

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

January 17, 2023

EASTLAND, TEXAS §

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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	Ben McNabb

CITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner	Zac Darr
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

Guests: Julie Elrod, Tom Bailey, Scott Hay

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Larry Vernon called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Larry Vernon offered the invocation and Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh 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)

No comment

IV. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2022 MEETINGS

Commissioner Ben McNabb made a motion, seconded by Mayor Larry Vernon, to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2022 meetings.

Ayes:	Commissioners McNabb, Vernon
Nays:	None
Absent:	Commissioners Darr, Rossander
Abstained	Commissioner Funderburgh

V. Financial Report

Finance Director Leslie Zander stated that both reports for October and November are in front of the commissioners for their consideration. Sales tax continues to increase as Eastland continues to grow.

No action at this time.

VI. Eastland Economic Development Inc. Bi-Annual Report – Tom Bailey

Mr. Bailey spoke about the various projects EEDI were connected to in 2022

Bartee Metals in the Business Park continues their expansion. They have almost completed a new building which will house their “red iron” operation. In the near future they will have the ability to manufacture and ship every piece of metal buildings from the ground up. They have added several new employees.

Brent Kirkland and Mighty Molding are also expanding. They are building a new warehouse and employing more people.

Maverick Town Homes have built almost 100 new units and are expecting to build more.

There is interest in several pieces of property around town including the Warner Subdivision and the Stanley Property. Potential investors have shown a lot of interest in possible developments in these areas.

Although it is not an EEDI project, the Family Dollar/Dollar Tree is rapidly nearing completion. This will draw more people to Eastland and will enhance the scope of their retail shopping experience.

Totalcom is still working towards bringing Internet via Fiber to Eastland. They have been completing background work regarding the condition of the poles here.

Overall, Eastland continues to grow and prosper and EEDI is focused on helping with that endeavor.

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

1. Discussion and Consideration authorizing the Eastland Chamber of Commerce, Rip’s Ribs Cookoff April 15, 2023 as an Open Container Event IAW Ordinance 12-781, dated 1/12/12, and designating the event area as the premises for public consumption of Alcoholic beverages, by adult 21 years of age or older, during the event, provided that the event is approved by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), the beverages are distributed by a Licensed TABC permit holder, security personnel are present, and the event area is posted with appropriate barriers and signage.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated that this is basically the same thing we did last year. Julie Elrod, representing the Chamber of Commerce also stated that nothing has changed in what they are proposing.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to issue the variance allowing alcohol at the Rip’s Ribs Cookoff.

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

2. Discussion and Consideration authorizing the October 5 – October 7, 2023 Eastland Chamber of Commerce, to host a Carnival before and during the Old Rip Festival,

Julie Elrod, representing the Eastland Chamber of Commerce, stated that although they were unable to secure a carnival to come here last year, they would like to try again this year.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb to authorize a carnival with the provision that the area will be clean in time for Sunday morning worship services at the First Christian Church and the First Methodist Church.

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

3. Discussion and Consideration to accept a Bid for Project TWDB DWSRF Contract No 62769, CID 01, submitted by Fambro Construction and Authorize City Manager to negotiate a final price with them.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated this project is the main water line which runs from East Main Street to the water tower. This project began in 2018 and the estimated cost of this project was \$800,000. We are now at a time when we can begin the project and we accepted bids from several contractors. All of the proposals are significantly greater than the original estimate. The consensus is to negotiate a final price with Fambro Construction from Stephenville. Their bid is \$1,999,955 with a completion date of 300 days from the start.

Scott Hay, with the engineering firm of Enprotec Hibbs & Todd, has been the engineer on this project from the beginning. He stated the necessity of completion of this water line. It will be replacing the existing water line which has been in existence for more than 70 years and has been deteriorating rapidly in the past few years, causing major damage. He advised that this new line will be constructed of a “poly plastic” type of pipe that will be more flexible and able to withstand the pressure changes that occur. He said this line should last 100 years or more.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb to authorize City Manager Oznick to negotiate a final price proposal with Fambro Construction

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

4. Discussion and Consideration Resolution 2023-01 Ordering May General Election

Commissioner Ben McNabb made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh to approve Resolution 2023-01 Ordering an Election on May 6, 2023 to elect three (3) commissioners

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

5. Discussion and Consideration Resolution 2023-02
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION WITH THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF CITIES SERVED BY ONCOR; AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TEN CENTS PER CAPITA TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO FUND REGULATORY AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY, LLC.

City Manager Oznick stated we pay this Steering Committee to be our “voice” among the Regulatory Commission. This is the Resolution that is made each year that keeps us participating with the Steering Committee.

Commissioner Ben McNabb made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh to approve Resolution 2023-02 to continue participation in the Oncor Steering Committee.

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

VIII. City Manager’s Briefing

City Manager J.J. Oznick briefly covered the report that the commissioners have in their packet.

GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning

Texas State completed the archaeological dig and submitted it for approval. Hopefully this is the last major hurdle on the environmental side of the project.

TWDB Flood infrastructure Fund Grant

HDR is almost complete with the study and will be ready to make recommendations for flood mitigation soon.

HWY 6 Sewer Improvements

The project is complete.

Downtown Sidewalk Repairs

Unknown timeframe.

TXDOT Exit 343 Ramp and Signal Light Projects

This project will be rebid in March or April of 2023 if not sooner. TexDot is watching the price of materials closely. They are also looking at other cost cutting options to get within the price range that is needed to complete the project.

DAM REPAIRS

Engineers from EH&T and HDR were here on January 12th to do a site visit. We looked at Eastland Lake and Ringling Lake dams.

IX. Code Enforcement Report

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for December 2022. There were 34 open cases at the beginning of the month, 10 new cases were opened and 7 cases were closed which ended the month with 37 cases open.

Director Stubblefield also gave a report of the total amount of permits that were issued in 2022. There were 172 Total Permits issued. They are as follows:

Demolition	1
Manufactured Home	1
New Residential Construction	7
New Commercial Construction	9
Additions	10
Sign	21
Carport	11
Fence	19
Plumbing	74
Cargo Container	3
Accessory Building	10
Driveway/Flatwork	2
Roof	4

X. Police Report

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 226 calls for service in December. 12 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 34 offense reports generated. He noted 26 arrests with 38 charges. A total of 335 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 265 warning citations and 70 citations issued. He also stated that 229 “business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer continues to be very active with 82 business calls.

Chief Pitts shared with the Commission the promotions that have taken place recently. Officer Don Walls was promoted to Corporal; Officer Sam Joiner was promoted to Patrol Sergeant and he was also Officer of the Year for 2022; Detective Scot McDade was promoted to Lieutenant and Lieutenant Dan Wilson was promoted to Captain. Retired Texas Ranger Shane Morrow has agreed to be a reserve officer with the department in order to mentor Lt. McDade in his pursuit of Major Crimes. Also, Lt. McDade was honored by the Eastland County Crisis Center as MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team) Member of the Year for 2022. This was a very well-deserved honor given to Lt. McDade for all of his hard work and “going the extra mile” for the clients and staff.

XI. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of December for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 78 which was an average of 2.51 calls per day. 51 of these were in the City Limits and 25 of them were in the county and they responded to 2 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, 2 grass fires and 2 vehicle fires. They responded to 44 Medical calls, 4 Motor Vehicle accidents and 14 Public Service assists and 7 false alarms/investigations. They installed 1 Smoke Detector. Volunteer membership remains steady at 25.

Chief Williamson reminded the Commission of the Annual Chili Cook-Off on February 18, 2023. He also stated that that he had recently completed his Master Fire Investigator course. This allows the Fire Department to work in conjunction with the Police Department during an Arson Investigation. The Police Department will pursue the criminal side of the investigation and the Fire Department can now pursue the Cause of Origin.

XII. Adjournment

Mayor Larry Vernon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

Roma Holley, City Secretary