

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

October 16, 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	Richard Rossander
Commissioner	James Doyle

CITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner	Shirley Stuart
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
Public Works Director	Bobby Jacoby

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

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 James Doyle offered the invocation and Chairman Larry Vernon 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 SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 MEETING

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023 Meeting.

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

V. Financial Report

Finance Director Leslie Zander advised that the Finance Report was unavailable at this time. The sales tax report for October shows a 6.6% increase over October 2022.

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 to Approve Second reading of Ordinance 23-897 Amending FY 2022-2023 Budget.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to approve the Second reading of Ordinance 23-897.

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

2. Discussion and Consideration to authorize the Mayor and/or City Manager/Administrator to enter into an interlocal agreement with Eastland County for the submission of an application, and with selection, the development and completion of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) through the United States Department of Agriculture – Forestry Service – Community Wildfire Defense Program (CWDG).

City Manager J.J. Oznick explained that this officially authorizes the City of Eastland to enter into an interlocal agreement with the County of Eastland for the submission of an application, and with selection, the development and completion of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) through the United States Department of Agriculture – Forestry Service – Community Wildfire Defense Program (CWDG).

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to authorize the Mayor and/or City Manager/Administrator to enter into an interlocal agreement with Eastland County for the submission of an application, and with selection, the development and completion of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) through the United States Department of Agriculture – Forestry Service – Community Wildfire Defense Program (CWDG).

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

3. Discussion and Consideration to approve the Interlocal Agreement to participate in the Eastland County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated this is the actual Interlocal Agreement we talked about in the preceding item.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle approve the Interlocal Agreement to participate in the Eastland County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

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

4. Discussion and Consideration to Initiate the Depository Process by Appointing Designated Officer.

City Manager J. J. Oznick stated the Depository Contracts may not exceed five years and it's time for the city to go out for bids. The first step of the process is appointing a designated officer to review the applications and respond to questions from applicants and present the material to the City Commission for review and consideration to award a depository. Staff recommends appointment of Finance Director Leslie Zander as the Designated Officer for the Depository Process.

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to appoint Finance Director Leslie Zander as the Designated Officer for the Depository Process.

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

5. Discussion and Consideration to approve the 2023 Contract with Eastland County for Dispatch Services.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated the City of Eastland will pay the County \$34,541 for the Fiscal year 2023-2024.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to approve the renewal of the 2023 Contract with Eastland County for Dispatch Services.

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

6. Discussion and Consideration to approve the 2023 Contract with Eastland County for Firefighting Services

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated the County of Eastland agrees to pay the City of Eastland \$30,000 a year for the Firefighting Services.

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the 2023 Contract for Firefighting Services.

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

7. Discussion and Consideration to approve the 2023 Contract with Eastland County for Ambulance Services.

Chairman Larry Vernon tabled this item until the next meeting.

8. Discussion and Consideration to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 23-898

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS AMENDING CHAPTER 9 “NUISANCES”, ARTICLE III “GARBAGE, WEEDS, JUNK, AND UNSANITARY CONDITIONS”, SECTION 9-25 “NOTICE” OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND CODE OF ORDINANCES; CLARIFYING THAT NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS MAY BE ISSUED FOR ANY VIOLATION OF ARTICLE III; CORRECTING INCONSISTENT SECTION REFERENCES; PROVIDING REPEALER AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Planning Director Tony Stubblefield advised the commission that this was written in order to clarify some of the ambiguous language in the current “Nuisance” ordinance. He shared what the changes were and why the clarification was necessary.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 23-898.

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

9. Discussion and Consideration to approve Resolution 2023-12 Awarding the contract for grant administration services.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated that a Request for Proposals was sent to several companies who handle grant administration services. Langford Community Management Services is the only company to reply with a proposal. We have used them many times and are confident they will be competent to handle the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) through the United States Department of Agriculture – Forestry Service – Community Wildfire Defense Program (CWDG).

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve awarding the contract for grant administration services to Langford Community Management Services.

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

VII. City Manager Report

GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning

We are about 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

Construction will begin in November

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, only need to replant the grass.

VIII. Code Compliance Report

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for September 2023. There were 79 open cases at the beginning of the month, 31 new cases were opened and 25 cases were closed, which ended the month with 85 cases open. 4 Citations were issued, and 2 Annual Notices were issued. Total fines assessed was \$2,339. 2 properties were abated by the city at a cost of \$180.

IX. Police Chief Report

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 222 calls for service in September. 22 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 37 offense reports generated. He noted 15 arrests. A total of 452 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 338 warning citations and 114 citations issued. He also stated that 508 “business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer continues to be very active with 74 business calls. 14 animals were impounded and 3 were adopted

Chief Pitts 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.

Chief Pitts also reported that during the month of September they hired an administrative Assistant and 2 Police Officers. Also, Auston Rose began the Police Academy at Weatherford College and he is anticipating graduating in March. This should put us at a full complement of officers.

X. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of September 2023 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 72 which was an average of 2.39 calls per day. 53 of these were in the City Limits and 15 of them were in the county and they responded to 4 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 12 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There were 3 structure fires, 3 grass fires and 1 vehicle fire. They responded 38 Medical calls, 11 Motor Vehicle accidents and 7 Public Service assists and 8 false alarms/investigations. Volunteer membership is at 24.

Chief Williamson shared with the Commissioners that the Open House that was held at the Eastland Fire Department on October 14, 2023 from 11-2 was very successful. They gave away about 150 hot dogs. They also gave out 6 request forms for installation of free smoke detectors.

Fire Prevention Week is upon us and we have interactions with the schools scheduled. We've also added a member to our Fire Prevention team. Sparky" is our new mascot and will be an added bonus to interacting with people.

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to adjourn at 6:33 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

Roma Holley, City Secretary