

City of East Bernard
Board of Alderman
Minutes of Regular Meeting
16 March 2026

Present:

Lance Rejsek, Mayor
David Tomchesson, Alderman Pos 1
Richie Domel, Alderman Pos 2
Brad Crist, Alderman Pos 5
Renee Norton, City Secretary

Absent:

Andrew Webster, Alderman Pos 3
Ryan Woodward, Alderman Pos 4

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, March 16, 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

Raymond Rabuis came to talk about drainage at Industrial Park and would like a map of the city limits.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Regular meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 6:11 p.m.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION, RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

The Executive Session was adjourned, and the Regular Session was reconvened at 6:22 p.m.

1. Discuss and consider for approval Ordinance 2026-004 Requirements for the Installation of Tiny Homes within the City Limits of East Bernard. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to table Ordinance 2026-004 and to look into combining this ordinance with the Mobile Home Ordinance seconded by Alderman Domel. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Toured the Battery Storage Facility on Hwy 60

I toured the battery storage facility being constructed on Hwy 60 just north of town. They gave a presentation on the project and covered their emergency preparedness plan in case any issues arise. They are hopeful to have the project up and running by the end of the summer.

Dilapidated Houses

The house that was located on Brandes Street has been razed and another house is being built in its place. As well, the two houses close to the cotton gin are being moved from their current location. I spoke to the individual who is building the Better Buddy gas station on the corner next to NAPA. They expect to commence construction by the end of March. I explained to him the need to have something done to the dilapidated gas station on the corner as it is not only an eye sore but also a safety hazard.

Road Construction

H&C Construction has completed all work on Koym Street, Clubside Drive and Cabinet Road. The project on Koym Street was extended and approved by Council to include the rest of Koym Street all the way to the entrance of the City Park.

Sealy Asphalt started construction on Hlavinka St on Monday, February 2, 2026 and finished it the same week.

City Hall

I have the most recent floor plan for city hall attached. I also wanted to discuss the property that became available next to Rice Medical Clinic as a possible location for city hall.

TXDot Meeting

I met with TXDot to discuss the email I sent back in January asking for the following:

They have already reinstalled rumble strips. They will add red trim to the 30 MPH speed limit signs along Highway 90A. In addition, poles will be installed for speed monitoring signs—similar to those located at the entrance to Ellinger—to be placed along Highway 90A to alert drivers of their current speed. The city will be responsible for purchasing the monitoring equipment as well as maintaining it.

A traffic study was also discussed to determine whether a traffic signal is needed at the four-way intersection. If the study were to recommend installing a traffic light, the entire intersection layout would need to be redesigned. This would include combining the two westbound lanes into one lane and the two eastbound lanes into one lane to allow for the installation of turn signals. This option was considered not a viable solution.

Community Events Committee

Three individuals attended the first meeting of the Event Coordinator Committee. During the meeting, several community events were discussed, including movies in the park, a Fourth of July fireworks show, community summer bike rides, and photos with the Easter Bunny at the park.

The committee's first event, Photos with the Easter Bunny, is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the city park. Residents are encouraged to attend and participate in this family-friendly event.

Quarterly Meeting Between Area Cities

I reached out to Wallis, Simonton, Beasley, and Eagle Lake to see if there was interest in holding a quarterly meeting among all five cities to discuss common issues and share ideas on topics such as ordinances and systems used in daily operations. The idea was well received, and our first meeting will be scheduled to take place next week here at our City Hall.

Building Permits

We have been in discussions with SafeBuilt to restart the building permit process. A building permit workshop will be scheduled within the next 30–45 days with the council to ensure everyone is aligned on the expectations for each permit.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT

*Our auditor picked up the information to complete our 2024 audit at the end of September. After touching base with him this week, he said that our audit will not be able to be completed until after April 15th. We have reached out to two new auditing firms to try to get us caught up.

*In the financials, under street maintenance- the auditor said we will make a journal entry stating that a portion of the road repair that was done came from the restricted funds we have available.

*Daycare exemption

CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Absent but presented a written report read by Secretary Norton: There was a residential fire on February 21st. We have Little League, Baseball and Softball, and Track season upon us. Our new constable should be starting very soon.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Moreno was not present, Secretary Norton presented his written report. Approximately 12,000 pounds of asphalt were completed. While H&C Asphalt were working on Koym and Clubside, the guys helped block the roads. Joel and Mark attended class for the annual CEU's pesticide applicators license. The lights for the pickleball court have been completed. The concession stand at the park was cleaned and is ready for the season. We have been working on the street signs throughout the city. The flower beds at the park have been cleaned.

ANIMAL REPORT

Mr. Torres reported that we received a donation of dog food. We had a cat that was picked up with possible rabies. We had it tested and it was negative.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26, 2026 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 January 26, 2026 minutes. The motion was 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 a new design for the four-way sign at the intersection of Hwy 90 and Hwy 60. Alderman Crist made a motion for a formal proposal and quote, seconded by Alderman Domel. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER UPDATING THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHARTON COUNTY CONSTABLE AND THE CITY OF EAST BERNARD.

Mayor Rejsek presented the Interlocal Agreement Between Wharton County Constable and the City of East Bernard. Alderman Domel made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Crist. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ORDINANCE 2026-002 REGULATING CAMPING AND SLEEPING IN PUBLIC PLACES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING HEALTH, SAFETY, AND THE GENERAL WELFARE., PRESERVING THE SAFE USE OF PUBLIC SPACES, AND MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF TEXAS HUOSE BILL 1925 (2021).

Mayor Rejsek presented Ordinance 2026-002 Regulating Camping. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Crist. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ORDINANCE 2026-003 DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE SEALED BID SALE OF CHEVEROLET TAHOE OWNED BY THE CITY OF EAST BERNARD.

Mayor Rejsek presented Ordinance 2026-003 declaring Chevrolet Tahoe as surplus. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Crist. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ORDINANCE 2026-005 CANCELING THE MAY 2, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION.

Mayor Rejsek presented Ordinance 2026-005 canceling the May 2, 2026 general election. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Crist. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ORDINANCE 2026-006 MOBILE FOOD UNIT REGULATIONS.

Mayor Rejsek presented Ordinance 2026-006 mobile food unit regulations. Alderman Domel made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL RESOLUTION 2026-001 DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTIVE AND ALTERNATE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Secretary Norton presented resolution 2026-001. Andrew Webster was nominated as Representative and Brad Crist as the alternate. Alderman Domel made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL RESOLUTION SCANNING AND ELECTRONIC STORAGE OF CITY RECORDS.

Mayor Rejsek presented the resolution for the city to start scanning and electronic storage of the city records. Alderman Domel made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PERSONNEL POLICY REGARDING VACATION ACCRUAL.

Mayor Rejsek proposed changing the vacation accrual from per pay cycle to front-loaded at the beginning of the calendar year. Alderman Crist made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL RESOLUTION DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.

Secretary Norton presented the resolution for the Downtown Revitalization program grant. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Crist. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER QUOTES FOR A SKID SPRAYER.

Mayor Rejsek presented the two quotes for a skid sprayer. Alderman Crist made a motion to approve the Wylie quote, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR CITY HALL.

Mayor Rejsek presented the preliminary plans for city hall. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to table, seconded by Alderman Domel. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER 2026 POOL FEES.

Secretary Norton presented the updated 2026 pool fees. Pool opening will be May 23rd and the pool grand opening party will be May 30th. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Domel. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

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 7:51 p.m.

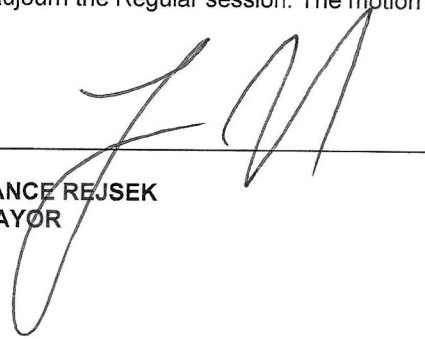
These minutes are approved on the 27th day of April, A.D. 2026.

ATTEST:



RENEE NORTON/CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED:



LANCE REJSEK
MAYOR