

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION CALLED MEETING

August 5, 2020

EASTLAND, TEXAS §

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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	Cecil Funderburgh
Commissioner	Richard Rossander
Commissioner	Zac Darr
Commissioner	Ben McNabb

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

City Manager	Ron Duncan
Director of Finance	Leslie Zander
City Secretary	Roma Holley

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Larry Vernon called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Larry Vernon offered the invocation and Commissioner Zac Darr 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. The Board of City Commissioners May Discuss and Take Action on the
Following Agenda Items:

1. Discussion and Consideration to Award Grant Administration Services for the Government Land Office Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation

City Manager Ron Duncan advised the Commissioners that we sent our Request for Proposals to six approved Administrative Services firms via email in accordance with TDA Procurement procedures. We received RFP packets from Gary Traylor and Associates and Langford Community Management Services. A team of Tony Stubblefield, Roma Holley and Ron Duncan reviewed the information and graded the applications. Langford Community Management Services received the highest overall score. City Staff recommends City Commission approve Langford Community Management Services to provide Administrative services and represent the City of Eastland for the proposed GLO CDBG-MIT project.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the Award Grant Administration Services for the Government Land Office Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation to Langford Community Management Services. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

2. Discussion and Consideration to Award Grant Engineering Services for the Government Land Office Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation

City Manager Ron Duncan advised the Commissioners that we advertised a Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services to six approved Engineering Firms via email in accordance with GLO, CDBG Procurement procedures. We received RFQ packets from Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd (eHT), along with Jacob Martin Engineers. A team of Tony Stubblefield, Roma Holley and Ron Duncan reviewed the information and graded the applications. eHT received the highest overall score. City Staff recommends City Commission approve Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd to provide Engineering services and represent the City of Eastland for the proposed GLO CDBG-MIT project.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the Engineering Services for the Government Land Office Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation to Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

3. Discuss Tax Rate and Take Record Vote

Chairman Larry Vernon announced this agenda item and stated that we will not be taking a Record Vote at this time. Chairman Vernon turned the discussion over to City Manager Ron Duncan who introduced the proposed tax rate information and recommendations as follows:

Based on this year’s figures, the No New Revenue Tax Rate (formerly known as effective tax rate) determined by the Tax Appraisal District is .590791, the Voter Approval Tax (formerly known as Rollback Tax) rate is .607382 and the current tax rate is .6090. After careful analysis, City Manager Duncan is proposing a tax rate of .6070 for the 2020 Tax Rate. Mr. Duncan provided budgeting and tax base information for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 supporting the proposed rate. He reminded the City Commission this decision is a proposed tax rate and can be adjusted before the hearings and adoption of a tax rate by ordinance, which will take place as previously scheduled in the budgeting process

There was discussion and questions by all commissioners. Finance Director Leslie Zander and City Manager Ron Duncan provided answers. Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to accept the proposed tax rate of .6070. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

Mayor Vernon recessed the meeting from 12:08 pm to 12:15 pm for lunch.

V. Budget Workshop to Discuss Budget Draft for FY 2020-2021

Each Commissioner had been given a small packet of papers regarding a Request for a Capital Expenditure from the Fire Department. Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh stated that after the last commission meeting, he was concerned for the safety of our firefighters who become exhausted from the heat of fighting a prolonged fire. Commissioner Funderburgh began to research ways to help the firefighters. He found an item called a Cooling Trailer, which provides fire fighters a cooling shelter which can be transported and operated on site to give the fire fighters some relief between shifts in attacking large fires, particularly during this very hot summer fire season. Commissioner Funderburgh stressed that Fire Chief David Branch has not requested this item. Commissioner

Funderburgh feels this could be a real benefit to our fire fighters in a major fire event. He presented this to the City Commission for consideration in the Budget Workshop.

Chairman Vernon stated that he wants to be assured that this Cooling Trailer will be used and asked if Chief Branch endorses this request. Commissioner Funderburgh answered that Chief Branch is completely supportive of this request.

Mr. Duncan then presented the Commission with the new Capital Request page that shows the manner in which it could be financed, along with the other requests. His recommendation to the Commission is to work towards including this in the budget.

City Manager Ron Duncan reviewed the proposed budget and described a few of the suggested changes from last year’s budget. This year’s budget includes no salary cost of living increase for our employees. However, should our revenues increase beyond anticipated levels in the budget, with no offsetting expenditures, we recommend authorizing a 3% cost of living increase at mid-year.

Mr. Duncan stated that due to the decrease in Hotel/Motel Taxes, one item that we will not be funding at 100% this year is the Special Events. The biggest thing that is funded out of this is the Eastland Historic Preservation Grants.

He stated that one reason the Police Department has decreased a little bit is because some items that were lease/purchase have been paid off. There are no capital requests from the Police Department this year.

We have already discussed the Capital Requests from the Fire Department in the first budget workshop.

We will continue to use TxDOT Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) whenever possible to reduce our operating costs.

Regarding Public Works, the only concerning issue is we do not have enough money to maintain the streets nor do we have enough personnel or equipment to do it the way we need to. But we are doing the best we can, working with what we have.

We have no scheduled increase in water, sewer and garbage rates. The only thing that would cause us to change this is if the Eastland County Water Supply District increases their cost of water.

Currently we have several grant projects which potentially will impact this budget year. The CGLO CBDG-MIT program, with a 1% match, is a potential game changer for making progress towards mitigating the impact of flooding on our community. We have submitted an application and selected the Grant Administrator and Engineers for the project. The estimated city match should be between \$30,000 and \$100,000.

This is another tight budget. Our objective remains to minimize any unnecessary hardships to our residents to assist them in recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, we continue to provide the essential services needed to provide our citizens with a high quality of life in spite of the setback caused by the outbreak. Even in the era of COVID-19, the City of Eastland remains in a strong financial position to continue to deliver quality services to our citizens and guests.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr, to adjourn at 1:23 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

Roma Holley, City Secretary