

THE CITY OF EASTLAND  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

March 15, 2021

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 Manager (incoming)	J.J. Oznick
Finance Director	Leslie Zander
Planning & Zoning Director	Tony Stubblefield
City Secretary	Roma Holley

Guests: Chad Roberts, Noeli Quinones, Sarina Gray, Kenneth Knowles, Julie Elrod, Annie McNeely, Sam Williams, Travis Woodley, Joe Williamson, Joshua Williams, Genesa Camacho, Tom Bailey, Kristi Oznick, Emili Oznick, Jay Oznick, Lili Oznick

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)

Eastland County Sheriff Chad Roberts stated that he wanted to officially express his appreciation and best wishes to City Manager Ron Duncan as he retires. He said that Ron had been an invaluable mentor to him when he was City Manager for Ranger. He thanked Ron for his friendship and wished him the best in his retirement. Sheriff Roberts also welcomed new City Manager J. J. Oznick and extended his hand of friendship and offered an open line of communication between the Sheriff's Department and the City of Eastland.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF NEW CITY MANAGER JOHN OZNICK, JR (J.J.)

Incoming City Manager J.J. Oznick thanked the Board of Commissioners for their warm welcome and introduced his wife Kristi along with their three children Emili, Jay and Lili. He stated that they look forward to making their home here and helping Eastland grow in the upcoming years.

V. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2021 Meetings

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to approve the February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Leslie Zander advised the board the sales tax is holding steady and the hotel/motel tax is beginning to increase.

No action at this time.

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

1. Discussion and Consideration of a Presentation by Genesa Camacho & Proclamation Proclaiming the Month of April “Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month”

Genesa Camacho gave a brief summary of the role of the Children’s Advocacy Center and requested the City Commission proclaim April as “Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month.” She then read the Proclamation. Ms. Camacho thanked the Commission for their past participation and support.

*PROCLAMATION  
Proclaiming the Month of April  
Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month*

*Whereas, children are vital to our community’s future success, prosperity, and quality of life as well as being our most valuable assets;*

*Whereas, nearly 60,000 children receive services from a Children’s Advocacy Center in Texas annually:*

*Whereas, child abuse prevention is a community responsibility and finding solutions depends on involvement among all people;*

*Whereas, communities must make every effort to promote programs that benefit children and their families;*

*Whereas, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships among agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community;*

*Therefore, the City of Eastland Commissioners do hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month and call upon all cities, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live.*

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to Proclaim the Month of April “Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month.” Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darr, Funderburgh, McNabb, Rossander

Nays: None  
 Absent: None

2. Discussion and Consideration of Abandonment and Release of a 15-foot wide utility easement located in the portion of Crockett Boulevard closed by the City of Eastland by Ordinance No. 20-865 and conveyed to Eastland Economic Development, Inc. by Special Warranty Deed recorded as Instrument No. 2020-003071 of the Official Public Records of Eastland County, Texas, which was later corrected by Correction Deed recorded as Instrument No. 2020-003249 of the Official Public Records of Eastland County, Texas, said easement portion being as depicted in the attached Exhibit "A".

City Manager Ron Duncan explained to the board that this is because we closed part of Crockett Blvd but left the utility easement. The easement will be abandoned in order to not be in the way of the new property owner.

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the Abandonment and Release of a 15-foot wide utility easement located in the portion of Crockett Boulevard closed by the City of Eastland by Ordinance No. 20-865 and conveyed to Eastland Economic Development, Inc. by Special Warranty Deed recorded as Instrument No. 2020-003071 of the Official Public Records of Eastland County, Texas, which was later corrected by Correction Deed recorded as Instrument No. 2020-003249 of the Official Public Records of Eastland County, Texas, said easement portion being as depicted in the attached Exhibit "A". Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

3. Discussion and Consideration of recommendation to approve Planning & Zoning Case No. 21-001, in regard to an application filed Vicki Bradley, President of Eastland Economic Division, Marcus Bartee, Member and Manager of Bartee Metals, LLC, Casey Raitz, Member of RF Land Holdings, LLC, and Blake Fulenwider, Member and Director BMDA2 Investments, LLC, so as to replat the Eastland Business Park from Blocks 1-8, Eastland Economic Development, Inc. Additions, Eastland, Eastland County, Texas to Lots 101 to 104, Block A; Lots 101 to 103, Block B; Lots 101 to 106, Block C; Lots 101 to 105, Block D; and Lots 101 to 103, Block E of the Eastland Economic Development, Inc. Addition, Eastland, Eastland County, Texas.

EEDI Director Tom Bailey explained the replat is required by law any time property is subdivided for development. This replat defines the property lines of the lots. This allows all property owners to know exactly how the Eastland Economic Development Inc. Addition is arranged. It also allows the EEDI to have a definitive map of the property.

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to Approve Planning & Zoning Case No. 21-001. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

4. Discussion and Consideration of Authorization to Change Signature Cards at First Financial Bank

Finance Director Leslie Zander advised that this is a necessary step in order to add J.J. Oznick to the financial accounts at First Financial Bank.

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to Approve Authorization to Change Signature Cards at First Financial Bank. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

5. Discussion and Consideration of Approval of Annual Racial Profiling Report

Lt. Dan Wilson explained to the Board about how this report is compiled and explained the data. He stated the data confirms that the Police Department is following the demographics for Eastland. This Report will now be forwarded to the State of Texas.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh, to Approve the Annual Racial Profiling Report. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

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

VIII. City Manager’s Briefing

**Incoming City Manager JJ Oznick**

John W. (JJ) Oznick Jr, began work here on March 8, 2021. He is shadowing me on the job and getting into all the project work and meeting as many people as possible.

**GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning**

**We received confirmation that we have received a \$9,999,140.72 award from the General Land Office for the 2016 Disaster Recovery Program. This is indeed the game changer we have been hoping for to improve Eastland’s floodplain issues. This project includes a 1% local match, which should be a maximum of \$99,991.41. We had a zoom meeting on March 15, 2021 with the GLO staff with much more information to follow. This is truly an exciting opportunity for Eastland. We intend to do projects to mitigate future flood events and dam repairs which get us in regulatory compliance, fix several streets, clear our river and streams and other measures to make Eastland as flood proof as possible.**

### **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.** This project will lay the groundwork for our GLO-CDBG-MIT Flood Mitigation Project. We are still awaiting word on the contract award. We will be working with Judy Langford of Langford Community Management Services and Chris Parker, HDR Engs (Austin), as well as Luci Dunn and Scott Hay of eHT, on the FIF Project.

### **The February 15-21 Winter Storm**

We had a really miserable storm event which impacted the entire state leading to massive power and water outages throughout the region. In Eastland, we worked to restore water and power from the early morning of 2/16 until power was finally fully restored on 2/19. Throughout the event, our Utility crews, Police and Fire Departments, all worked around the clock to keep Eastland functioning and safe. The power shortage actually impacted most of the city, as well as our water pumping station at I-20 and the Eastland County Water Supply District Plant in Ranger.

While we were out of service, we worked to maintain support to key facilities, especially the hospital and dialysis center, as well as to help area residents get through the storm. Our volunteer fireman saved two homes from structure fires, assisted in restoring the heating system at the hospital, and ran a distribution point to provide non-potable water and later, bottled water, to residents. Even after power and water service was restored in Eastland, many folks in the area outside of town were out of service for several more days. Our Volunteers distributed water for a few more days to help them. Our Police Department was busy protecting property, hosted the County Dispatch operations for a couple of days, and assisted residents and travelers. One area of concern was checking on our Senior Citizens shut in their homes during the storm with no power. We also used social media, as well as Code Red Messages, to keep our residents informed throughout the storm and the cold snap. I believe Code Red was invaluable to our entire community. The city, county and the water district are taking steps to ensure the power issues which led to the water outage are corrected. Our intent is for all city pumping facilities, as well as our lift stations, to have back-up power for future events.

There were several local heroes who we should thank for their help during the recent crisis. Our churches, particularly, 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church opened shelters so residents without power had a warm place to stay. Our volunteer fireman did tremendous service to the community. The police and public works personnel delivered supplies and worked throughout the crisis. Special Thanks to the Assistant City Manager of Stephenville, Jason King, for providing the City 20 pallets of bottled water which we distributed to our residents. We also owe thanks to Ken Chapman and Gabe Tucker for use of a 54 ft. trailer we used to haul supplies. The City of Cisco and the Cisco Fire Department also helped by loaning us a water truck for emergency water delivery and responding to two structure fires. Eastland made it through this dangerous storm event like we have made through so many other crises, by working together. Thank you all.

### **IX. Code Enforcement Report**

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for February 2021. There were 18 open cases at the beginning of the month, 19 new cases were opened and 19 cases were closed which ended the month with 18 cases open. Six citations were issued and fines assessed were \$3,908.

X. Police Report

Lt. Dan Wilson stated there were 201 calls for service in February. 17 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 28 offense reports generated. Lt. Wilson made special note of the 32 arrests which included 10 individuals arrested which cleared 42 Class C charges. A total of 301 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 246 warning citations and 55 citations issued.

XI. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of February for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 57 which was an average of 2.03 calls per day. 37 of these were in the City Limits, 13 of them were in the county and one was in Cisco. We installed 1 Smoke Detector through our Smoke Detector Installation program. There were 11 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. They responded to 6 grass fires and had 8 Investigations. They responded to 22 Medical calls, 4 Motor Vehicle accidents and 14 Public Service assists. Also, 1 new member was added to the Volunteer Fire Department: Bob Mahaney

Chief Williamson spoke about the great display of community teamwork that was displayed during the February Storm Event. He thanked the City Staff, City Manager, the Public Works crew, and the Police Department along with the many volunteers that worked together to bring many services to the citizens of Eastland. He thanked the City of Cisco for providing a 3,000-gallon tanker in case of structure fires. He also thanked Eastland County Precinct 4 Commissioner, Robert Rains, for providing a tanker of non-potable water.

XII. Adjournment

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to adjourn at 7:04 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