

THE CITY OF EASTLAND  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

April 17, 2023

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	Zac Darr
Commissioner	Ben McNabb
Commissioner	Richard Rossander

**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
Public Works Director	Bobby Jacoby

Guests: Julie Elrod, Eileen Hayman, Ryder Warren, Sam Williams, Joshua 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 Ben McNabb offered the invocation and City Manager J.J. Oznick 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)**

Chairman Vernon stated that since Commissioner Ben McNabb is not seeking reelection, he would like to take this opportunity to express his sincere appreciation for serving on the City Commission for the past 4 years.

Chairman Vernon then called on Ryder Warren to speak. Mr. Warren introduced himself as the new Executive Director of the Eastland Economic Development Corporation. He shared some of his background and stated he is excited to be part of Eastland and is looking forward to helping it grow.

Julie Elrod also spoke on behalf of the Eastland Chamber of Commerce and expressed appreciation to Bobby Jacoby and his crew for putting up the large tent for the Rips Ribs Cookoff this past weekend. She also thanked City Manager Oznick for everything the City did to help make the cookoff a success.

**IV. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2023 AND MARCH 27, 2023 MEETINGS**

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2023 and March 27, 2023 meetings.

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

**V. Financial Report**

Finance Director Leslie Zander stated the Sales Tax continues to increase and she will email a copy of the finance report to the commissioners.

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 Amendment to Tax Abatement and Incentives Agreement with EMH Cattle Company.

City Manager Oznick stated the only thing changing on this agreement is the name. It is changing from Maverick Townhomes to IDC-2. This was requested by the EMH Cattle Company as a formality regarding a consolidation of businesses.

Commissioner Zac Dar made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to Amend the Tax Abatement and Incentives Agreement with EMH Cattle Company.

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

- 2. Discussion and Consideration of Ordinance 23-893 Amending Section 19-36, "Planning and Zoning Board", adding alternate Board Members.

*AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS AMENDING ARTICLE I, "ZONING ORDINANCE", OF CHAPTER 19, "ZONING", OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS BY AMENDING SECTION 19-36, "PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD"; ADDING ALTERNATE BOARD MEMBERS; PROVIDING REPEALER AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.*

Planning Director Tony Stubblefield shared with the Commissioners that the Planning and Zoning board does not currently have any positions for Alternate. This would be a great benefit because there are times when the designated members are unable to attend and a quorum cannot be called. Approving these positions will give the board the opportunity to continue with the scheduled meetings.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to Amend Section 19-36 of the Code of Ordinances to add alternate Board Members to the Planning and Zoning Board.

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

- 3. Discussion and Consideration of renewal of Water Contracts for Staff, Olden, Carbon and Westbound Water supply.

City Manager J. J. Oznick spoke about the renewal of these water contracts and regarding the requested increases of water distribution capacity. He stated that the TCEQ has requested these increases even though neither of these Water Supplies have ever used all of the capacity they currently have allotted. He stated that this will not affect the City of Eastland's distribution allowance because we do not use even half of our allotment.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to renew all of the Water Contracts.

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

- 4. Executive Session in Accordance with Local Government Code §551.071(2) – Consultation with Attorney regarding potential litigation

Commence: 6:47 p.m.  
 Conclude: 7:05 p.m.

No Action taken

- 5. Executive Session in Accordance with Local Government Code §551.074 – Personnel Matters: Evaluation of City Manager

Commence: 6:47 p.m.  
 Conclude: 7:05 p.m.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr, to authorize a one-time incentive of \$7,500 to City Manager J.J. Oznick.

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

**VII. City Manager Report**

**GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning**

I am making contact with land owners, and starting to receive permission to gain access to their property.

**TWDB Flood infrastructure Fund Grant**

Working on setting a date for the final public hearing.

**Downtown Sidewalk Repairs**

Unknown timeframe.

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

I have inquired about rebidding and waiting for an answer.

**DAM REPAIRS**

Engineers from EH&T and HDR are beginning to work through different designs for Eastland Lake and Ringling Lake dams.

**EASTLAND MUNICIPAL AIRPORT UPDATE**

The project is scheduled to start the any day.

**Rips Ribs**

Was a success, had a great turnout.

**VIII. Code Compliance Report**

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for March 2023. There were 34 open cases at the beginning of the month, 14 new cases were opened and 9 cases were closed which ended the month with 39 cases open. A fine of \$1,037 was dismissed due to death of the defendant.

**IX. Police Chief Report**

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 353 calls for service in March. 18 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 57 offense reports generated. He noted 19 arrests with 32 charges. A total of 475 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 362 warning citations and 113 citations issued. He also stated that 315 “business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer continues to be very active with 76 business calls and 20 citations issued.

The United States Police Canine Association recently held a training and competition in Abilene. Our Canine Handler, Officer Katie Thompson and her partner Buck, participated and were FIRST in discovering narcotics during room searches. They are to be commended for their excellence. They are true assets to our department and our community.

**X. Fire Chief Report**

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of March 2023 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 74 which was an average of 2.38 calls per day. 51 of these were in the City Limits and 22 of them were in the county and they responded to 1 call for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 12 incidents

between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There were 2 structure fires, 5 grass fires and 2 vehicle fires. They responded to 30 Medical calls, 12 Motor Vehicle accidents and 9 Public Service assists and 14 false alarms/investigations. Volunteer membership is at 34.

Chief Williamson informed the Commissioners that Firefighter Peyton Cox's last day was today, April 17, 2023. He has accepted a position with the Anna Fire Department. He has been a great firefighter here and we wish him the best. We are currently seeking applicants to fill this position.

**XI. Adjournment**

Commissioner Zac Dar made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to adjourn at 7:54 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