

THE CITY OF EASTLAND  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

September 16, 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	Carol Jones

CITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner	James Doyle
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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, Juli Cameron, Tom Bailey, Gary Ford, Anna Ford, Joshua Dangel

**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 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 August 19, 2024, September 10, 2024, and September 12, 2024 Meetings**

Commissioner Shirly Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jones, to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2024, September 10, 2024, and September 12, 2024 Meetings

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

## **V. Financial Report**

Finance Director Leslie Zander stated there is nothing outstanding about this month's report. Chairman Vernon stated the sales tax is \$3,628 above last year. Total sales tax for the year is \$2,093,186 which is outstanding.

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

Eastland Economic Development Executive Director Tom Bailey shared a slide presentation with the Commissioners and the audience.

He stated that Eastland continues to grow economically. Many opportunities have been taken advantage of in the last year. He highlighted just a few:

EEDI has just over 100 acres in the business park with several business already occupying it. One of these is Bartee Metals. They have a "Fabrication Shop" that fabricates metal buildings from the Red Iron Beams to the metal building. This has been a very successful partnership with EEDI supplying the funds for the initial building and Bartee Metals leasing to own.

EEDI also has 26 acres near the Eastland Airport that are available for development. They are currently advertising and anticipating business that are affiliated with the air traffic industry.

Nicholas Petroff is a developer who is developing the old "Stanley Ford/Sale Barn" property on East Main Street. He is looking forward to bringing in many businesses and opening that area as another egress to Wal-Mart. This is still in the early stages but is very exciting.

Mr. Petroff is also developing the "Old Rip" Addition which is neighborhood behind the Eastland County Crisis Center. This will have approximately 49 residences as well as the Eastland County Appraisal District.

EEDI recently participated in the Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting for Veterans Garage Doors at 1415 E. Main Street. This is a company that manufactures garage doors and carports. It has stores in Weatherford and Abilene. EEDI provided assistance in getting the garage doors stocked here as well organizing the garage door openers, parts and displays. All of this helps with the manufacturing and installation of garage doors.

Mr. Bailey stated an immediate creation of at least three jobs here in Eastland and they are hoping to expand to five or six employees here in Eastland by the end of the year.

Overall, this has been a great year for Economic Development in Eastland and we are looking forward to continuing success. Mr. Bailey thanked the City of Eastland for its continued partnership and commitment to the future.

## **VII. Public Hearing P&Z case 24-002 To Rezone Parcel to C2-Commercial for development. Parcel #63012, corner Bill Street and I-20 Access RD. Legal Description: John House/Boles PT of LT 3, AB 159 Triangle TR, Eastland, Eastland County, Texas**

**Public Hearing open: 6:16 p.m.**

**Public Hearing closed: 6:21 pm.**

**Staff Presentation by Planning Director Tony Stubblefield**

This is a triangular piece of property adjacent to the LaQuinta Inn. It is owned by the same people who own the LaQuinta.

**Request:** To Rezone Parcel to just C2-Commercial for development

**Staff Report:** When zoning was placed on this area in 2007, there was an issue where zoning was mapped incomplete as one or the other. Rezoning the property will allow for uniform zoning across the entire lot and allow for commercial development for a possible restaurant in the near future on this property.

**Staff Recommendation:** To approve the rezoning of property to C2 – Commercial for further development of area by property owners.

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

1. Discussion and Consideration EEDI FYE 2024 Amended Budget

EEDI Executive Director Tom Bailey explained that this amendment is to accurately reflect what happened with the budget during the year. It also shows a balanced budget.

Commissioner Carol Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the EEDI FYE 2024 Amended Budget.

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

2. Discussion and Consideration EEDI FYE 2025 Budget

EEDI Executive Director Tom Bailey briefly explained the upcoming budget

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve the Eastland Economic Development, Incorporated FYE 2025 budget.

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

3. Discussion and Consideration Reappoint Board of Directors – Vicki Bradley and Terry Slavens to the Eastland Economic Development Board.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jones to approve the reappointment of Vicki Bradley and Terry Slavens to the Eastland Economic Development, Incorporated, term ending September 30, 2027.

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

4. Discussion and Consideration 2025 Historic Preservation Grant Applications

Eastland Historic Preservation Board Ex-Officio Terry Simmons shared with the Commissioners the details of the three grant applications. He stated that although each applicant sought a 50/50 match, the Board decided to fully fund each applicant.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve the Grant applications from Eastland Community Foundation for \$15,900; Eastland County Museum for \$5,875; and James W. Widener for \$1,500.

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

5. Discussion and Consideration of Application of Patti Woolam for Place 4 Expiring Term on the Eastland Historic Preservation Board.

Eastland Historic Preservation Board Ex-Officio Terry Simmons stated that Rhyne Hobbs had served his two three-year terms expiring September 30, 2024 and that Patti Woolam had applied to serve on the Board. She comes to us with a wealth of experience in many areas and will be a great asset to our Board.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart, made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the application of Patti Woolam for Place 4 of the Eastland Historic Preservation Board, term ending September 30, 2027.

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

6. Discussion and Consideration of approval of reappointment of Julie Elrod to Place 5 of the Eastland Historic Preservation Board.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jones, to approve the reappointment of Julie Elrod to the Eastland Historic Preservation Board, place 5, term ending September 30, 2027.

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

7. Discussion and Consideration Resolution 2024-14 *A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS DEDICATING A CERTAIN 0.35 ACRE TRACT OUT OF THE JOHN HOUSE SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 159, EASTLAND COUNTY, TEXAS AS A PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY TO BE AN EXTENSION OF TERRI STREET; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR SAID DEDICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.*

Planning Director Tony Stubblefield stated that when the EEDI Board deeded this property to the City of Eastland, we did not realize we had to designate it as a public Right-of-Way. This resolution will officially make Terri Street, between Dollar General and the Old Tractor Supply Building, a public Right-of-Way.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve Resolution 2024-14, which dedicates Terri Street as a public right-of-way and authorizes the mayor to execute any additional documents necessary for said dedication.

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

8. Discussion and Consideration to Renew Publicity and Tourism Agreement with McCloud Museum

Commissioner Carol Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve the Renewal of the Publicity and Tourism Agreement with McCloud Museum for \$24,000 per year.

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

9. Discussion and Consideration to Renew Publicity and Tourism Agreement with Eastland Community Foundation

Commissioner Shirley Stuart, made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the Renewal of the Publicity and Tourism Agreement with the Eastland Community Foundation for \$36,000 per year.

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

10. Discussion and Consideration to Renew Publicity and Tourism Agreement with Eastland Fine Arts Association

Commissioner Carol Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the Renewal of the Publicity and Tourism Agreement with the Eastland Fine Arts Association for \$55,000 per year.

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

11. Discussion and Consideration to Renew Publicity and Tourism Agreement with Eastland Chamber of Commerce

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jones, to approve the Renewal of the Publicity and Tourism Agreement with the Eastland Chamber of Commerce for \$30,000 per year.

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

12. Discussion and Consideration to Renew Publicity and Tourism Agreement with Eastland County Museum

Commissioner Carol Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the Renewal of the Publicity and Tourism Agreement with the Eastland County Museum for \$24,000 per year.

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

13. Discussion and Consideration to Renew Publicity and Tourism Agreement with Eastland Centre for the Arts, Inc.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jones, approve the Renewal of the Publicity and Tourism Agreement with the Eastland Centre for the Arts for \$21,600 per year.”

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

14. Discussion and Consideration of P & Z case 24-002 which results in the first reading of Ordinance 24-907 changing the Zoning Use Designation of property

Chairman Vernon reminded the Commissioners this is the property that we had the Public Hearing for.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 24-907, changing the zoning use designation from Agriculture Open (AO) / General Business District (C2) to General Business District (C2) for the property adjacent to LaQuinta.

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

**IX. City Manager Report**

**GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning**

The bids for the streets have been approved and the contracts are under review at this time. The contract review should be complete soon.

The bid packet for the south fork of the Leon River clearing is being completed. The packet should be ready by November to bid.

The north fork of the Leon River clearing is complete.

**TWDB Flood infrastructure Fund Grant**

Final report has been approved by the TWDB. Once the fiscal year 2023 audit is approved by commission, the project will move forward.

**Downtown Sidewalk Repairs**

Unknown timeframe.

**TXDOT Exit 343 Ramp and Signal Light Projects**

Construction complete and the lights are on.

**DAM REPAIRS**

Engineers from EH&T and HDR are beginning to work through different designs for Eastland Lake and Ringling Lake dams.

**Cemetery Website**

The Eastland Cemetery Website is now online. Roma will be giving a demonstration of the site in the future.

**Code Enforcement Program**

Terry is working with Incode through issues to have the program properly functioning.

Rip Fest October 5<sup>th</sup>

**X. Code Compliance Report**

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for August 2024. There were 62 open cases at the beginning of the month, 15 new cases were opened and 22 case were closed, which ended the month with 55 cases open. One citation was issued: for Off street parking, Parking in front or exterior side yar, Recreational vehicle use. (Repeat)

**XI. Police Chief Report**

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 366 calls for service in August. 25 cases were filed with the District Attorney and 0 cases filed with the Juvenile Authorities. There were 61 offense reports generated. He noted 13 arrests. A total of 603 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 405 warning citations and 198 citations issued. He also stated that 685 “business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer had a very active month with 70 business calls. 24 animals were impounded and 7 were adopted and 1 was quarantined. 0 citations and 5 warnings were issued by the Animal Control Officer.

Chief Pitts noted there was 1 Narcotics Arrest; 4 arrest warrants served;

Chief Pitts and the department participated in the recent Job Fair which was hosted by the West Central Texas Council of Governments.

Chief Pitts and County Judge David Hullum provided Active Shooter training for the faculty at Ranger College.

**XII. Fire Chief Report**

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of August 2024 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 119 which was an average of 3.8 calls per day. 94 of these were in the City Limits and 23 of them were in the county and they responded to 2 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 13 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There was 1 structure fire, 1 grass fire and 1 vehicle fire. They responded to 66 Medical calls, 16 Motor Vehicle accidents and 16 Public Service assists and 4 false alarm/investigations. We had two rescues. Our volunteer membership remains at 25. However, we have 4 applications pending.

We are working towards an inspection scheduled in 2025 that will increase our ISO rating for insurance.

We have completed our first TCFP class. We have our annual open house scheduled for October 12, 2024.

Chief Williamson spoke with a representative from TxDOT who informed him that the traffic control device for the Fire Department on South Seaman has been approved and they are just awaiting installation. This device can be turned on when a fire truck is leaving or returning to the station to help control traffic.

We are now at full staff. Welcome to Firefighter Joshua Dangel who began work with us on September 9, 2024.

And finally, thanks to the rain filling up the lake and water restrictions being lifted, we have washed our fire apparatus for the first time since August 22, 2023.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED

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Larry Vernon, Chairman  
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

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Roma Holley, City Secretary