

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

January 21, 2025

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:

Mayor	Larry Vernon
Commissioner	Richard Rossander
Commissioner	Shirley Stuart
Commissioner	James Doyle

CITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner	Carol Jones
--------------	-------------

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

City Manager	Savannah Fortenberry
Finance Director	Leslie Zander
City Secretary	Roma Holley
Police Chief	Tim Pitts
Fire Chief	Joe Williamson
Planning Director	Tony Stubblefield
Code Enforcement	Terry Simmons

Guests: Julie Elrod, Dean Vernon, Julie Cameron,

I. Meeting Called to Order

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

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge

Commissioner Richard Rossander offered the invocation and City Manager Savannah Fortenberry 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 Comments

IV. Approve Minutes of the December 16, 2024 and December 23, 2024 Meetings

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024 and December 23, 2024 Meetings.

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

V. Financial Report

Finance Director Leslie Zander stated the sales tax decreased a little bit over last year but not too much. Mayor Vernon asked for some clarification concerning designated revenue, just to know exactly where the city stands financially. Zander explained that designated revenue, such as hotel/motel tax allocations, for example, are not available for general use. Another example, GLO funds must be deposited in 3 days.

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

- 1. Discussion and Consideration to approve Resolution **2025-01** Ordering May General Election

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander to approve Resolution **2025-01** Ordering the May General Election

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

- 2. Discussion and Consideration to approve Resolution **2025-02**
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION WITH THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF CITIES SERVED BY ONCOR; AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF ELEVEN CENTS PER CAPITA TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO FUND REGULATORY AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY, LLC.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve Resolution **2025-02** authorizing continued participation with the steering committee of cities serviced by Oncor and authorizing the payment of eleven cents per capita to the steering committee.

Ayes: Commissioners Rossander, Stuart, Vernon
Nays: None
Absent: Jones
Abstain: Doyle

- 3. Discussion and Consideration to approve the second reading of Ordinance **25-911** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS AMENDING REVISING CHAPTER 14 “STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND PUBLIC PLACES”, ARTICLE VI “EASTLAND CEMETERY” BY ADDING PROVISIONS REGARDING THE PECAN GROVE URN GARDEN; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart was absent for the first reading and she had a question regarding how much the cemetery spaces cost. She asked that we add the phrase “Cemetery space costs can be found in the City of Eastland Rate and Fee Schedule.”

Mayor Vernon tabled this item til the next meeting.

- 4. Discussion and Consideration to approve the second reading of Ordinance **25-912** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 22-892; ADOPTING AN

AMENDED COMPREHENSIVE RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE ESTABLISHING RATES AND FEES TO BE CHARGED FOR CITY SERVICES; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Discussion centered around the fact that this fee schedule does not include the fees for cemetery spaces. However, since the new rates went into effect on January 1, 2025, it was discussed to approve with the addition of the cemetery space costs.

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve on second reading Ordinance 25-912 adopting an amended Rate and Fee Schedule, with the addition of the cemetery space costs.

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

- 5. Convene into executive session in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.074, Personnel Matters – City Manager

This item was moved to be after the Monthly Department Reports.

Commence: 6:58 p.m.
Conclude: 7:21 p.m.

- 6. Discussion and Consideration of any action to be taken as a result of the Executive Session.

No Action taken

VII. City Manager Report

GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning

The street improvement project continues to progress. We are three months in on construction. Contractors began work on January 6th after Christmas. Contractors have been delayed with pouring concrete due to the weather, but they are still working on West Moss Street.

Phase two of the creek resurfacing is in progress. Bids were awarded by Commission on December 16th, and we are currently waiting on the contractor to get the signed contract over to us for review. Once we have the signed contract, we will schedule a preconstruction meeting.

We are working with GLO for a 24-month extension for the buy-out portion. This process is still ongoing.

TWDB Flood infrastructure Fund Grant

We are waiting on the Contractor’s bond. Once bonds are submitted, we will be waiting for the contract to be signed and fully executed by TWDB.

Downtown Sidewalk Repairs

Unknown timeframe.

General Election

Deadline to file an application for a place on the May 3, 2025, ballot is January 15, 2025, last day to file is February 14, 2025.

Wildfire Mitigation

All cities have approved the resolution, and we are moving forward with the project. Each city will be sharing Carbons portion and assisting Carbon with mitigation efforts.

Roma Holley, TRMC

Roma Holley will graduate from UNT as a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk. Roma’s commitment to personal and professional growth is inspiring. I am confident that this achievement will bring even greater success to her career. We are fortunate to have Roma with the City of Eastland and congratulate her on this well-deserved milestone.

Press Release:

January 23, 2025: Graduates complete approximately 200 hours of individual study over a four-course curriculum and attend eight two-day seminars for an additional 100 hours of classroom study. The curriculum includes selected texts and a number of special readings on the topics of public administration, election law, budgeting and finance, municipal law, and personnel management. To date, 1,140 individuals have earned the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk designation. The Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, located at the University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, is a university-level professional education program for city clerks and city secretaries in Texas. The program is the third oldest of forty-seven programs around the world. The Certification Program is recognized and endorsed by Section 22.074 of the Local Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated. Texas Registered Municipal Clerks are recognized for their achievements and contributions to effective, efficient local government by their mayors, city administrators, city councils, and the citizens of their communities. The value of a City Secretary who has earned the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification cannot be overstated. The TMCCP certification is a highly regarded professional credential that demonstrates a city secretary’s dedication to their profession and their commitment to acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill their responsibilities effectively.

Eastland Youth Sports Authority Board Town Hall Meeting

Eastland Youth Sports Authority Board is holding a town hall meeting on January 28, 2025, from 6pm-7:30pm. The public is encouraged to attend. The Board will be discussing the overview of the advisory board and the sports complex.

Pavilion at the Park

The Lion’s Club is working on removing the old pavilion and installing a new one. They requested funding assistance for the project from the City. The City is funding \$12,000.00 for the pavilion. There are other donors that will assist in funding this project as well.

VIII. Code Compliance Report

Code Enforcement Officer Terry Simmons reported the Code Compliance Report for December 2024. There were 20 open cases at the beginning of the month, 8 new cases were opened and 20 cases were closed, which ended the month with 8 cases open. 0 citations were issued. One case was reported for back taxes and one case was abated by the City for a cost of \$9,489. This was the abatement of the property at 207 W. Patterson.

IX. Police Chief Report

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 323 calls for service in December. 12 cases were filed with the District Attorney and 1 case was filed with the Juvenile Authorities. There were 33 offense reports generated. He noted 7 arrests. A total of 625 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 446 warning citations and 179 citations issued. He also stated that 1115

“business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer had a very active month with 66 business calls. 19 animals were impounded and 9 were adopted and 0 were quarantined. 5 citations and 0 warnings were issued by the Animal Control Officer.

Chief Pitts noted that all police officers now have ballistic helmets and shields. Sgt. Ronnie Allman demonstrated the new helmet and shields. There were 4 narcotics arrest and 7 warrant arrests.

X. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of December 2024 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 112 which was an average of 3.73 calls per day. 86 of these were in the City Limits and 22 of them were in the county and they responded to 4 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 18 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There were 2 structure fires, 1 grass fire and 1 vehicle fire. They responded to 67 Medical calls; 10 Motor Vehicle accidents and 22 Public Service assists and 1 false alarm/investigation.

Chief Williamson noted that Daniel Jackson, aka DJ, their Safety Chief, retired after many years as a volunteer. We appreciate the dedication and commitment he has shown the Volunteer Fire Department.

He also stated their First EMT class has been completed. 17 students started the class, and 14 completed all the requirements of the class.

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

APPROVED

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

Roma Holley, City Secretary