

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

July 18, 2022

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	Cecil Funderburgh
Commissioner	Ben McNabb
Commissioner	Richard Rossander
Commissioner	Zac Darr

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

City Manager	J.J. Oznick
Finance Director	Leslie Zander
City Secretary	Roma Holley
Public Works Director	Bobby Jacoby
Planning Director	Tony Stubblefield
Police Lieutenant	Dan Wilson

Guests: Julie Elrod

I. Meeting Called To Order

Chairman Larry Vernon called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Zac Darr offered the invocation and Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Public Comment on Any Subject Not Listed On This Agenda
(Limited to Five Minutes Per Speaker)**

No comment

IV. Approve Minutes of the June 20, 2022 Meeting

Commissioner Ben McNabb made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to approve the June 20, 2022 Meeting. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

V. Financial Report

Finance Director Leslie Zander stated the sales tax has started to increase again, which is a positive sign that the economy is doing well.

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 Resolution 2022-10 setting Public Hearing of EEDI request for Annexation

EEDI Director Tom Bailey advised the commission that this is property that is directly between Bartee Metal and El Reno Energy. It is a 4.209-acre tract identified as lot 102, Block B, Replat of Eastland Economic Development, Inc. Addition, Eastland County Texas, recording as Slide 224 in Plat Cabinet 2 in the Official Public Records, Eastland County Texas.

Chairman Larry Vernon suggested a Public Hearing be set for August 15, 2022

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to set a Public Hearing for August 15, 2022 for the Annexation of said property requested by EEDI. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

2. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution 2022 11 to Adopt the City of Eastland, Housing Buyout Guidelines associated with the 2016 Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program, (CDBG-MIT), Contract #22-082-004-D199.”

Through the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Grant Program (CDBG-MIT), the Texas General Land Office (GLO) has approved funding to the City of Eastland to proceed in buyout of properties that are historically flood prone during significant rainfall events. City Manager J. J. Oznick explained that this is the first step in moving forward with this Grant. HUD has authorized the use of Buyout and Acquisition programs to (1) reduce the risk to homeowners from the effects of subsequent disasters, (2) assist in the recovery of low- and moderate-income households, and (3) protect taxpayer resources that might otherwise be needed after a disaster in the same area (80 FR 72102). The purpose of the program is to aid in the long-term recovery efforts following significant storm events; specifically, to assist in moving eligible homeowners out of harm’s way and into higher ground through fair market value voluntary housing buyouts. The Buyouts will help prevent repetitive loss and extreme risk to human health and safety.

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to approve Resolution 2022 11 to Adopt the City of Eastland, Housing Buyout Guidelines associated with the 2016 Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program, (CDBG-MIT), Contract #22-082-004-D199. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

Absent: None

3. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution 2022-12 USDA Grant 2022-2023 for Police Vehicle

City Manager J. J. Oznick stated that this Grant is a 75-25 match with the USDA providing 75% and the City of Eastland providing 25% funds to be used for the purchase of a Police Vehicle. We have partnered with the USDA in the past and it has always been a good deal. Approval of this resolution is the first step toward the application.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to approve Resolution 2022-12 USDA Grant 2022-2023 for Police Vehicle. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

4. Executive Session in Accordance with Texas Government Code §551.074, Personnel Matters
Texas Government Code §551.074, Personnel Matters, Police Chief Position

Commence: 6:25 p.m.
Conclusion: 6:45 p.m.

No Action

VII. Budget Workshop

(This item was discussed after the Departmental reports)

Mr. Oznick opened the workshop by stating that this is the first look at the budget for 2022-2023. We do not know what the Ad Valorem Tax Rate will be yet so these are preliminary numbers. The dates for additional Budget workshops and called meetings dealing with the Budget and Taxes are in limbo due to unknown factors related to the Eastland County Appraisal District.

We are looking at a very conservative budget this year due to so many unknown variables. Inflation is hitting us hard with cost increases in fuel, electricity and chemicals. We are looking at keeping spending to a minimum in order to allow a cushion for increases in essential expenditures.

We have included a preliminary Budget Calendar in you packets. These dates are all subject to change pending the Appraisal District. We are anticipating a Commission meeting to be held on August 3, 2022 at noon and will keep the Commission informed of a schedule.

VIII. City Manager’s Briefing

City Manager J.J. Oznick briefly covered the report that the commissioners have in their packet.

GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning

Everything is at a stand-still until an archeological study is complete. The estimated duration of the study will be 90 days. This study will be composed of 72 samples of dirt being removed from several areas. It is unknown when this study will begin. Also, property owners permissions are being obtained at this time.

TWDB Flood infrastructure Fund Grant

If the TWDB program is successful we would pay \$45,000 (10%) in local match for a \$450,000 project, fund a detailed study of the Leon River Watershed and the effects on our flood plain. Data is still being compiled for the study.

IX. Code Enforcement Report

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for June 2022. There were 30 open cases at the beginning of the month, 32 new cases were opened and 36 cases were closed which ended the month with 26 cases open. 7 citations were issued. 3 annual notices were sent with fines assessed of \$4,651.

X. Police Report

Police Lieutenant Dan Wilson stated there were 271 calls for service in June. 18 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 47 offense reports generated. He noted 21 arrests with 45 charges. A total of 659 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 555 warning citations and 104 citations issued. He also noted 160 “business checks” were conducted. Lieutenant Wilson also told the Commission that our new Animal Control Officer, Cathy Perry, has received her Basic Animal Control Certification. She issued 17 citations while responding to 208 calls which continues the extremely busy load from April. He noted that 48 animals were impounded while 13 were returned to their owner before being impounded. 5 animals were adopted.

XI. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Joe Williamson was unavailable due to fighting a fire.

XII. Adjournment

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to adjourn at 7:18p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Roma Holley
City Secretary

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners