

City of East Bernard

Board of Alderman

Minutes of Regular Meeting

17 November 2025

Present:

Lance Rejsek, Mayor
David Tomchesson, Alderman Pos 1
Richie Domel, Alderman Pos 2
Andrew Webster, Alderman Pos 3
Ryan Woodward, Alderman Pos 4
Brad Crist, Alderman Pos 5
Renee Norton, City Secretary

Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum of the Board members present, Mayor Lance Rejsek called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 14, 2025 in the Union Room of the Prosperity Bank Building.

INVOCATION

Joel Torres gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rejsek led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

MAYOR'S REPORT

The following is the Secretary's report for the month of November 2025.

Police Vehicles

Spoke with the equipment installer for the police vehicles. The first vehicle will be ready by Tuesday, November 25th.

Pickleball Courts Installed

The pickleball courts have been completed and look excellent. Three courts are now open for public use. We are currently requesting bids to add lighting for evening play. If approved, the lighting system will operate similarly to the tennis courts, with an automatic shut-off at 10 p.m. or another designated time.

Vehicles along railroad tracks

Contact has been made with the Union Pacific representative to obtain information regarding the current agreements between Union Pacific and the two car dealerships. Concerns have been raised about the number of vehicles parked along the railroad right-of-way and the overall appearance of such a large concentration of inventory.

Christmas Lights, Decorations, Tree and Parade

A bid was obtained for installing Christmas lights on the five crepe myrtles along the railroad right-of-way across from Boettcher Hlavinka Company. The quoted cost was \$2,500. As a result, the city completed the installation internally. In addition, a 25-foot Christmas tree has been placed on the cement platform across from Glory Bean. The parade route has been updated and will now proceed down Pietzsch Street instead of Leveridge Street. Food trucks will be located in the Savon parking lot, and street closures will occur in that area.

New Employee

Kain McPaul has been hired to fill the new position approved in the 2025–2026 budget and will begin employment on November 24th. He is a lifelong resident of East Bernard and previously worked for Walmart. His addition to the team is greatly anticipated. We are excited to have him join us.

County Permits

There have been recent inquiries about permit requirements within the city. Commercial permits are currently required, while residential permits are not yet in effect. Until the residential permitting process is officially implemented, it is important that inquiries be informed that residential permits will be required in the future and that county permits are currently necessary. Residents should be referred to Monica Martin for county permitting.

4 Way Intersection

I reached out to TxDOT after there were two wrecks in one day at the 4-way intersection to ask if they can redo the rumble strips and repaint the "STOP AHEAD" markings on Hwy 90. Our request has been forwarded to the engineering team for review. I also asked whether a traffic study has ever been done at that intersection to determine if a stoplight is warranted. They're checking into it and will get back to me.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The following is the Secretary's report for the month of November 2025.

- The Mayor and Alderman Woodward declined their stipend checks.
- Our TXDOT-TA grant application was approved for \$411,000.
- I am currently working on the GLO grant application for a comprehensive plan for the city. It must be submitted by December 31, 2025.

CONSTABLE'S REPORT

We are waiting on the new vehicles.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Moreno provided the maintenance update: The police vehicles have been taken in for equipment installation. Roadblocks were set out for the Fall Festival and Halloween events. Several visibility-obstructing areas around the City were trimmed. The boom shredder attachment has arrived and has been installed on the tractor. Christmas decorations were placed on the trees and hedges along Highway 90, and a lighted Christmas tree was set up on the cement stage. Additionally, the pickleball courts at the park have been painted and are now ready for use.

ANIMAL REPORT

Mr. Torres delivered the Animal Control report. We still have Luna which is the husky that was taken in by the city in early November 2024. Max and Stubby were taken in by Lucky Penny Rescue to be adopted out. EB Milling Company has donated 150 lbs. of dog food.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2025, REGULAR MEETING.

Mayor Rejsek asked if there were any corrections or concerns about the minutes as read. There was no discussion of the minutes. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Webster to approve the October 14, 2025 minutes. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL STREET CLOSURE FOR LEVERIDGE AND 90, LEVERIDGE AND MORRIS, LEVERIDGE AND CHURCH ST ON DECEMBER 11, 2025 FROM 5:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M. FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARADE.

Mayor Rejsek presented the street closures for the Christmas parade. The road closure will start at 5:00 P.M. and end at 9:00 P.M. Alderman Woodward made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Webster. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ALLOWING CHRISTMAS BANNERS TO BE PLACED ALONG HIGHWAY 90 FROM THE 4-WAY STOP SIGN TO RAY STREET.

Mayor Rejsek presented that the Chamber of Commerce would like to place banners along Highway 90 from the 4-way stop down to Ray Street. Mayor Rejsek suggested changing the street to West Street. Alderman Webster made a motion to approve the motion with changing the street to West Street, seconded by Alderman Crist. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN WHARTON COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF WHARTON, EL CAMPO, AND EAST BERNARD FOR THE WHARTON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

Secretary Norton presented the Memorandum of Understanding between Wharton County and the Cities of Wharton, El Campo, and East Bernard for the Wharton County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The total cost of the mitigation plan was \$50,000, which was allocated among the three cities and the county based on their respective sizes. As a result, the City of East Bernard's share of the cost is \$5,000. Alderman Webster moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and to authorize payment of the \$5,000 share. The motion was seconded by Alderman Tomchesson and passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE PROPOSAL FROM MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR AMY ROD TO CONTINUE HER SERVICES AS MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR.

Secretary Norton reported that the current Municipal Court prosecutor, Amy Rod, will be leaving Paul Webb's firm on December 31, 2025, to establish her own practice. Ms. Rod has proposed a retainer fee of \$650 per month for continued prosecutorial services. Alderman Woodward moved to retain Amy Rod as Municipal Court prosecutor under the proposed retainer

arrangement, and the motion was seconded by Alderman Crist. The motion carried by a vote of 4-1, with Alderman Webster opposed.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL RESOLUTION 25-002 GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO) GRANT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

Secretary Norton presented Resolution 25-002 regarding the General Land Office (GLO) Grant for the Comprehensive Plan. Adoption of this resolution authorizes the City to submit a grant application to secure funding for the development of a comprehensive plan that will guide the City's future growth in alignment with the community's vision. Alderman Webster moved to approve the resolution, and the motion was seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTIONS OR POLICIES RELATED TO NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE CITY'S SOLICITOR PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.

Mayor Rejsek presented that the City has no means to enforce solicitor permit requirements. Staff can instruct unpermitted solicitors to go to City Hall, but if they refuse, there are no consequences and no constables available at times to enforce compliance. Alderman Webster thought there was something regarding this in an older ordinance. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to table, seconded by Alderman Webster. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Regular Meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 6:59 p.m.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION. RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

The Executive Session was adjourned, and the Regular Session was reconvened at 8:04 p.m.

1. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to deny the sale of real property due to utility easements, seconded by Alderman Domel. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to move forward with the hire of the new constable recommended by Constable JA Symanski and allow him to take a patrol car home, seconded by Alderman Webster. The motion passed 4-1 with Alderman Woodward against.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Tomchesson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Domel to adjourn the Regular session. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

These minutes are approved on the 15th day of December, A.D. 2025.

ATTEST:


RENEE NORTON
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED:


LANCE REJSEK
MAYOR