

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

July 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	James Doyle
Commissioner	Shirley Stuart
Commissioner	Richard Rossander
Commissioner	Cecil Funderburgh

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

Guests: Julie Elrod, H. V. O'Brien, Vance O'Brien, Ryder Warren, Patrick Winters, Randy Clark, Nicole Smith

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Manager J. J. Oznick offered the invocation and Commissioner Shirley Stuart 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)

There were no comments from the public at this time.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE June 19, 2023 MEETING

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023 meeting.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Funderburgh, Rossander, Stuart,
Nays: None
Absent: None

V. Financial Report

Finance Director Leslie Zander directed the attention of the Commissioners to the Finance Report that was included in their packet and asked if there were any questions.

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

Nicole Smith, Head Volleyball Coach at Ranger College, spoke to the commission. Coach Smith stated that the City of Eastland helped sponsor the last three tournaments. They are planning to have 6 teams travelling from Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas to play on August 25th and 26th, 2023. 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 the past two years, the commission approved \$3,500 for this tournament and this same amount is requested this year, unless the commission would like to give more.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated that he had given the commissioners an information sheet listing the amount of funds available in the Hotel Motel Tax funds for the current year. He stated that this has been a good source of tax revenue for the city and he recommended the commission approve the full amount of \$6,120.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve the full amount of \$6,120.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Funderburgh, Rossander, Stuart,
 Nays: None
 Absent: None

2. Discussion and Consideration of Second Reading of Ordinance 23-894

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS AMENDING ARTICLE V, "DANGEROUS BUILDINGS", OF CHAPTER 5, "BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS", OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS BY AMENDING SECTION 5-76, "INSPECTION AND NOTICE OF ABATEMENT" TO PROVIDE FOR ALTERNATE METHODS OF PROVIDING NOTICE; PROVIDING REPEALER AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager JJ Oznick reminded the Commission that the goal of amending this chapter is to streamline the process of Inspection and Abatement of Dangerous Buildings in order to give property owners multiple opportunities to bring the property into compliance.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the second reading of Ordinance 23-894.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Funderburgh, Rossander, Stuart,
 Nays: None
 Absent: None

3. Discussion and Consideration to approve Resolution 2023-08 to Deny the Rate Change Application Proposed by Oncor.

City Manager Oznick stated the Steering Committee recommended that we deny the rate change application proposed by Oncor because it is unreasonable.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart to Deny the Rate Change Application Proposed by Oncor.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Funderburgh, Rossander, Stuart,
Nays: None
Absent: None

4. Discussion and Consideration to Approve or Disapprove Eastland County Appraisal District Resolution No. 2023-071062.

Chairman Vernon introduced Eastland County Chief Appraiser Randy Clark. Mr. Clark advised the Commission that the Appraisal District has been saving money to be able to construct a new principal office building. They now have enough to do so and have acquired land on the West end of town near the Eastland County Crisis Center. In order to move forward with the project, they must have a Resolution approved by each taxing entity. He stated that so far, all entities have been in favor. Their current offices are located on the 2nd floor of the Eastland County Courthouse Annex and the logistics are not the best. There is only one way in and out and there are issues with the elevator, which hinders some citizens being able to get to the office. There is also a need for a board room for the Appraisal Review Board when they need to meet with citizens. The new building is expected to be 4,189 square feet. This will enable the Appraisal District to serve the citizens of Eastland County much better.

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve Resolution 2023-071062.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Funderburgh, Rossander, Stuart,
Nays: None
Absent: None

5. Discussion and Consideration to Approve the Fourth Amendment to the Contract and Agreement with Waste Connections Lone Star, Inc. formerly known as IESI TX Corporation

City Manager J.J. Oznick spoke to the Commission about this subject. He stated our contract with Waste Connections will expire November 30, 2023. He said the City is not required to request bids after so many years. He contacted other cities regarding their waste collection services and researched the competition. At this point, Waste Connections exceeds other service providers both in price and service. There is a 3 ½% cap per year in price until the end of the contract in 2028. Mr. Oznick recommended that we extend our contract with Wasted Connections Lone Star for another five years.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to approve the Fourth Amendment to the Contract and Agreement with Waste Connections Lone Star, Inc. formerly known as IESI TX Corporation

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Funderburgh, Rossander, Stuart,
Nays: None
Absent: None

VII. City Manager Report

GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning

We made progress with other land owners.

TXDOT Exit 343 Ramp and Signal Light Projects

We were called about needing a 911 address for power at Main Street and I-20. This usually means that they will start placing signal lights soon.

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 well under way. They began packing and putting base material down. Paving will begin soon.

The project is looking GREAT!!

VIII. Code Compliance Report

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for June 2023. There were 54 open cases at the beginning of the month, 37 new cases were opened and 17 cases were closed, which ended the month with 74 cases open. 5 Citations were issued, 1 case was reported for Back Taxes and 6 Annual Notices were issued. Total fines assessed was \$2,597.

IX. Police Chief Report

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 243 calls for service in June. 29 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 61 offense reports generated. He noted 26 arrests with 42 charges. A total of 383 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 265 warning citations and 118 citations issued. He also stated that 175 “business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer continues to be very active with 95 business calls. 11 citations were issued along with 14 warning citations. 21 animals were impounded and 11 were adopted.

Officer Whitsel obtained his intermediate license and we are proud of that. We had a report of a boat stolen from Eastland. We recovered it in Abilene and filed charges. We also had 8 major drug arrests in the month of June. Our calls to Walmart have increased since they now have an Asset Protection employee watching for shoplifters.

X. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of June 2023 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 68 which was an average of 2.26 calls per day. 46 of these were in the City Limits and 17 of them were in the county and they responded to 5 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 16 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There were 3 structure fires, 4 grass fires and 1 vehicle fire. They responded to 34 Medical calls, 8 Motor Vehicle accidents and 7 Public Service assists and 9 false alarms/investigations. Volunteer membership is at 24.

Chief Williamson informed the Commissioners that we are now at full staff and we are now running 3 shifts with the fire chief working 8-5 and available when necessary.

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

Roma Holley, City Secretary