

THE CITY OF EASTLAND  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

August 21, 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	Shirley Stuart
Commissioner	Richard Rossander
Commissioner	Cecil Funderburgh

CITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner	James Doyle
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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
Director of Public Works	Bobby Jacoby

Guests: Julie Elrod, H. V. O'Brien, Vance O'Brien, Ryder Warren, Rochel Blakemore, Genesa Camacho, Trinity Dempsey, Callie Boyd, Maria Hernandez

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

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

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Larry Vernon 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 JULY 17, 2023, JULY 31, 2023 AND AUGUST 2, 2023 MEETINGS**

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander to approve the minutes of July 17, 2023, July 31, 2023 and August 2, 2023 Meetings.

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

## 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. We had another good month for sales tax and look forward to ending the fiscal year on a high.

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 Genesa Camacho to present the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 contract request Eastland County Crisis Center, Inc.

Eastland County Crisis Center Director Genesa Camacho addressed the Commissioners and expressed her gratitude for their support this past year.

She shared with the Commission that 68% of their funding goes back into the programs to help the victims that come to the Center for assistance. Only 23% goes to the administration and the remainder helps the victims directly. She asked two of her direct service staff to speak to the Commissioners to give them personal stories of how the funds have assisted people.

Maria Hernandez spoke about assisting a domestic violence victim obtain legal services and get out of an abusive situation.

Callie Boyd spoke about assisting a family to replace a hot water heater so they no longer had to take cold showers.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated that ECCC requested an increase in funding. This year we will contribute \$20,520 to the Eastland County Crisis Center and \$8,520 to the Eastland Child Advocacy Center, for a total of \$29,040, an increase of \$12,000.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to approve the full amount of \$29,040

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

2. Discussion and Consideration of accepting the resignation of Gena Camacho from the Planning & Zoning Board

Planning Director Tony Stubblefield stated that Ms. Camacho is moving outside of the city limits of Eastland and will no longer be eligible to serve on the Planning and Zoning Board. He expressed his appreciation for her many years of service to the citizens of Eastland. She has been a great asset to the community.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to reluctantly accept the resignation.

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

3. Discussion and Consideration of approval of Planning and Zoning Board changing Rebecca Massingill's designation from alternate to a full board member.

Planning Director Tony Stubblefield stated that with the resignation of Ms. Camacho, that leaves an opening on the Planning and Zoning Board. The recommendation is to move Alternate Rebecca Massingill to a full board member. This will fill all of the positions but we will need to look for alternates again.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander to approve Rebecca Massingill as a full board member.

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

4. Discussion and Consideration of approval of Matthew Crum as a new member of the Eastland Economic Development Board.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated we have an open position on the Eastland Economic Development Board because of James Doyle being elected City Commissioner. The EEDI board has recommended Matthew Crum as a new board member.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve Matthew Crum to the EEDI board.

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

5. Discussion and Consideration of approval of reappointment of Jeanie Griffin and Kelly Skinner to the Eastland Historic Preservation Board.

City Manager J.J. Oznick advised that the Eastland Historic Preservation Board has recommended to reappoint Jeanie Griffin and Kelly Skinner to another 3-year term.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve the reappointment of Jeanie Griffin and Kelly Skinner to the Eastland Historic Preservation Board.

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

6. Discussion and Consideration to approve Eastland Historic Preservation Board Request to add funds to the Eastland Fine Arts Association/Majestic Theater project

Eastland Historic Preservation Board Ex-Officio Terry Simmons stated the Majestic Theater Emergency Exit Doors that were replaced using 2022-2023 Grant funds were unpainted when they were installed. They are requesting an additional \$1,759.50 to have the doors painted per an estimate from Johnny B-Welding and Construction.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh to approve the additional \$1,759.50 to paint the new Emergency Exit doors at the Majestic Theater/ Eastland Fine Arts Association.

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

7. Discussion and Consideration to approve Eastland Historic Preservation Board Request to spend remaining 2022-2023 Grant Funds

Eastland Historic Preservation Board Ex-Officio Terry Simmons stated that after the additional \$1,759.50 given to the Eastland Fine Arts, there will be \$10,529 remaining in the 2022-2023 fund. At this time, we have an additional grant application from the Eastland County Museum asking for assistance repairing the front awning at the museum, 114 S. Seaman. This awning has been deteriorating in the past few years and has recently begun to break completely, becoming a danger to the public. After receiving bids, the total cost for this will be \$8,850.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve the request to fund the repair of the Eastland County Museum awning for \$8,850.

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

8. Discussion and Consideration to approve Eastland Historic Preservation Board 2023-2024 Grant funding to Eastland Centennial Library project

Terry Simmons advised the Commissioners that only one Grant Application has been received. Eastland Centennial Memorial Library has asked for \$30,390 to help replace the roof, paint the outside and repair the cracked mortar.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the 2023-2024 Grant funding to Eastland Centennial Library project for \$30,390.

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

9. Discussion and Consideration to Approve second reading of Ordinance 22-891 Amending 2021-2022 Budget.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated this Ordinance was inadvertently not presented for its second reading as planned on October 17, 2022 and so the final approval of this Ordinance has been delayed but the intention of the City Commission is for this Ordinance to go into effect as though it were adopted on second reading on October 17, 2022.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to approve the second reading of Ordinance 22-891.

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

10. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution 2023-09 A RESOLUTION 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 2023 RATE REVIEW MECHANISM FILING.

City Manager J.J. Oznick introduced this item and also Rochel Blakemore, Manager of Public Affairs for Atmos. Oznick stated we are part of a Steering Committee that negotiates on behalf of the city to get the best rates from Atmos Energy. The ACSC Steering committee was able to negotiate an increase of \$7 per residential meter.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander to approve Resolution 2023-09

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

11. Discussion and Consideration approving entering into Drought Contingency Plan – Stage II Water Restrictions

City Manager J.J. Oznick advised the Commissioners that the Eastland County Water Supply District met on Thursday, August 17, 2023 and expressed their intent to enact the Drought Contingency Plan Stage II Water Restrictions beginning August 22, 2023. Due to the fact that the lake is continuing to diminish with every day over 100 degrees and the fact that there has been no significant rain fall in several weeks, the City of Eastland is encouraging its customers to conserve water as much as possible. A schedule of when lawns may be watered has been released and published to all media sources. Also, there will be no sales of Bulk water until further notice. There will be no watering in the City of Eastland Cemetery. Mr. Oznick stated that the City needs to decrease its water consumption by 20% or we will have to pay a penalty for the overage.

No Action Required.

12. Discussion and Consideration rescinding previously approved proposed tax rate.

City Manager J.J. Oznick advised the Commissioners that he had made an error in calculating the proposed tax rate that was approved on August 2, 2023. This tax rate of .523057 needs to be rescinded.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to rescind the tax rate of .523057 that had been approved at the August 2, 2023 City Commission meeting.

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

13. Discussion and Consideration approving Tax Rate and Take Record Vote

City Manager J.J. Oznick advised the Commissioners that the newly calculated Tax Rate is .511160.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the new tax rate of .511160. This is a M & O Rate of .492439 and a Debt rate of .018721. A record vote was taken and all four Commissioners voted Aye.

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

**VII. City Manager Report**

**GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning**

We have secured more land owners to participate in the clearing of Leon River.

**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**

Paving will begin on August 23, 2023.

**VIII. Code Compliance Report**

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for July 2023. There were 74 open cases at the beginning of the month, 33 new cases were opened and 33 cases were closed, which ended the month with 74 cases open. 3 Citations were issued, 3 Annual Notices were issued. Total fines assessed was \$1,055. \$948 in fines were dismissed due to death of the owner. 1 property was abated by the city with a cost of \$1,000. (There is a question as to the accuracy of the data this month due to problems with the system that creates the reports.)

**IX. Police Chief Report**

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 308 calls for service in July. 11 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 52 offense reports generated. He noted 10 arrests with 15 charges. A total of 488 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 356 warning citations and 132 citations issued. He also stated that 375 “business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer continues to be very active with 46 business calls. 8 animals were impounded and 3 were adopted and 1 dog was quarantined.

Our officers assisted the Eastland County Sheriff Department while they were dealing with the homicide of Deputy David Bosecker on July 21, 2023. We covered the calls in the county until they could get back on their feet.

**X. Fire Chief Report**

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of July 2023 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 91 which was an average of 2.9 calls per day. 60 of these were in the City Limits and 28 of them were in the county and they responded to 3 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 20 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There was 1 structure fire, 4 grass fires and 1 vehicle fire. They responded to 48 Medical calls, 17 Motor Vehicle accidents and 14 Public Service assists and 6 false alarms/investigations. We did have one call for extrication where we used the “Jaws of Life” to remove a person from a vehicle. Volunteer membership is at 23.

Chief Williamson informed the Commissioners that the Texas Forestry Service has upgraded our Fire Conditions from Critical to Extreme due to the high temperatures, lack of rain and low humidity. Our “cooling trailer” has been deployed 3 times recently and is really becoming a vital asset.

**XI. Adjournment**

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to adjourn at 6:55 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