

THE CITY OF EASTLAND  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

November 18, 2024

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	Richard Rossander
Commissioner	Carol Jones
Commissioner	James Doyle
Commissioner	Shirley Stuart

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

City Manager	Savannah Fortenberry
Finance Director	Leslie Zander
City Secretary	Roma Holley
Police Chief	Tim Pitts
Fire Chief	Joe Williamson
Planning Director	Tony Stubblefield
Public Works Director	Bobby Jacoby

Guests: Julie Elrod, Thom Cameron, Jett Whittington, Vance O’Brien, Sean Dowden, Cathy Jentho, Kevin Burrow

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

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

**II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge**

Commissioner Richard Rossander offered the invocation and City Manager Savannah Fortenberry 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)**

No Comments

**IV. Approve Minutes of the October 21, 2024 Meeting**

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jones, to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2024 Meeting.

Ayes: Commissioners Jones, Rossander, Vernon  
Nays: None  
Absent:  
Abstain: Doyle, Stuart

**V. Financial Report**

Finance Director Leslie Zander stated the sales tax continues its upward trend.

**VI. Presentation by Waste Connections regarding 2025 rate increase**

Sean Dowden, Waste Connections District Manager in Weatherford, addressed the commission and thanked them for allowing Waste Connections to continue to partner with the City of Eastland for Solid Waste Disposal. He stated that when the last contract was approved, it did not include a price increase for 2024.

However, their disposal transfer station has increased its costs by 21% and so it is necessary for Waste Connections to also increase their costs. They are increasing it 8.64% for the City of Eastland. This changes the residential collection rate per home by \$1.15 which would take the monthly rate from the current \$13.33 to \$14.48 per home. To add a second dumpster, the cost would increase .62 and an additional \$1.74 for the metal large dumpster and \$3.40 for another large metal one. The commercial and roll off prices will also increase by 8.64%.

The increase will take effect January, 2025.

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

- 1. Discussion and Consideration to approve the organization of an Eastland Youth Sports Advisory Board and Bylaws to assist the Eastland Sports Organization.

Chairman Larry Vernon reminded the Commissioners about what was discussed last month and that we gave the ESO \$30,000 to make repairs and renovations to the Eastland Baseball Fields and Softball Fields. It quickly became apparent that an organization was needed to help oversee this as well as to provide recommendations to the City Manager and/or Eastland Board of City Commissioners regarding Eastland youth sports activity and facilities. Additionally, the Board will have the primary responsibility of coordinating maintenance and scheduling use of the City Youth Sports Complex as well as oversee concession operations. In the past, there was an organization called the Eastland Youth Sports Advisory Board. The bylaws were found and updated and presented to the ESO. They are in agreement with this.

Chairman Vernon did suggest that the bylaws be amended to remove the term “two-year terms staggered” in the first item.

Commissioner James Doyle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve the organization of a Youth Sports Advisory Committee including the bylaws with the amendment of the bylaws to remove the term “two-year terms staggered” from item #1.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Jones, Rossander, Stuart  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

- 2. Discussion and Consideration to appoint seven members to the Eastland Youth Sports Advisory Board

Chairman Vernon continued to address the board. He stated the names of the seven members for consideration as members of the Eastland Youth Sports Advisory Board are as follows:

Kevin Burrow, President – At Large  
Marcus Bartee – At Large  
Chris Howard – Little League  
Steven Gustin – Softball  
Bucky Williams – Little League  
Scotty Kanady – Softball  
Juan Ojeda – T-ball

They will serve either a two- or three-year term, to be decided at their first meeting. Chairman Vernon stated he has spoken to each of these people and they are all enthusiastic and ready to serve.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to approve the appointment of all seven proposed members to the Eastland Youth Sports Advisory Board.”

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Jones, Rossander, Stuart  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

3. Discussion and Consideration to approve the 2024 Contract with Eastland County for Cooperative Ambulance Services.

City Manager Savannah Fortenberry stated this contract is the same as last year. We have allocated \$87,750 to be paid to Eastland County for 2024-2025.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, to approve the 2024 Contract with Eastland County for Cooperative Ambulance Services.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Jones, Rossander, Stuart  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

4. Discussion and Consideration to approve on first reading Ordinance 24-910 An Ordinance of the City of Eastland, Texas Canvassing the results of the Charter Amendment Election held on November 5, 2024; Declaring that the Amendments that were Approved by the Voters are Adopted; Providing for matters incidental thereto; and Providing an Effective Date.

City Manager Savannah Fortenberry advised the commission that all of the proposed amendments to the City Charter passed except one, which was to allow the Commission to appoint a commissioner for the unexpired term to fill a vacancy. We plan to educate the public and revisit this amendment in an election in 2 years.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shirley Stuart, to approve on first reading Ordinance 24-910 An Ordinance of the City of Eastland, Texas Canvassing the results of the Charter Amendment Election held on November 5, 2024; Declaring that the Amendments that were Approved by the Voters are Adopted; Providing for matters incidental thereto; and Providing an Effective Date.”

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Jones, Rossander, Stuart  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

5. Discussion and Consideration of approve on first reading Ordinance 24-908 authorizing the Issuance of City of Eastland, Texas Combination Tax and Surplus Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2024A, in the principal amount of \$1,250,000 and awarding the sale of such Certificates of Obligation to the Texas Water Development Board.

City Manager Savannah Fortenberry advised the commission that this is to complete the New Main Pump line project that began in 2018. Due to the drastic increase in costs after COVID, we find it necessary to borrow funds from the Texas Water Development Board. This pump line replaces the 70-year-old line that is deteriorating quickly and is not meant to handle the amount of pressure currently going through it.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to approve on first reading Ordinance 24-908 authorizing the Issuance of City of Eastland, Texas Combination Tax and Surplus Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2024A, in the principal amount of \$1,250,000 and awarding the sale of such Certificates of Obligation to the Texas Water Development Board.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Jones, Rossander, Stuart  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

6. Discussion and Consideration to approve on first reading Ordinance 24-909 authorizing the Issuance of City of Eastland, Texas Combination Tax and Surplus Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Taxable Series 2024B, in the principal amount of \$315,000 and awarding the sale of such Certificates of Obligation to the Texas Water Development Board.

City Manager Savannah Fortenberry stated that, since we sell water to other cities, this is the taxable amount of the funds we will be borrowing from TWDB.

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jones, approve on first reading Ordinance 24-909 authorizing the Issuance of City of Eastland, Texas Combination Tax and Surplus Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Taxable Series 2024B, in the principal amount of \$315,000 and awarding the sale of such Certificates of Obligation to the Texas Water Development Board.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Jones, Rossander, Stuart  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

7. Discussion and Consideration to approve the expenditure of the remaining ARPA funds on Office Equipment and Street Department equipment.

City Manager Savannah Fortenberry stated that we have to allocate the remaining ARPA funds before the end of December 2024. Our goal is to purchase new computer equipment for all the offices at City Hall. Our current computers are running on old systems and some are very outdated. We are also going to move to a cloud-based data backup system. This will all be done based on prices we received from different vendors. We will be staying with our current Information Technology company, Kennedy Computer Services.

City Manager Savannah Fortenberry also stated that we need a new tank to store emulsion.

Public Works Director Bobby Jacoby advised the Commissioners that we currently have no way to store emulsion which is necessary to use our Durapatcher on our streets. This Emulsion Tank will heat and store 3,000 gallons. It also has an agitator to keep it moving.

Commissioner Shirley Stuart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Richard Rossander, approve the expenditure of the remaining ARPA funds on Office Equipment and Street Department equipment.

Ayes: Commissioners Doyle, Jones, Rossander, Stuart  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**VIII. City Manager Report**

**GLO-CDBG-MIT Project Planning**

The street improvement project continues to progress. We are one month in on construction.

- W. Valley Street is 90% complete.
- W. Patterson Street construction has begun.

Bid advertisement for phase 2 of the creek resurfacing has been placed in the newspaper. EHT will hold a Prebid meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> for interested bidders to be onsite prior to bidding. Once the bidding process has closed, submitted bids will be opened on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**TWDB Flood infrastructure Fund Grant**

TWDB project is moving forward. The contractor has estimated they will have bonds in place before the end of November. Once bonds are submitted and the city accepts, we will be waiting for the contract to be signed and fully executed by TWDB.

After commission considers and authorizes the issuance of the certificates to TWDB, the closing date will be December 18, 2024, for the certificates to be delivered. This will allow for the project to be fully funded as constructed.

**Downtown Sidewalk Repairs**

Unknown timeframe.

**DAM REPAIRS**

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

**IX. Code Compliance Report**

Planning and Zoning Director Tony Stubblefield reported the Code Compliance Report for October 2024. There were 70 open cases at the beginning of the month, 17 new cases were opened and 32 cases were closed, which ended the month with 55 cases open. 2 citations were issued for tall weeds, unlawful property nuisance and dangerous building.

**X. Police Chief Report**

Chief Tim Pitts stated there were 394 calls for service in October. 13 cases were filed with the District Attorney and 2 cases filed with the Juvenile Authorities. There were 43 offense

reports generated. He noted 12 arrests. A total of 680 traffic stops were initiated. This resulted in 375 warning citations and 305 citations issued. He also stated that 1237 “business checks” were conducted. Our Animal Control Officer had a very active month with 108 business calls. 18 animals were impounded and 2 were adopted and 1 was quarantined. 13 citations and 2 warnings were issued by the Animal Control Officer.

Chief Pitts noted there were 2 Narcotics Arrests; 8 arrest warrants served; 2 vehicle pursuits;

The police department also participated in Old Rip and Boo in the Gardens.

**XI. Fire Chief Report**

Fire Chief Joe Williamson gave the following activity report for the month of October 2024 for the Volunteer and Paid Firefighters. Total call volume: 97 which was an average of 3.13 calls per day. 77 of these were in the City Limits and 19 of them were in the county and they responded to 1 call for mutual aid to other county fire departments. There were 19 incidents between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. There were 3 structure fires, 4 grass fires and 1 vehicle fire. They responded to 47 Medical calls; 16 Motor Vehicle accidents and 10 Public Service assists and 10 false alarm/investigation. We had 0 Haz-Mat incidents. Our volunteer membership is currently 27.

Chief Williamson spoke with a representative from TxDOT who informed him that the Traffic Control device is still on the schedule to be installed.

Chief Williamson stated they are currently applying for a \$10,000 Texas Forestry Grant.

**XII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Richard Rossander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James Doyle, to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.

APPROVED

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Larry Vernon, Chairman  
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST