

**City of East Bernard**  
**Board of Alderman**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**27 April 2026**

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Richie Domel, Alderman Pos 2

**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, April 27, 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**

Bud Graves wanted to ask the Constable if there could be an increase in police presence near his office during the school zone hours.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**Abandoned Vehicles**

Letters were sent to six individuals and one business regarding vehicles that met the definition of an abandoned vehicle under city ordinance. All recipients either resolved the issue or contacted the city directly, with the exception of the one company, which did not respond to the notice.

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**Meeting with surrounding cities**

We organized the first meeting with the cities of Eagle Lake, Wallis, Simonton, and Beasley. Due to last-minute scheduling conflicts, only Eagle Lake was able to attend. During the session, we spent over two hours discussing the challenges each city is facing and exchanging current practices. A second meeting is planned for June.

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**Texas House Bill 9 (HB 9) – Business Personal Property Exemption**

Texas House Bill 9, approved by the Legislature and voters through a companion constitutional amendment (Proposition 9), significantly increases the property tax exemption for business personal property. Beginning January 1, 2026, businesses may exempt up to \$125,000 of equipment, inventory, and other tangible personal property from local property taxation, compared to the previous \$2,500 threshold.

While this change is intended to reduce the tax burden and administrative requirements for small businesses, it will also reduce the taxable value within the City. As a result, the City may experience a decrease in property tax revenue, which could impact funding for municipal services and future budgeting decisions.

**CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT**

\* We have received two audit quotes ranging from \$20,000 to \$25,000. Formal written quotes will be provided once the 2024 audit is completed.

\* Cabinet Road Grant to improve drainage: We are still awaiting review from FEMA. We can resubmit under BRIC for \$5,000. There is a 50/50 chance we will get it.

\* I have begun attending monthly meetings related to the TxDOT grant we were awarded, and the setup process is underway. This grant is for the sidewalks.

\* The GLO requested additional information regarding the comprehensive grant application. I have submitted the requested materials, and we are now waiting for a decision. This is the \$200,000 grant that will help us develop our city plan to prepare for future growth.

\* I completed two virtual training courses this month—one covering the Open Meetings Act/Public Information Act, and the other one was required for the TxDOT grant.

\* Our city event coordinators organized our first event in March, "Pictures with the Easter Bunny."

\* We will have our first Rabies Vaccination clinic May 9<sup>th</sup> from 9-11. We are partnering with East Bernard Animal Hospital to put this event on.

#### **CONSTABLE'S REPORT**

Constable Szymanski requested that the golf cart ordinance be amended to remove Leveridge Street from the list of prohibited streets. He noted that, because many businesses are located on that street, it is a common destination for residents, and allowing golf carts there would make access more convenient. Constable Szymanski also introduced Officer Jimmy Hausler, who has filled the vacant position.

#### **MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Mr. Moreno was not present, so Secretary Norton presented his written report. Approximately 9,600 pounds of asphalt work was completed. Several major leaks at the park were repaired, and preparations are underway to have the pool ready for opening day. Flower beds were cleaned up, and the team completed the installation of signs in Bernard Timbers. Heavy debris was removed from Highway 60 and FM 1164, and various city ditches were boom-mowed.

#### **ANIMAL REPORT**

Mr. Torres reported that an Animal Welfare Committee meeting was held, during which the committee selected the name "EB Paws." He also shared that a beagle was recently picked up and successfully reunited with its owner.

#### **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 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 Webster made a motion, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson to approve the April 27, 2026 minutes. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

#### **DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON POSSIBLE ABATEMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES FOR CHILDCARE FACILITIES.**

Mayor Rejsek presented an issue that had previously been considered by the Council regarding an exemption from city property taxes for daycare facilities within the city limits. After thorough discussion, the Council decided not to grant the exemption at this time. Alderman Crist made a motion to deny an exemption from 2026 city property taxes for childcare facilities, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER UPDATING THE EXISTING CONTRACT WITH SAFEbuilt.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the new contract with SAFEbuilt. Alderman Webster raised a question regarding how the fees would be charged. City Secretary Renee Norton stated that she would contact SAFEbuilt to obtain additional details regarding the fees and present the information at the next meeting. Alderman Domel made a motion to table the item, seconded by Alderman Crist. The motion to table carried unanimously.

#### **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL AMENDING OR REPLACING ORDINANCE 2018-003 WITH ORDINANCE 2026-007 ADOPTING THE 2018 OR 2021 INTERNATIONAL CODE OF COUNCIL BUILDING CODES.**


Mayor Rejsek presented amending or replacing Ordinance 2018-003 with an updated version of building codes. Alderman Webster made a motion to not approve Ordinance 2026-007, seconded by Alderman Woodward. The motion was carried 3-1 vote with Alderman Tomchesson opposed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Tomchesson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Webster to adjourn the Regular session. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

These minutes are approved on the 18th day of May, A.D. 2026.

ATTEST:

  
RENEE NORTON/CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED:

  
LANCE REJSEK  
MAYOR