

THE CITY OF EASTLAND  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

January 21, 2020

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 prior to the meeting.

CITY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman	Larry Vernon
Commissioner	Cecil Funderburgh
Commissioner	Ben McNabb (arrived 6: 05 P.M.)
Commissioner	Richard Rossander

CITY COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Commissioner	Zac Darr
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PERSONNEL PRESENT:

City Manager	Ron Duncan
City Secretary	Roma Holley
Finance Director	Leslie Zander
Director of Planning	Tony Stubblefield
Code Enforcement	Terry Simmons
Chief of Police	David Hulum

Guests: Chad Roberts, Larry R. Jernigan, Jr. Connie Jernigan, Tom Bailey, Sean Dowden, Laura Hobbs, Rhonda Howie, Julie Elrod,

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Cecil Funderburgh offered the invocation and Mayor Larry Vernon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY SUBJECT NOT LISTED ON THIS  
AGENDA (Limited to Five Minutes Per Speaker)

Chad Roberts spoke about his bid to be the next Eastland County Sheriff.  
Larry Jernigan, Jr. spoke about his bid to remain the Constable for Eastland County Precinct 1.

IV. Approve Minutes of the December 16, 2019 Meeting.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander to Approve Minutes of the December 16, 2019 Meetings.

Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

V. Financial Report

Finance Director Zander stated that the sales tax is still increasing which is very encouraging. She stated that there was nothing unusual about the Finance Report in December and everything is on track with the budget.

VI. Presentation by Sean Dowden of Waste Connections regarding the transition to front load trash dumpsters for commercial customers, beginning February 1, 2020.

Sean Dowden of Waste Connections spoke about the transition to commence on February 1, 2020. He stated the reason for the conversion is for public safety. He spoke about possible obstacles to having it completed by March 1, 2020 and solutions to those obstacles. He assured the council that he is striving to make this transition as smooth as possible.

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

1. Discussion and Consideration of second reading of **ORDINANCE NO. 19-858**

***AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS ADDING CHAPTER 13, SOLID WASTE TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND; REQUIRING CITY RESIDENTS TO HAVE SOLID WASTE SERVICES; ESTABLISHING RULES REGARDING DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REQUIRING PUBLICATION; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.***

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 19-858.

Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

2. Discussion and Consideration authorizing the Eastland Chamber of Commerce, Rip's Ribs Cookoff, April 18, 2020 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 adults 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.

Laura Hobbs, Director of the Eastland Chamber of Commerce spoke about this subject. She explained why the request is being made and how the Open Container Event will be conducted. She spoke about the vendors and their employees that are qualified bartenders.

Discussion among the Commission centered around the removal of the alcohol containers trash from the area of the church as well as the possibility of issues with the public who might not know their own personal limits.

Commissioner Funderburgh spoke about his concern about this event being family friendly and the possibility of people walking around with clear containers that obviously contain alcohol. The consensus is that if the containers are not clear and there is no way of knowing

what is in the container, this would be better for children who are at the event and are impressionable.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb to authorize the Eastland Chamber of Commerce, Rip's Ribs Cookoff, April 18, 2020 as an Open Container Event.

Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners McNabb, Rossander  
 Nays: Commissioners Funderburgh  
 Absent: Darr

3. Discussion and Consideration authorizing the City Manager to order removal of trees as necessary during repair or renovation of sidewalks in the downtown area.

City Manager Ron Duncan displayed a Power Point presentation with an array of photos showing the current trees around the square. He began by saying that years ago the citizens of Eastland, in an attempt to beautify the square, while they had good intentions, they also have unintended consequences. The photos showed damage to the sidewalks and buildings. He showed photos of Granbury which is a good example of a successfully designed town square. There are no trees along the front of the buildings. Mr. Duncan also presented photos of the town square of Southlake, which Commissioner Darr had mentioned in a conversation on Monday morning. It does have many trees in front of the buildings however they are not the large oak trees that are around our town square.

Mr. Duncan showed the many examples of damage to the sidewalks around the square and while it is definitely unsightly, the biggest concern is safety of people walking along these sidewalks. The possibility of people tripping and falling is very great and it behooves us to protect the public.

Mayor Larry Vernon mentioned that he had helped remove Christmas lights around the square and as he was doing so, he noticed how unsightly the signs are in front of the business that have trees in front of them.

Commissioner Funderburgh stated that he is very fond of trees and what they provide to the environment. However, the safety and welfare of people must be a first priority. He also mentioned that continually repairing the sidewalks, without addressing the contributing factors of the tree roots causing the damage, is wasting money. He stated that along with the safety issue is the concern of being financially responsible with tax-payers money.

Commissioner McNabb stated that he personally likes the look of the trees in the downtown area and that he doesn't like the idea of removing them. Mr. Duncan reminded him that the removal of all of the trees is not going to happen immediately and that care would be given to replacing them with other greenery in planter boxes or similar solutions.

Commissioner Rossander spoke about the large tree that is on North Lamar across from his office. He spoke about the destruction that it has caused to the sidewalk. He stated that he is in favor of removing the trees in order to secure the safety of people walking on the sidewalk.

Mr. Duncan completed his presentation by stating that this removal will not be immediate, except the tree in front of the old Salvatore's building which is causing an immediate problem as it has raised the sidewalk to the point that water runs towards the building instead of away from it.

Commissioner Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to authorize the City Manager to take whatever measures are necessary to ensure the safety of our citizens, by taking action with removing trees as necessary and repairing sidewalks and exploring every option to enhance safety.

Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Funderburgh, Rossander  
Nays: Commissioners McNabb  
Absent: Darr

4. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution 2020-01 Ordering May General Election

***A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS, ORDERING AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 2, 2020, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING TWO CITY COMMISSIONERS BY THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND; AUTHORIZING A JOINT ELECTION WITH EASTLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (EISD), EASTLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT (EMHD), AND EASTLAND COUNTY WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT (ECWSD); DESIGNATING POLLING PLACES; AND DIRECTING NOTIFICATION OF SUCH ELECTION***

City Manager Ron Duncan advised that two Commissioners terms are expiring this year and so we must order an election in order to fill the positions. The terms of Commissioner Larry Vernon and Commissioner Richard Rossander will expire. The final day to file for a place on the May Election ballot is February 14, 2020.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander to approve Resolution 2020-01 Ordering May General Election.

Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

VIII. City Manager’s Briefing

**2019-2020 Streets:**

City Manager Ron Duncan advised that we are placing a priority on the repair of Lago Vista Blvd from Buena Vista to Rio Vista. This includes addressing the drainage issues and the fact the water tends to pool on the street and causes issues.

Work is continuing on Broughter Street as part of the Forced Main Project.

**Downtown Sidewalk Repairs:**

Bids will be opened on January 24, 2020 for the repairs to the sidewalk in front of the County Annex Building where two trees were removed.

**Woodlands Nursing Center Expansion:**

We are waiting on the actual project design plans for University Drive. This project is being funded not only by the City of Eastland, but also the Eastland Economic Development Incorporation, The Eastland Community Foundation and the Eastland Industrial Foundation.

**Eastland Memorial Hospital Rural Health Clinic (Tx CDBG Project #7218058)**

Progress is on schedule and moving along at a good pace.

**Waste Water Treatment Plant:**

Construction is still ahead of schedule for the new plant and is almost 42% complete.

**2018 WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:**

In order to stay within the budget restraints, we will be going back to some property owners for additional property easements and this should alleviate any potential financial overages.

**I-20 Water Pump Station Repairs:**

EEDI Director Tom Bailey has recently spoken with property owner Sam Lawson who stated that within the next 3 weeks he will begin the process of demolition of the Red Star facility and that this project will be a priority.

VIII. Code Compliance Report

Code Enforcement Officer Terry Simmons presented the Code Compliance Department November Report. He reported there were 36 open cases at the beginning of the month, 17 new cases were opened and 17 cases were closed which ended the month with 36 cases open. He also issued four junk vehicle citations. 11 annual notices were issued and one lien was filed for \$2561.39.

IX. Monthly Police Department Report

Chief David Hullum stated there were 179 calls for service in December. There were 7 cases filed with the District Attorney along with 1 case filed with the Juvenile Authority. There were 50 offense reports generated. There was some cases involving counterfeit money and also Felon in Possession of a Firearm. The Police Department also assisted with a manhunt. Also, the flu has been affecting the majority of the department with 5 personnel being sick at once and a total of 9 personnel have been sick

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

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Larry Vernon, Chairman  
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

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Roma Holley, City Secretary