

THE CITY OF EASTLAND
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

February 21, 2023

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	Ben McNabb
Commissioner	Zac Darr
Commissioner	Richard Rossander

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

City Manager	J.J. Oznick
City Secretary	Roma Holley
Police Chief	Tim Pitts
Fire Chief	Joe Williamson
Planning Director	Tony Stubblefield

Guests: Julie Elrod, Mike Perez, Dale Garner, Charles Crumpton, Derek Harris, Austin Tamminga, Sam Williams

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 Zac Darr offered the invocation and Commissioner Ben McNabb led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge

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

Dale Garner, representing AEL Green Logistics, An Alamo1 company, asked to give the Commissioners a brief introduction to their company. AEL is an Abilene Texas based company with offices located around Central Texas. They provide residential and commercial waste collection and recycling. They also provide disposal of environmental waste and remediation along with collection and disposal of tires. Mr. Garner asked that we consider them when our current Waste disposal contract expires.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2023 AND JANUARY 30, 2023 MEETINGS

Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ben McNabb, to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 and January 30, 2023 meetings.

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

V. Financial Report

Finance Director Leslie Zander was not in attendance and City Manager Oznick stated the finance report shows no unusual activity. The Sales Tax continues to increase although it did slow down just a bit.

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 of Resolution 2023-03 A
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION WITH THE ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE; AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF FIVE CENTS PER CAPITA TO THE ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE TO FUND REGULATORY AND RELATED ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

City Manager Oznick stated we pay this Steering Committee to be our “voice” among the Regulatory Commission. This is the Resolution that is made each year that keeps us participating with the Steering Committee.

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to continue participation with the Atmos Cities Steering Committee.

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

- 2. Discussion and Consideration of Purchase of Police Vehicle using ARPA funds.

Chief of Police Tim Pitts shared information with the commission that detailed three separate Bids/vehicles. First bid: 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe; Second bid: 2023 Ford Interceptor Utility SUV; Third Bid: 2023 Ford Explorer. Chief Pitts stated their first choice is the Chevrolet Tahoe, not only because it is the least expensive of the three, but because it fits our needs and maintains the fleet image. This vehicle is immediately available.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr to authorize the use of ARPA funds to purchase the 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe from CMG Colonial Municipal Group.

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

- 3. Discussion and Consideration of Purchase of Fire Equipment using ARPA funds

Fire Chief Joe Williamson stated that the fire department is in dire need of updating their Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment and it is an approved use of ARPA funds.

Chief Williamson stated that he had recently audited his SCBA equipment and there are not enough units in compliance with Texas Commission on Fire Protection to be properly

prepared. He shared the results of his analysis with the Commission and outlined his plan for replacement of these units.

Chief Williamson stated the Benefits to purchasing now:

1. This equipment is a necessity for our personnel to provide a standard level of service.
2. SCBA equipment has a life expiration mandated by regulating agencies.
3. Due to the age of our equipment, repairs are not cost effective.
4. Purchasing SCBA equipment all at once simplifies the inventory, maintenance and testing processes.
5. Purchasing SCBA equipment all at once, provides administrators opportunity to establish contingency planning for equipment replacement in the future.
6. Any delays in purchasing may lead to an increase in replacement costs due to historic and forecasted inflation prices.
7. We will look for any and all opportunities to recover the value remaining in the SCBA equipment being replaced.

The vendor will support this SCBA equipment with a 15-year full warranty.

He asked that the Commission approve the purchase of 22 SCBA Units, 44 Spare bottles, ERAs (Emergency Rescue Air Supply) bags (ERAS bag contains 1-60 minute air cylinder, 1 SCBA mask and necessary connection hose).

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh to authorize the use of ARPA funds to purchase this equipment from Casco Industries for \$218,087.86.

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

4. Discussion and Consideration of updating Personnel Policy regarding Nepotism.

City Manager J.J. Oznick stated that any changes to the Personnel Policy Manual must be authorized by the Commissioners. This policy was rewritten in order to clarify and be less restrictive with our hiring practices. It also provides a caveat that allows us to focus more on the working relationship during the initial probationary period.

Commissioner Zac Darr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cecil Funderburgh to approve the updated Personnel Policy regarding Nepotism.

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

5. Discussion and Consideration Resolution 2023-04 Canceling May General Election

City Manager Oznick stated this item is unnecessary because we will be holding an election on May 6, 2023.

No Action

VII. Code Enforcement Report

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for January 2023. There were 37 open cases at the beginning of the month, 11 new cases were opened and 15 cases were closed which ended the month with 33 cases open.

VIII. Fire Chief Report

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of January 2023 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 78 which was an average of 2.52 calls per day. 47 of these were in the City Limits and 29 of them were in the county and they responded to 2 calls for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 21 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There were 2 structure fires, 4 grass fires and 0 vehicle fires. They responded to 40 Medical calls, 7 Motor Vehicle accidents and 4 Public Service assists and 19 false alarms/investigations. They installed 1 Smoke Detector. Volunteer membership remains steady at 25.

Chief Williamson stated they had recently held an “Extrication” training class in which 32 firefighters representing 7 fire departments from within Eastland County were in attendance. This was excellent participation and they anticipate hosting more training opportunities in the near future.

IX. Executive Session in Accordance with Local Government Code §551.074 – Personnel

Commence: 6:39 p.m.

Conclude 6:59 p.m.

No Action Taken

X. Police Report

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 336 calls for service in January. 12 cases were filed with the District Attorney. There were 61 offense reports generated. He noted 17 arrests with 18 charges. A total of 417 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 332 warning citations and 85 citations issued. He also stated that 129 “business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer continues to be very active with 62 business calls.

Chief Pitts briefed the Commission on a recent arrest made at the airport. A female was arrested for possession of Methamphetamine. He shared that a Burglary of a Habitation case is nearing a conclusion due to the diligent work of the officers and the Detective.

Chief Pitts also stated that there were multiple Family Violence investigations conducted during January. It is unknown what is causing the increase in these types of case.

XI. City Manager’s Report

GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning

The channel clearing design is almost complete and will be ready for bid soon.

TWDB Flood infrastructure Fund Grant

HDR is almost complete with the study and will be ready to make recommendations for flood mitigation soon.

DAM REPAIRS

Engineers from EH&T and HDR are beginning to work through different designs for Eastland Lake and Ringling Lake dams.

We have also become aware that EEDI Executive Director Tom Bailey has submitted his resignation effective April 13, 2023. He will be working less hours in the meantime. We regret that he is leaving us and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

XII. Adjournment

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zac Darr, to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

Larry Vernon, Chairman
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST

Roma Holley, City Secretary