

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

June 15, 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 in advance and prior to the meeting.

CITY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman	Larry Vernon
Commissioner	Ben McNabb
Commissioner	Cecil Funderburgh
Commissioner	Richard Rossander
Commissioner	Zac Darr

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

City Manager	Ron Duncan
City Secretary	Roma Holley
Chief of Police	David Hullum
Director of Planning	Tony Stubblefield

Guests: Julie Elrod, H.V, O'Brien, Rhonda Howie, Tom Bailey

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Larry Vernon called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Zac Darr offered the invocation and Commissioner Richard Rossander led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

There were no comments from the public.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE May 18th, 2020 MEETING

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to approve the Minutes of the May 18th, 2020 Meeting. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

City Manager Ron Duncan stated that the collected sales tax is not as bleak as was first forecast. He attributed some of this to the stimulus checks, saying that people have been spending money in the local stores and businesses, even when they were unable to spend it in the restaurants. He noted that we are still not seeing good numbers from the Hotel/Motel taxes due to the restrictions on travel but that is changing and getting better every day. Hopefully next month's numbers will be even better as the economy opens up.

No action at this time.

VI. THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS MAY DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. Discussion and Consideration Rhonda Howie to present the Fiscal Year 2021 contract request for the Eastland County Crisis Center, Inc

Rhonda Howie, Director of the Eastland County Crisis Center and the Children’s Advocacy Center, began by expressing gratitude for the service of the City of Eastland over the past few months. During the COVID-19 lockdown, the Crisis center has been open. They have adjusted their schedules and staff to accommodate the restrictions and to safeguard their staff and clients. Staff still offered services face-to-face and tried to be as safe as possible. The center is now back to normal operations.

Mrs. Howie stated that last year the Crime Victims Assistance Center served 339 individuals with 7400 different services and the statistics for this year are already projected to be higher.

The Children’s Advocacy Center conducted 80 forensic interviews and so far, this year the numbers are a little down. While this is a good thing, we understand that children did not attend the last several weeks of school, which could account for the lower reports of outcries. When school reopens, the consensus is that there will be increased outcries of abuse from the lockdown.

Last year the volunteers provided over 3000 hours of services. The volunteers were not active during the lockdown.

Mrs. Howie stated that more important than the service statistics are the opinions and feedback from the people we serve, the victims and citizens of Eastland County. We always ask that they complete a survey after they have received services in order to make sure we are answering all questions and doing our jobs to the best of our ability. We offer the survey both electronically and on paper. The surveys are anonymous. The surveys regarding the Children’s Advocacy Center and the Crime Victims Assistance Center both have shown very positive results.

Mrs. Howie stated that she is very aware that the budgets for this year are going to be stretched thin due to the pandemic. She is asking for the same amount of funds as last year.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the request for funds for the Eastland County Crisis Center and Child Advocacy Center. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

- 2. Discussion and Consideration EEDI mid-year briefing by Executive Director Tom Bailey

Eastland Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Tom Bailey addressed the commission. He stated that he really appreciates working with the staff at City Hall. He stated that the City has a wonderful, hard-working staff.

Mr. Bailey also spoke about all of the projects happening in the City.

Ranger College LVN program in Eastland. EEDI will donate \$25,000 for Operational Cost needed to operate an LVN Educational Facility in Eastland (partial Salary Coverage for one year). If Ranger College does not hire a full-time director exclusively for the Eastland campus or if the program does not come to pass, the donation will be rescinded.

Red Star Travel Center at the intersection of IH 20 and Hwy. 6. The new travel center will create 30 new jobs to operate a convenience store, a café, and a Burger King. I feel this new facility will be the spark needed to turn Hwy 6 into a vibrant gateway to the Eastland community. The sewer line the City of Eastland, EEDI and the Industrial Foundation made possible should reap huge returns as new businesses spring up in this area.

Anipro - The EEDI board approved a proposal from Jonathon Haralson, representing Anipro, a subsidiary of XF Enterprises, to establish a distribution center in the northeast corner of the Morgan property. Anipro is a nationwide company who provides top grade nutrition products for cattle. Mr. Haralson, who is a local dealer/logistics coordinator for Anipro, explained the business is growing so rapidly they are in need of a warehouse to provide a wholesale distribution center for the dealers servicing Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Mr. Haralson said 2 Truck Driving positions would be created immediately along with a part-time warehouse manager and additional positions will be added as the business grows

Maverick Logistics – EEDI has sold 2 acres in the Airport Business Park to Maverick Logistics and a new office building has been constructed. Sean Moser, owner of Maverick Logistics, reports they currently have 7 employees, 30 plus contractors and spend over \$45,000 per month in Eastland. He expects to expand to 12-18 local employees and 60 contractors next year.

Trinity Healthcare/University Drive – The Woodlands Nursing Home folks are asking for University Drive to be completed as soon as possible. Ron Duncan is communicating with the engineer and Raydon Construction to make it happen.

Blake Fulenwider – Blake has moved and the facility looks great! It is anticipated moving into the new facility will add 17 new jobs bringing their total to 40 full-time positions within 24 months.

Mr. Bailey then spoke about all of the jobs being created as a result of the progress being made on all of these projects.

Mayor Vernon thanked Mr. Bailey for his hard work.

No Action Necessary

- 3. Discussion and Consideration award of the City of Eastland extending our Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency including the COVID-19 Response Implementation Plan from 11:59 P.M., June 15, 2020 until 11:59 P.M, July 20, 2020 which is the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to extend our Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency including the COVID-19 Response Implementation Plan from 11:59 P.M., June 15, 2020 until 11:59 P.M, July 20, 2020 which is the next regular meeting. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

- 4. Discussion and Consideration of Discussion and Consideration of the COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Eastland City Judiciary

City Manager Ron Duncan explained that the Texas Supreme Court has required these plans to be in place in all of the judiciary. The purpose is to protect everyone involved in the court process; this includes everyone from the judge and court clerk, to the defendants and citizens. This plan was approved by our Municipal Court Judge, Pamela Chaney, as well as our local Health Official, Dr. Robert Deluca and is before the Commission in order to have Chairman Vernon sign it. These are guidelines for operating our Municipal Court during the COVID-19 pandemic. If we conduct in person trials, these are the guidelines.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to approve the COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Eastland City Judiciary. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

5. Discussion and Consideration of the Eastland Historic Preservation Board Action on Remaining 2020 Historic Preservation Grant Funds.

There was \$8,329 remaining in the grant funds for this past year and at the Historic Preservation Board meeting in May, it was decided to return these funds to the city for use in the completion of sidewalk repair projects in the Historic District.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr, to approve the return of the 2020 Historic Preservation Grant Funds for. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

6. Discussion and Consideration of the 2020-2021 Budget Calendar

City Manager Ron Duncan explained the Budget Calendar and advised that this will be a pretty tight budget this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The effect will serve to keep the budget process pretty restrained.

No action needed.

VII. City Manager’s Briefing

2019 Streets: Broughter street is almost complete and then Raydon Construction will begin working on University Drive.

Lago Vista Boulevard is next in line for repairs and drainage work.

Annual Budget Calendar has been discussed. I’ve asked department heads to submit their capital requests to me by June 26.

Dam Repairs: The Texas Water Development Board is funding a 10% match grant for flood planning and we have submitted an application.

Rural Health Clinic: is almost complete and we expect the ribbon cutting ceremony to be scheduled soon.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant: is almost 80% complete

I-20 WATER PUMP STATION REPAIRS:

Pump # 1 failed on June 8, 2020. We pulled the pump for repair on 6/11. We plan to complete a TxCBDG application to install 2 new pumps and pump controls in FY 2020-2021 budget. This will replace pump #2 and add a fourth pump.

VIII: Code Enforcement Report

Planning and Development Director Tony Stubblefield presented the Code Compliance Report for May. He advised that Code Enforcement Officer Terry Simmons reported there were 17 open cases at the beginning of the month, 19 new cases were opened and 14 cases were closed which ended the month with 22 cases open. He also issued five citations with two of those being for junk vehicles. Three citations were issued for Dangerous Buildings, two of which came from people living in

houses without a utility account. They were obtaining water without paying for it. They were able to do this by damaging/destroying the locking devices put on the water meters and rerouting the water. A joint effort between us and the Police Department resulted in one of these people making restitution for the illegally obtained water, as well as a past due account from a previous property. Two properties were reported for back taxes. Also, 2 annual notices were issued. Fines that were assessed were \$2,541 and fines that were paid were \$106. One lien of \$267.63 was filed against a property for mowing and cleaning up.

IX. Police Report

Chief Hullum noted that May was another busy month with 230 calls for service which is a record number. Our arrests have been curtailed as a result of the jail not taking people arrested on Class C warrants, but those restrictions are being loosened so the arrest number will increase. Citation numbers are also increasing due to the loosening of the COVID-19 travel restrictions. Two traffic stops resulted in arrests for Possession of Controlled Substance, Methamphetamine. Chief Hullum spoke about the traffic stop of an individual of which Chief Hullum had received multiple complaints from elderly citizens reporting deceptive business practices. This individual received citations for several violations regarding his license and vehicle. He was also encouraged to continue to conduct business here in Eastland but to not deceive people or take advantage of the citizens of Eastland.

X. Executive Session in Accordance with Texas Government Code §551.074, Personnel Matters

§551.074 Deliberations Concerning City Manager Annual Evaluation

The Board of City Commissioners convened in Executive Session at 7:12 p.m.

XI. Reconvene in Open Session and Take any Needed Action on Subject of Executive Session

The Board of City Commissioners reconvened in Open Session at 7:41 p.m. Chairman Larry Vernon asked for any action to be taken from the Executive Session.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to award 15% of salary allocated as additional pay to City Manager Ron Duncan after his annual evaluation. Mayor Vernon stated that Mr. Duncan had done an outstanding job this past year. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zac Dar made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

Roma Holley, City Secretary