

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

May 20, 2024

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	Shirley Stuart
Commissioner	James Doyle
Commissioner	Carol Jones

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, Juli Cameron, Thom Cameron, H.V. O'Brien, Vance O'Brien, Lisa Benson, Lee O'Conner, Tracey Jones,

I. Meeting Called to Order

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

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge

City Manager J.J. Oznick offered the invocation and Commissioner James Doyle 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)

Lee O'Conner spoke regarding her concern with the many boarded up buildings in the downtown area. She recently closed the restaurant Beard's Wheat and Rye on South Lamar, just west of the Courthouse. She stated that, besides the traffic of people conducting business at the courthouse, there is very little to draw people to the downtown area. Her goal is to make the downtown area more popular for business and entertainment.

Lisa Benson spoke regarding the lack of any kind of registration process for landlords. She stated this would not only be beneficial for citizens to know who has property, but it would allow the city to hold the landlords accountable for substandard housing. She stated it would be beneficial to everyone to have minimum standards of housing and a way to enforce it.

IV. Approve Minutes of the April 15, 2024, May 7, 2024 and May 15, 2024 Meetings

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander to approve the minutes of April 15, 2024, May 7, 2024 and May 15, 2024 Meetings

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

V. Financial Report

Finance Director Leslie Zander advised the board that the first quarter looks really good and sales tax continues to increase.

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

1. Discussion and Consideration of second reading of Ordinance 24-900 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS REVISING CHAPTER 19, ZONING, OF THE EASTLAND CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING SECTION 19-11 "PERMITTED USES" TO ALLOW DUPLEXES IN THE SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT WITH A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT; PROVIDING REPEALING AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart to approve the second reading of Ordinance 24-900.

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

2. Discussion and Consideration of second reading of Ordinance 24-901 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS AMENDING CHAPTER 19, ZONING, OF THE EASTLAND CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING SECTION 19-19 "FENCE REGULATIONS";

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to approve the second reading of Ordinance 24-901

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

3. Discussion and Consideration of second reading of Ordinance 24-902 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS REVISING CHAPTER 3, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, OF THE EASTLAND CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING SECTION 3-3 "CONSUMPTION AND POSSESSION IN PUBLIC PLACES" TO PROHIBIT CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL WITHIN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; MAKING RELATED CHANGES TO SECTION 3-1 "DEFINITIONS"; PROVIDING REPEALING AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jones to approve the second reading of Ordinance 24-902.

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

4. Discussion and Consideration of approving Resolution 2024-08 which amends the number on Resolution 2024-07.

City Secretary Roma Holley stated that she had mis-numbered the Resolution and this amendment only changes the number, not the resolution itself. She also stated that one more mistake had been discovered. In Resolution 2024-07, it lists the time of the meeting as 6:00 p.m. when the actual meeting was at noon. Resolution 2024-08 will also address this error.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve Resolution 2024-08.

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

5. Discussion and Consideration of approving updated Water Conservation Plan

City Manager J.J. Oznick shared with the Commissioners that TCEQ requires this update every five years. It is basically stating what we will be doing to mitigate water loss.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart to approve the Water Conservation Plan

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

6. Discussion and Consideration to Approve Resolution 2024-09 Designating Authorized Signatories

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated that any time we have a change in Commissioners, it is necessary to change the names of who can sign checks. In this case, we will be removing Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh and adding Commissioner Carol Jones.

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve Resolution 2024-09.

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

VII. City Manager Report

GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning

The north section of the North Fork of the Leon is almost complete. We have a tentative date in June to begin taking bids to complete the streets included in this plan.

TXDOT Exit 343 Ramp and Signal Light Projects

The lights have been installed and they are waiting on some electrical issues to be resolved. Hopefully, the lights will be turned on in the next week or so.

VIII. Code Compliance Report

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for

April 2024. There were 13 open cases at the beginning of the month, 32 new cases were opened and 19 case were closed, which ended the month with 26 cases open. No cases were reported for back taxes. Three Annual Notices were sent.

IX. Police Chief Report

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 271 calls for service in April. 18 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 68 offense reports generated. He noted 27 arrests. A total of 549 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 329 warning citations and 220 citations issued. He also stated that 342 “business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer had a very active month with 91 business calls. 11 animals were impounded and 3 were adopted and one was quarantined. 20 citations and 0 warnings were issued by the Animal Control Officer.

EPD was involved in two vehicle pursuits, one foot pursuit, one arson case and there were five people arrested for DWI.

Both Officers Youngs and Rose doing well on FTO

Corporal Spruill has received his certification to work with a K-9 and that program is up and running again.

Recruit Rodriguez is continuing to do well in the Police Academy and will be graduating in June.

Finally, 13 arrest warrants were served.

X. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of April 2024 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 63 which was an average of 2.23 calls per day. 44 of these were in the City Limits and 19 of them were in the county and they responded to 0 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 22 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There were 0 structure fires, 0 grass fires and 1 vehicle fire. They responded 29 Medical calls, 12 Motor Vehicle accidents and 12 Public Service assists and 9 false alarms/investigations. We also have two new volunteers.

Chief Williamson stated they are now a Texas Commission on Fire Protection Certified Training Facility. This is great news because not only will we save funds on sending personnel for training, but we will “grow our own” firefighters from the local community. It will save money for everyone involved.

Chief Williamson also stated that they have received reimbursement from FEMA for the Eastland County Complex Fires in 2022. The total received is \$42,710.46 which is about 75% of what was filed.

In conclusion, Chief Williamson stated that staff member Charlie Torrez and VFD Captain Bryan Kellar, had taken on the task of working on Engine 6 and Engine 61. Neither of these engines passed the pump test. Williamson stated that he is confident the engines will now pass the pump test, thanks to the hard work and dedication of these two firefighters who volunteered to fix everything that was wrong with these engines. He stated that it saved the department almost \$10,000.

At this point, Chairman Larry Vernon addressed the Commissioners regarding the City Charter. He stated that after the death of Commissioner Funderburgh, it was determined that a special election must be held to fill that position. A new commissioner could not just be appointed. At that point, he began delving into the charter even more and he would like to have a discussion about making some amendments to the charter. In order to do this, it will have to be voted on by the public. This will take place November 5, 2024. He spoke to our City Attorney Eileen Hayman who agreed to go through the charter and make suggestions for change.

Enclosed in the information packets is a copy of the charter and the proposed changes. Chairman Vernon asked the Commissioners if we could have a special meeting to go over all of the charter and proposed changes in order to make certain that everyone knows what is going on and is in agreement. The time discussed for this Charter Amendment Workshop is June 24, 2024 at noon.

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

APPROVED

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

Roma Holley, City Secretary