

**City of East Bernard**  
**Board of Alderman**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**23 September 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, September 23, 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 HEARING**

The public hearing was opened at 6:02 p.m. There were no comments made during the public hearing and it was closed at 6:04 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Rejsek reported as follows:

- **Garbage:** On September 12, 2024, Renee and I met with executives from Texas Pride at city hall to discuss our current garbage service. They shared that they are adding a number of new trucks to their fleet, which will improve service in East Bernard as the routes farther out from their headquarters will receive the new trucks. They expect the trucks to be in operation by the end of the year. An individual has been hired to handle the communication between Texas Pride and their customers. They also proposed changing our days of garbage pick-up from the current Tuesday – Friday to Monday-Thursday. This change would have several benefits: residents who leave for the weekend would not have to worry about their garbage cans being out over the weekend and in case of a truck breakdown, there are other trucks running routes close by which could come to East Bernard and finish the collection of garbage on that particular day. I have a concern regarding holidays, as many fall on Mondays. Texas Pride stated that if a holiday falls on a Monday, collection would be rescheduled to the following Thursday instead of Tuesday. After our discussion with Texas Pride, it was determined that only three holidays would have this issue. Those are Memorial Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving.
- We received comments on Facebook regarding vehicles speeding into town on Leveridge Street from FM 2919. The speed limit sign was located after the bridge, making it hard to see. I contacted Bud Graves, county commissioner, to request permission to move the sign to the south side of the bridge, which would better inform drivers coming from FM 2919 about the reduced speed limit. As a result, the sign was moved and is more visible to drivers.
- A decision has been made to place permitting on hold until January 1, 2025. This pause is necessary to gather detailed information regarding the documentation required for each type of permit. Once we have clarified the specifics for each permit, we will schedule a workshop with the aldermen to review the findings. We have already met with the individual who issues permits from Wharton County and hosted a comprehensive meeting with representatives from the City of Wharton to discuss their permit handling processes. Additionally, we are reaching out to Safebuild for further assistance, as the City of Wharton noted they have valuable resources to support us in this endeavor.

- I received a bid on installing three pickle ball courts at the city park using the existing concrete slab poured for the volleyball court. The bid came in at \$12,650. We are currently looking for additional bids and are also entertaining the idea of completing the project ourselves.
- Spoke to Baker and Stogner, the auditors. They are currently in the office and are completing the 2022 audit and hope to start the 2023 audit later this month.
- The phones at city hall were switched to VoicelP on September 9<sup>th</sup>. We now have caller ID, have all lines recorded and have the ability to turn off the phones during the lunch hour.
- Renee and I traveled to Yoakum to meet with the Regional Director of TX Dot and the individual overseeing Matagorda, Wharton, and Austin counties. The meeting proved to be highly productive for both parties. We discovered that an interlocal agreement between TX Dot and the city had never been established, and we are now working to address this. We learned that the roads within the city limits—Highways 90 and 60—are technically city roads, and TX Dot is responsible for their maintenance, including mowing twice a year. They have no objections if we choose to mow more frequently. We also discussed the ongoing issue with vehicles not stopping at the four-way stop signs. TX Dot agreed to install "Stop Ahead" signage on Highway 90 in both directions. If this doesn't yield results, the next step would be to consider adding rumble strips to alert drivers. Additionally, TX Dot offered to help clean the curbs on Main Street. They plan to send equipment from their Wharton office in the next three to four weeks. We will ensure the grass is edged before their arrival, and I committed to maintaining the edging going forward.
- Renee and I met with Al from the East Bernard Express who was looking for ways he could increase the coverage of the city in the newspaper. We explained to him where he can find past agendas and meeting minutes and agreed to provide our agendas to him prior to the meetings.
- When reviewing the insurance coverage for the city's vehicles, it was determined that the 2014 brown truck, which was recently traded in as well as the truck driven by Joel have not been insured.
- I met with Dean Breitenwischer several weeks ago. Dean was looking to install a bench next to the basketball court at the city park as part of an Eagle Scout project.

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

Secretary Norton present updated financial information.

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

Constable Szymanski was not present.

#### **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 20, 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 Webster made a motion, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson to approve the August 20, 2024 minutes. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **DISCUSS AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE ARPA GRANT ALLOCATION.**

Mayor Rejsek would like to schedule a round table with the water district and the businesses to discuss the future of the grant. No action was taken. The motion was tabled.

#### **TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO AMEND SEX OFFENDER ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-002 TO 2024-004 DUE TO CLERICAL ERROR.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the 2024-004 Sex Offender Ordinance changing the number from 2024-002 to 2024-004 due to clerical error. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Woodward. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **DISCUSS AND APPROVE ORDINANCE 2024-005- ORDINANCE ADOPTING 2024-2025 BUDGET.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the ordinance for the 2024-2025 budget. Alderman Webster made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Woodward. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ORDINANCE 2024-006 ORDINANCE ADOPTING 2024-2025 TAX RATE.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the ordinance for the 2024-2025 tax rate. Alderman Webster made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Woodward. The motion carried by unanimous vote.



**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ORDINANCE 2024-007- ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO 2010-004 ADDING A THREE WAY STOP AT PIETZSCH AND DAN STREET.**

Alderman Woodward brought to council the amendment to Ordinance 2010-004 adding a three way stop sign at Pietzsch and Dan Street. Mayor Resjek provided the amendment to Ordinance 2010-004. Alderman Woodward made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ROAD CLOSURES ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2024.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the proposed street closures for Halloween night. We have received several requests for such closure due to the number of children that access the streets by foot on Halloween. Alderman Woodward made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH TML RISK POOL FOR CYBER COVERAGE.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the interlocal agreement for cyber coverage. Alderman Woodward asked who the water district used. Alderman Webster made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Woodward. The motion carries 3-1 with Alderman Tomchesson against.

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE ROAD BIDS FOR PIETZSCH STREET.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the three bids for Pietzsch Street. Alderman Woodward suggested we ask the county to look at the roads and give us guidance on what needs to be done to properly redo the road. Alderman Tomchesson moved to table the motion, seconded by Alderman Domel. The motion was tabled.

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE REPAYMENT ON THE PURCHASE OF THE F150 2024 TRUCK.**

Mayor Rejsek proposed to make \$1,000 monthly payments. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Woodward. The motion carries 3-1 with Alderman Webster against.

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE ACTION ON MOVING THE TEXAS PRIDE SERVICE DAYS FROM TUESDAY AND FRIDAY TO MONDAY AND THURSDAY.**

Mayor Rejsek discussed Texas Pride has requested that the pickup days be changed from Tuesday and Friday to Monday and Thursday. This move would help improve service according to Texas Pride as they have several other trucks in the area who could assist with collection of garbage in case of mechanical issues. Their company will be adding new trucks to the fleet and has hired a communication person. Alderman Tomchesson asked when the contract ends. Mayor Rejsek said in August. Alderman Webster made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Woodward. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE RETENTION POND WITHIN BERNARD MEADOWS.**

Mayor Rejsek discussed that the HOA at Bernard Meadows would like to disband and asked the city to take over the maintenance of the retention pond. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to deny request, seconded by Alderman Webster. The motion carries 3-1 with Alderman Woodward against.

**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 7:40 p.m.

These minutes are approved on the 22 day of October, A.D. 2024.

ATTEST:

  
RENEE NORTON  
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED:

  
LANCE REJSEK  
MAYOR