

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

September 18, 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
Commissioner	James Doyle

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

City Manager	J.J. Oznick
Finance Director	Leslie Zander
City Secretary	Roma Holley
Police Captain	Dan Wilson
Fire Chief	Joe Williamson
Planning Director	Tony Stubblefield

Guests: Julie Elrod, H. V. O'Brien, Vance O'Brien, Ryder Warren

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 AUGUST 21, 2023, AUGUST 31, 2023, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 AND SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 MEETINGS

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh to approve the minutes of August 21, 2023, August 31, 2023, September 6, 2023 and September 8, 2023 Meetings.

Ayes: Commissioners Funderburgh, Rossander, Stuart,
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: 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 have collected all of the sales tax for the fiscal year and it was 9.47% higher than last year. This speaks volumes for the state of the City.

Our auditor was here recently and said at this time, everything looks really good.

No action at this time.

VI. Presentation of Eastland Economic Development Incorporation Annual Report

EEDI Executive Director Ryder Warren directed the attention of the commissioners to the information packet before them. This packet includes information on the properties owned by EEDI as well as the businesses the EEDI has been involved with this past year.

He stated that within the next couple of weeks, he will be meeting with Eastland County Tax Appraiser Randy Clark and Developer Nicholas Petroff to work out the details of the assistance EEDI will be providing to the new County Appraisal District building and new addition that is being developed.

Director Warren expressed his appreciation for the support of the City of Eastland and for their vision for the future.

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

- 1. Discussion and Consideration EEDI FY 2022-2023 Amended Budget

Executive Director Ryder Warren stated this amended budget was approved by the EEDI board earlier today. The only adjustment was a line item separating the Bartee Metals project.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the Amended FY 2022-2023 Budget for EEDI.

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

- 2. Discussion and Consideration EEDI FY 2023-2024 Budget

Executive Director Ryder Warren shared his vision for the 2023-2024 budget and said the EEDI board had approved it earlier today. He stated that Eastland continues to grow and prosper and we anticipate a great year.

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve the EEDI FY 2023-2024 budget.

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

3. Discussion and Consideration to Approve First reading of Ordinance 23-897 Amending FY 2022-2023 Budget.

City Manager J.J. Oznick advised the Commissioners the only adjustments that had to be made this year was the line items in Capital Expenses when we purchased new equipment and also when we replaced old incandescent street lights with LED street lights.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh to approve the first reading of Ordinance 23-897.

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

4. Discussion and Consideration to authorize the City of Eastland to initiate the procurement of services for a grant administration company for the preparation and submission of a grant application to the U.S. Forest Service for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a Community Wildfire Implementation Project

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated that we have recently become aware of this grant. It is a “zero match” grant and we would like to begin the process of applying for it. This grant will be used to purchase equipment for use in our community wildfire defense.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle to approve Resolution 2023-10 authorizing the initiation of procurement of services for a grant administration company for the preparation and submission of a grant application to the U.S. Forest Service for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a Community Wildfire Implementation Project

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

5. Discussion and Consideration to Renew Publicity and Tourism Agreement with McCloud Museum

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated the City agrees to give the McCloud Museum \$24,000 per year. Per the agreement, the McCloud Museum agrees to provide a quarterly report to the City Commission.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the renewal of the agreement between the McCloud Museum and the City of Eastland.

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

6. Discussion and Consideration to Renew Publicity and Tourism Agreement with Eastland Community Foundation.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated the City agrees to give the Eastland Community Foundation \$36,000 per year. Per the agreement, the Eastland Community Foundation agrees to provide a quarterly report to the City Commission.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh stated the ECF does A LOT to bring tourism and events to Eastland and he made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the renewal of the agreement between the Eastland Community Foundation and the City of Eastland.

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

7. Discussion and Consideration to Renew Publicity and Tourism Agreement with Eastland Fine Arts Association

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated the City agrees to give the Eastland Fine Arts Association \$55,000 per year. Per the agreement, the Eastland Fine Arts Association agrees to provide a quarterly report to the City Commission.

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the renewal of the agreement between the Eastland Fine Arts Association and the City of Eastland.

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

8. Discussion and Consideration to Renew Publicity and Tourism Agreement with Eastland Chamber of Commerce

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated the City agrees to give the Eastland Chamber of Commerce \$30,000 per year. Per the agreement, the Eastland Chamber of Commerce agrees to provide a quarterly report to the City Commission.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to approve the renewal of the agreement between the Eastland Chamber of Commerce and the City of Eastland.

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

9. Discussion and Consideration to Renew Publicity and Tourism Agreement with Eastland County Museum

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated the City agrees to give the Eastland County Museum \$24,000 per year. Per the agreement, the Eastland County Museum agrees to provide a quarterly report to the City Commission.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to approve the renewal of the agreement between the Eastland County Museum and the City of Eastland.

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

VIII. City Manager Report

GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning

We are fixing to go out for bids.

TWDB Flood infrastructure Fund Grant

Final report has been filed, and awaiting approval from TWDB

Downtown Sidewalk Repairs

Unknown timeframe.

TXDOT Exit 343 Ramp and Signal Light Projects

Exact date is not known. I have reached out to TexDot for confirmation.

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 is complete, waiting on project close out.

Rip Fest Oct. 7

Out of town Oct. 1-6

IX. Code Compliance Report

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for August 2023. There were 74 open cases at the beginning of the month, 24 new cases were opened and 19 cases were closed, which ended the month with 79 cases open. 6 Citations were issued, 0 Annual Notices were issued. Total fines assessed was \$2,947. \$1,467 in fines were dismissed. No property was abated by the city but a \$1,000 abatement last month was paid.

Director Stubblefield also reported that HTeaO is still working on their building and plans to be up and running in the near future.

X. Police Chief Report

Captain Dan Wilson stated there were 263 calls for service in August. 20 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 50 offense reports generated. He noted 16 arrests with 18 charges. A total of 386 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 293 warning citations and 93 citations issued. He also stated that 540 "business checks" were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer continues to be very active with 85 business calls. 14 animals were impounded and 5 were adopted

Captain Wilson noted the execution of a search warrant resulted in the Federal Authorities accepting the case for Child Pornography. If proven guilty, the defendant will have to serve every day of his sentence.

Captain Wilson also reported that during the month of August they had two of their officers out for training and one officer position open. This left them very short-handed

Captain Wilson reminded the Commissioners that RipFest is coming up on October 7, 2023

XI. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of August 2023 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 69 which was an average of 2.2 calls per day. 42 of these were in the City Limits and 23 of them were in the county and they responded to 4 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 14 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There were 4 structure fires, 9 grass fires and 3 vehicle fires. They responded to 28 Medical calls, 7 Motor Vehicle accidents and 4 Public Service assists and 12 false alarms/investigations. Volunteer membership is at 23.

Chief Williamson informed the Commissioners that the Burn Ban has been lifted for now. They had an After-Action Review of the Train Derailment and it was very beneficial. They were able to determine what went right and what could have been done better.

Chief Williamson reminded the Commissioners of the Open House to be held at the Eastland Fire Department on October 14, 2023 from 11-2.

XII. Adjournment

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

Roma Holley, City Secretary