

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

November 21, 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	Richard Rossander
Commissioner	Zac Darr

CITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioner	Ben McNabb
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PERSONNEL PRESENT:

City Manager	J.J. Oznick
Finance Director	Leslie Zander
Planning Director	Tony Stubblefield
Police Chief	Tim Pitts
Police Chief (retiring)	David Hullum
Code Enforcement Officer	Terry Simmons

Guests: Sean Snowden (Waste Connections)

I. Meeting Called To Order

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

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh offered the invocation and Chairman Larry Vernon 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 October 17,2022 Meeting

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to approve minutes from the October 17, 2022 Meeting

Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

V. Financial Report

Finance Director Leslie Zander spoke about the sales tax remaining steady. 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 to approve First Reading of Ordinance 22-892 to Update Fee Schedule

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EASTLAND, TEXAS REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 22-886; ADOPTING AN AMENDED COMPREHENSIVE RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE ESTABLISHING RATES AND FEES TO BE CHARGED FOR CITY SERVICES; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated the Eastland County Water Supply District has increased its water rates by 12% and it is only prudent that we also increase ours so that we are not losing money. Also, Sean Dowden is here with Waste Connections. They are also increasing their rates by 9.16%. The combination of these two increases will increase our base monthly bills from \$114.30 to \$121.60.

Commissioner Darr stated that we are not making any money by doing this, we are just breaking even.

Commissioner Funderburgh stated that he is very disappointed with both Waste Connections and the ECWSD. They both know that our Fiscal year runs October to September. They know that is when we submit our budget. It’s pretty misleading when we tell our citizens that we are not raising their taxes but then two months later we increase our rates for garbage and water.

Sean Dowden spoke and stated that we can only increase prices for the year in conjunction with the contract date. This is a result of tracking the consumer price index and inflation over a period of time. He stated they understand our disappointment and will work towards giving us notice sooner.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr, to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 22-892, Updating the Fee Schedule. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

2. Discussion and Consideration to Reappoint Terry Trout to Serve on the Board of Directors of the Eastland County Appraisal District for 2023-2024

City Manager Oznick stated the Eastland County Appraisal District recommends Terry Trout to be reappointed and Terry Trout has agreed.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to approve Reappoint Terry Trout to Serve on the Board of Directors of the Eastland County Appraisal District for 2023-2024. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

VII. 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

The first phase of the home buyout phase is underway and the applications are under review. Moving closer to the second phase improving of the water channels in town.

TWDB Flood infrastructure Fund Grant

We held a stake-holders meeting on November 1. It was attended by HDR, EH&T representatives, a couple of local landowners, and city personnel.

HWY 6 Sewer Improvements

EH&T's inspector came on site when the improvement was completed. They found a few issues that need corrected. Corrections are underway now.

Downtown Sidewalk Repairs

Unknown time frame .

TXDOT Exit 343 Ramp and Signal Light Projects

This project will be rebid in March or April of 2023 if not sooner. TexDot is watching the price of materials closely. They are also looking at other cost cutting options to get within the price range that is needed to complete the project.

DAM REPAIRS

The archaeological dig took place on October 11 & 12. Waiting on the findings. Still waiting!!!!

EASTLAND MUNICIPAL AIRPORT UPDATE

Bids were opened and excepted. Bids fell within the scope of the project that was approved prior, and I accepted the bid of \$2,241,685. With the city's portion being \$208,500 over the next couple of years.

VIII. Code Enforcement Report

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for October 2022. There were 33 open cases at the beginning of the month, 23 new cases were opened and 27 cases were closed which ended the month with 29 cases open. 1 citation was issued. 1 annual notice was sent with fines assessed of \$206.

IX. Police Report

Police Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 256 calls for service in September. 11 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 36 offense reports generated. He noted 16 arrests. A total of 159 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 126 warning citations and 33 citations issued. He also noted 298 "business checks" were conducted. Our Officers continue to make arrests for DWI and Narcotics. 2 Sexual Assault cases were filed with the District Attorney and a stolen motorcycle was recovered. We also participated in "Boo in

the Garden” with 500 kids coming by our table in 2 hours. Our Animal Control Officer is continuing to do an outstanding job. 6 Animals were impounded and 6 animals were adopted.

Chief Pitts also mentioned that our newest School Resource Officer is Joshua Nichols. He was recently recognized as “Employee of the Month” for the Eastland High School. He is doing an outstanding job building relationships with the students, the faculty and the staff. This is a vital job and we are very proud of this recognition.

Retiring Chief David Hullum thanked the Commission for the opportunity to work with and for them for the past 7 years. He stated that it has been a privilege and an honor and he hopes that his friendship with them will continue as he begins a new career as Eastland County Judge.

X. Fire Chief Report

Chief Joe Williamson is not in attendance tonight because he got married yesterday. He plans to attend next month’s Commission meeting and update everyone on the activities of the Fire Department.

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to adjourn at 6:28p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST:

Roma Holley
City Secretary