

THE CITY OF EASTLAND  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

June 17, 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	James Doyle
Commissioner	Carol Jones

**CITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Commissioner	Shirley Stuart
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**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
Code Enforcement	Terry Simmons

Guests: Julie Elrod, Juli Cameron, Thom Cameron, Vance O'Brien, Kael Joiner, Nancy Stewart, Joe Wright, Don Hughes, Michael J. Hackney, Robin Hayes

**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**

Commissioner Richard Rossander offered the invocation and Commissioner Carol Jones 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 May 20, 2024 Meeting**

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle to approve the minutes of May 20, 2024 Meeting

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

**V. Financial Report**

City Manager advised the board that everything is still on a positive heading. He stated regarding sales tax that this was the best April we've had.

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

1. Discussion and Consideration of approving Resolution 2024-10 setting a Public Hearing to Determine Whether a Structure on Property Commonly Known as 207 W. Patterson is a Dangerous Building pursuant to Chapter 5, Article V of the Code of Ordinances".

Planning Director Tony Stubblefield and Code Enforcement Officer Terry Simmons directed the attention of the Commissioners to a slide presentation. The slides showed the structure at 207 W. Patterson. This structure has been stripped of everything of value. It is in very poor condition and on the verge of collapsing. The owner of the property is deceased and contact has been made with the next of kin, who lives out of state. This person stated he is not an heir and does not want the property. He has returned all attempts to contact in order to mitigate the issues.

At this time, the next step in the condemnation process is to set a public hearing in order to give everyone a chance to speak on the subject of condemnation of this structure.

The hearing is set for July 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. during the Regular City Commission meeting.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jones to approve Resolution 2024-10 setting a public hearing for July 15, 2024.

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

**VII. Discussion regarding 2024-2025 Budget items: Contracts with Eastland County Dispatch and the Cooperative Ambulance Service Contract.**

Chairman Larry Vernon introduced this item. He stated he is bringing this item before the commission and the public due to some issues that have been bothering him for some time now. He stated that he, and the constituents we all serve, are paying double, triple and sometimes quadruple the amount of taxes for some of the same items. His desire is to look at this and attempt to find a better way of working with the same amount of money. He opened the topic for discussion.

At this time, Nancy Stewart, President of the Eastland Memorial Hospital Board (EMHB) addressed the commissioners and introduced the other board members in attendance. Kael Joiner, Vice-President of the EMHB, Joe Wright, CEO of the EMHB and Donald Hughes, EMHB member.

Among other discussion, Mrs. Stewart stated that she disagrees with the way Chairman Vernon stated the topic for discussion. She stated that the Cities of Eastland and Cisco entered into a cooperative agreement along with the County and everyone pays their allotted share and the hospital picks up the remaining funding.

Discussion followed and it was decided to seek a meeting of all entities involved. Mr. Wright volunteered to work towards that goal.

## **VIII. 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 currently “blinking” and traffic is learning to adjust to it. Hopefully they will be fully operational soon.

## **IX. Code Compliance Report**

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for May 2024. There were 26 open cases at the beginning of the month, 42 new cases were opened and 15 case were closed, which ended the month with 53 cases open. No cases were reported for back taxes. Five Annual Notices were sent. One citation was issued and Fines assessed were \$462.

## **X. Police Chief Report**

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 347 calls for service in May. 19 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 46 offense reports generated. He noted 15 arrests. A total of 646 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 393 warning citations and 253 citations issued. He also stated that 399 “business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer had a very active month with 121 business calls. 18 animals were impounded and 4 were adopted and none were quarantined. 4 citations and 2 warnings were issued by the Animal Control Officer.

Chief Pitts noted there were 5 Narcotics Arrests; 5 arrest warrants served; 2 Sexual Assault Cases investigated and 3 arrests for Driving While Intoxicated.

## **XI. Fire Chief Report**

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of May 2024 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 72 which was an average of 2.32 calls per day. 54 of these were in the City Limits and 18 of them were in the county and they responded to 0 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 11 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There were 0 structure fires, 2 grass fires and 3 vehicle fires. They responded 34 Medical calls, 8 Motor Vehicle accidents and 12 Public Service assists and 3 false alarms/investigations. Our volunteer membership remains at 25.

Chief Williamson stated they will be hosting the first EMT class for 19 participants from the surrounding areas. This will be held July 15, 2024 at the Eastland Fire Department.

At this time Chairman Larry Vernon reminded the Commissioners of the upcoming Charter Amendment Workshop that will be held on June 24, 2024 at 1 p.m. here in the Commission Chambers.

**XII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

APPROVED

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Larry Vernon, Chairman  
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

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Roma Holley, City Secretary