

**City of East Bernard**  
**Board of Alderman**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**15 July 2024**

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Jonathon Szymanski, Alderman Pos 5

**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, July 15, 2024 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**

There were no public comments

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Rejsek reported as follows:

- Working on 717 Main Street building. Citations have been issued.
- Met with Bud Graves, Precinct 2 Commissioner to discuss an interlocal agreement with the city. Commissioner Graves said we could reach out to him for any issues in the future and they would assist.
- Met with iWorQ to explore their online portal, enabling contractors to submit information and payments for permits digitally, eliminating the need for in-person visits to city hall. Additionally, the portal includes a feature allowing users to search permit numbers to check their status independently, reducing reliance on contacting city hall directly. We have contracted with iWorQ to upgrade our services.
- Reminder not to discuss or post city business on your personal social media page.
- Worked with eZask on the website. Organizing the entire site.
- Spoke with Civic Plus who would capture our social media posts for open record requests.
- Posted the Sex Offender ordinance in East Bernard Express.
- Posted bid request for Pietzsch Street repairs.
- I met with Kevin Atkinson who is a Founder with Texas Pride on Monday July 1<sup>st</sup>. I set expectations around the need for communication. He said that they are aware of our need for communication on late and rescheduled routes and that communication would happen.

Texas Pride failed to communicate to us on 7/9/24, the day after the storm, that they were not picking up the entire city due to the truck being full. Joel was told by the driver that a second truck would be sent on Wednesday to complete the route. However, after reaching out to Kevin, I was informed that those customers who were missed would have their pickup day rolled to Friday. They assured me that everyone would be serviced. We were also told that Texas Pride would not pick up debris on that Tuesday but would start on Friday.

On Friday we started receiving calls that the bags of debris had not been picked up. I reached out to Kevin and was told that they were focusing on household garbage and not picking up the debris as everything was fluid. No call. No text. No email. No communication.

We started receiving messages late Friday afternoon that garbage was not collected in several parts of the city. I reached out to Kevin who put me in touch with their COO. I left a message for the COO but did not receive a return call. Not until

my second message did I hear back. I was told the truck was full and was waiting to unload at the landfill. It would take approximately two hours, but he would return Friday evening to complete the route. I was then told by Mark Moreno that he was told by the driver that a part broke on the truck, and they would not return. Later that evening Mark heard back from the driver who said they would return on Saturday morning to complete the collection which they did.

Going back to our initial meeting, Kevin asked if we would consider changing our dates of service to Mondays and Thursdays instead of the current Tuesdays and Fridays. He will provide us with a map of their service area here in East Bernard. One customer was complaining about being missed however they are several miles away from the city limits. We will review the total number of individuals in this situation and then determine if it is worth keeping them or maybe grandfathering them in.

- Spoke to Olsen and Olsen regarding the golf cart ordinance. Met with JA Szymanski to discuss the enforcement of the ordinance as more and more golf carts and side-by-sides are being driven on the roads. Created a condensed version of the ordinance which was posted on the City's Facebook page.
- Spoke with JA Szymanski regarding the fireworks ordinance. I asked him to have two officers working on the night of July 4<sup>th</sup>. I am planning to purchase yard signs that can be used at strategic points throughout the city to remind constituents that fireworks are illegal in the city limits. These signs will be utilized during July 4<sup>th</sup> and New Year's Eve.
- Renee and I attended a meeting with County Commissioners and Judge Spenrath on July 10<sup>th</sup> to see if we would be able to use their contract with DRS for debris removal. We found out on July 11<sup>th</sup> that we would have to procure our own debris removal company. The city does not have a debris removal contract. We are moving forward to procure contracts for future disasters.
- Renee has been officially named as the Emergency Management Director/Coordinator for the City of East Bernard.
- I am arranging meetings with multiple companies that offer community communication platforms for cities. These platforms allow citizens to receive information via text, phone call, or email directly from the city. This will particularly benefit individuals who do not use Facebook, which is currently the primary communication channel used by the city.
- Met with FNB Eagle Lake who created a new type of deposit account which would pay us one percent less than TexPool but would be FDIC insured. Money movement between that account and our general funds account would be instantaneous. We will be receiving approximately \$7,500 per month in interest.

#### **CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Secretary Norton presented the financials. Alderman Woodward asked where the liquor taxes come from. Secretary Norton responded that she would find out. Alderman Webster asked if we had received payment from the Little League. Secretary Norton responded no.

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

Constable Szymanski gave an update regarding Hurricane Beryl and the drainage. He mentioned fireworks this year was not a huge issue. Mayor Rejsek asked for an update on the golf cart ordinance. Constable Szymanski asked if we could get him a copy of the flyer.

#### **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 17, 2024 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 June 17, 2024 minutes. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ORDER OF SPECIAL ELECTION 2024 ORDINANCE 2024-003.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the Order of Special Election 2024 ordinance. Alderman Domel made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ORDINANCE 2024-004 AMENDING BURN BAN ORDINANCE.**

Mayor Rejsek presented Ordinance 2024-004 amending the burn ban ordinance with Attachment A. Alderman Domel asked if the creek at Leveridge was the boundary on west side. Mayor Rejsek confirmed. Alderman Woodward asked to clarify that even if you live on an acre inside the prohibited area, you could not burn. Mayor Rejsek confirmed. Constable Szymanski asked what the effective date would be and Mayor Rejsek responded immediately. Alderman Domel made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Webster. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL RESOLUTION 2024-002 DESIGNATING MEMBERS OF PLANNING COMMISSION.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the updated list of individuals for the Building and Planning Committee. Alderman Webster made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Woodward. The motion carried by unanimous vote.



**DISCUSS AND TAKE ANY POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CURRENT SOLID WASTE CONTRACT.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the concerns regarding the current solid waste company. Alderman Webster and Alderman Domel had no issues looking into other companies. Alderman Woodward suggested looking into purchasing our own truck.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL BUDGET WORKSHOP CALENDAR.**

Secretary Norton presented the budget workshop calendar. Alderman Webster made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**


Alderman Tomchesson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Domel to adjourn the Regular session. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

These minutes are approved on the 20 day of August, A.D. 2024.

ATTEST:

  
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RENEE NORTON  
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED:

  
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LANCE REJSEK  
MAYOR