correction to page 2, item #1. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve minutes from the August 3, 2022 Meeting. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

V. Financial Report

Finance Director Leslie Zander stated the sales tax has really increased again which is a positive sign that the economy is doing well. We are getting closer to the end of the fiscal year and I have given you notes to explain some of the overages on the line items, mainly fuel and constructions material costs.

No action at this time.

VI. Public Hearing Annexation

(Held after Item #1.) Commence: 6:09 p.m.

Conclude: 6:14 p.m.

There were no comments made during the Public Hearing.

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

1. Discussion and Consideration of a Request by Ranger and Cisco College for Hotel Motel Tax Event Funds for sponsorship of the third annual Wrangler Ranger Round Up Volleyball Tournament.

Cisco College Head Volleyball Coach Jon Stenman and Nicole Smith, Head Volleyball Coach at Ranger College, were present to speak. Coach Stenman stated that the City of Eastland helped sponsor the last two tournaments. They are planning to have 6 teams travelling from Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas to play on August 26th and 27th, 2022. Each team will be staying in hotels here in Eastland County and spending money at the restaurants and retail stores. The commissioners were provided with an outline of the projected expenses for this year's tournament with the total being \$6,120, which will be split between both colleges. In 2021 the commission approved \$3,500 for this tournament and this same amount is requested this year, unless the commission would like to give more.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to approve \$3,500 of Hotel Motel Tax funds be given towards this event. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

2. Discussion and Consideration of First Reading of Ordinance ***22-887 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 off the acts, ordinances, Resolutions and Regulations of said City.***

City Manager Oznick stated this is the portion of the EEDI Business Park property that is due north of Bartee Construction. EEDI has signed the Municipal Service agreement asking for services to be provided by the City of Eastland.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 22-887. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

3. Discussion and Consideration of First Reading of Ordinance 22-888, *an Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Eastland, Texas, approving a Negotiated Settlement between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee (“ACSC”) and ATMOS ENERGY CORP., Mid-Tex Division regarding the company’s 2022 Rate Review Mechanism filing; declaring Existing rates to be unreasonable; adopting tariffs that reflect rate adjustments consistent with the NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, finding the rates to be set by the attached settlement tariffs to be just and reasonable and in the public interest; approving an attachment establishing a benchmark for pensions and retiree medical benefits; Requiring the Company to Reimburse ACSC’s Reasonable Ratemaking Expenses; determining that this Ordinance was passed in accordance with the Requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Adopting a Savings Clause; declaring an effective date and Requiring Delivery of this Ordinance to the Company and the ACSC’s Legal Counsel.*

City Manager Oznick stated we are part of a Steering Committee that negotiates on behalf of the city to get the best rates from Atmos Energy. Atmos Energy has requested \$141,300,000 in additional fees and funding. The ACSC Steering committee was able to negotiate it to \$115,000,000. This equals an additional \$4.60 per residential meter and \$14.34 per commercial meter per month.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 22-888. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

VIII. Budget Workshop

City Manager Oznick stated that we are really trying to keep a tight rein on the budget until we can see what the economy is going to do in the next few months. At this time, there will be no Capital Outlay beyond the purchase of a new lawnmower for the Parks Department and a 4% Cost of Living Adjustment for each employee.

Commissioner Funderburgh stated that, although we lowered our (the City) tax rate, because of the valuations of the new property, we are actually going to be receiving more taxes.

IX. City Manager’s Briefing

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

GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning

We have begun the first phase of this project. I have had five home owners contact me about the acquisition of property. All stated that they are going to try and make the August 23 meeting.

TWDB Flood infrastructure Fund Grant

Data is still being compiled for the study. HDR Engineering stated that the first models are almost complete.

HWY 6 Sewer Improvements

The first part has been completed. Contractors are returning to finish a small portion to connect a business on the Eastside of Hwy 6.

Downtown Sidewalk Repairs

TexDot stated that this is still in their project scope and will be done. Unknown time until then.

TXDOT Exit 343 Ramp and Signal Light Projects

This project will be rebid in March or April of 2023 if not sooner. TexDot is watching the price of materials closely. They are also looking at other cost cutting options to get within the price range that is needed to complete the project.

DAM REPAIRS

Still waiting on a date for the dig to begin.

City Manager Oznick reminded the Commissioners there are 3 called meetings before our next regular meeting. August 30, 2022, September 6, 2022 and September 8, 2022 will be meetings held at 12 noon to take action on our budget and our tax levy. He also reminded them of the "Town Hall" public meeting to be held here in the Commission Chambers on August 23, 2022 at 5:30 with the Grant Administrators from Langford and Associates regarding the GLO-MIT Buyout program. They will be here to provide more information and answer questions from property owners.

X. Code Enforcement Report

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for July 2022. There were 26 open cases at the beginning of the month, 31 new cases were opened and 34 cases were closed which ended the month with 23 cases open. 1 citation was issued. 2 annual notices were sent with fines assessed of \$1,336. Fines paid were \$5,300. Two people went to jail on warrants associated with Code Enforcement. One individual served 167 days for Code and Animal Control Citations. Another individual served 2 days for Code Citations and paid the remaining balance and was released. The citations were from 2017–2019.

Regarding Building updates: we have heard that Harbor Freight is going into the old Tractor Supply building; Family Dollar/Dollar Tree is building a retail store on the lot just north of Brookshires. What we have known as Jay's Valero out on Highway 6/ I-20 is being turned into a full-size truck stop. This will cater to the truckers and commercial traffic.

XI. Police Report

Police Chief David Hullum stated there were 259 calls for service in July. 14 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 47 offense reports generated. He noted 23 arrests with 60 charges. A total of 490 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 418 warning citations and 72 citations issued. He also noted 82 “business checks” were conducted. We continue to make arrests for DWI and Narcotics. We have also been busy with some major investigations. Our Animal Control Officer is continuing to do an outstanding job. 16 Animals were impounded while 10 were returned to their owner before being impounded. 12 animals were adopted.

XII. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Joe Williamson was not available at the last meeting so he gave the following activity report for the month of June for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. He began by stating the total call volume of 49 which was an average of 1.63 calls per day. 35 of these were in the City Limits and 12 of them were in the county. They responded to 2 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 10 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There was 1 structure fire, 3 grass fires and 1 vehicle fire. They responded to 25 Medical calls, 7 Motor Vehicle accidents, 1 Public Service assist and 11 false alarms/investigations.

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of July for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. He began by stating the total call volume of 74 which was an average of 2.38 calls per day. 38 of these were in the City Limits and 29 of them were in the county. They responded to 6 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 19 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There were 5 structure fires, 10 grass fires and 2 vehicle fires. They responded to 27 Medical calls, 10 Motor Vehicle accidents, 3 Public Service assists and 15 false alarms/investigations. We now have a total of 27 Volunteer Firefighters.

3 Volunteer Firefighters attended the Texas A&M Municipal Fire School for a week. They received some specialized training in Hazardous Materials Management and Trench Rescue. We received the ARPA Funding from the county for \$24,954.11 and we have begun a project with those funds and look for it to be completed in the next month or so. We also had two members graduate from the TCFP Fire Academy hosted by Cisco Fire Department.

XIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to adjourn at 6:55p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Roma Holley
City Secretary

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners