

City of East Bernard
Board of Alderman
Minutes of Regular Meeting
26 January 2026

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, January 26, 2026 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

Zoning

The proposed battery storage facility has prompted the City to begin evaluating—along with citizen input—whether zoning regulations should be implemented within city limits. While this is a costly process, the grant we have applied for would help offset these expenses. More information will be shared as this effort progresses.

TxDOT

TxDOT has placed an order for rumble strips for the four-way intersection, which will be installed once they are received. Additionally, I submitted a request for red trim to be added to several speed limit signs along Highway 90A. I also requested the installation of speed monitoring signs—similar to those located at the entrance to Ellinger—to be placed below the 30 mph speed limit signs in both directions on Highway 90A to alert drivers of their current speed. Furthermore, I have inquired whether a traffic study has been conducted at the four-way intersection to determine the potential need for a traffic signal.

Road Construction

H&C Construction has started construction on Koym Street and is scheduled to start on Clubside Drive this week. Once work on these streets is completed, construction will move to Cabinet Road. Sealy Asphalt will begin construction on Hlavinka St later this month.

Police Vehicles

The outfitting of the police vehicles was completed on Friday, January 16. Both units are now fully equipped and operational.

Office for the Mayor

I contacted Prosperity to request that an office be made available for the Mayor, as there is currently an unused office being utilized as storage by another tenant. I was informed that the City would need to negotiate directly with that tenant for use of the space. I responded by noting that the City does not have a lease agreement with that tenant, and therefore Prosperity, as the property manager, should be responsible for facilitating those discussions.

Additionally, it is my understanding that the City previously occupied a larger portion of the building and that, over time, our usable space has been gradually reduced to its current size. At present, the City does not have a dedicated mayor's office or a secure workspace. Another tenant has unrestricted access to our office area, creating security and confidentiality concerns that are not appropriate for municipal operations.

City Hall

I contacted Josh Mayfield with BHC Construction regarding floor plans for City Hall, and we are scheduled to meet during the first week of February. I also reached out to FNB of Eagle Lake to determine our borrowing capacity while maintaining a monthly payment of approximately \$2,000. This amount would match what we currently pay in rent to Prosperity. By moving forward with this option, the City would be investing in an owned asset—City Hall—rather than continuing to spend funds on rent. Based on a 7% interest rate over a 25-year term, we could borrow approximately \$285,000.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The following is the Secretary's report for the month of January 2026.

*Secretary Norton attended an election law seminar.

*Secretary Norton presented the financials.

CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Absent but presented a written report read by Mayor Rejsek: The patrol units are now fully equipped. The recently hired constable chose not to accept the position. A new deputy has been identified and will begin the background check process. He is expected to start in mid-February.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Moreno was not present, Secretary Norton presented his written report. Approximately 54,000 pounds of asphalt were completed this week. Christmas decorations were removed. Select areas were treated for weeds, and trees were trimmed around bus traffic zones. The trench for lighting at the pickleball courts was also dug. Additionally, I met with Darryl Gander on January 14, 2026, regarding warranty repair work on Pietzsch Street. He stated that he had spoken with Lance in September concerning the cracks.

ANIMAL REPORT

Mr. Torres reported that we received a donation of dog food from the Dollar General. We were able to donate some of that to SPOT and also to Lucky Penny Rescue who took the last two puppies we picked up.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 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 Crist to approve the December 15, 2025 minutes. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ORDINANCE 2026-001 ORDERING A GENERAL ELECTION ON MAY 2, 2026.

Mayor Rejsek presented Ordinance 2026-001 ordering a general election on May 2, 2026 to elect positions Mayor, 2, and 4. Alderman Crist made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL JOINT ELECTION AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF WHARTON FOR THE MAY 2, 2026 ELECTION.

Mayor Rejsek presented the joint election agreement. There are no changes to the agreement from previous years. Marsha Barbee, Wharton County Elections Administrator will be conducting the election. Alderman Thomchesson made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Domel. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND TAKE ANY POSSIBLE ACTION TO REWORK, UPDATE, AND REDO THE 4 WAY SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF HWY 90 AND HWY 60.

Mayor Rejsek invited Walt Boettcher to present the design for the four-way sign at the intersection of Hwy 90 and Hwy 60. Alderman Tomchesson moved to table the motion for a formal proposal, seconded by Alderman Domel. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL IF BILL PAY CAN BE AN APPROVED OPTION TO PAY BILLS.

Mayor Rejsek stated that the City would like to utilize the bank's bill pay service for paying certain bills due to the increase in postage and check stock. Alderman Webster made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Webster made a motion, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson to adjourn the Regular session. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

These minutes are approved on the 16th day of March, A.D. 2026.

ATTEST:


RENEE NORTON/CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED:


LANCE REJSEK
MAYOR