

**City of East Bernard**  
**Board of Alderman**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**20 August 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 Tuesday, August 20, 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**

Linda Leveridge spoke on the drainage around her house, lights, trash, and fireworks.

Paul Manley spoke on the permit process in the city. He would like to see it be more black and white as to what is needed.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Rejsek reported as follows:

- Update on garbage: Communication has increased. If issues continue, a demand letter will be sent to Texas Pride requesting the city be released from the contract.
- Explored the possibility of prohibiting specific types of businesses from operating within city limits. Observed that Sugar Land has banned vape shops, hookah bars, and similar establishments. Legal counsel indicated that these bans are possible due to their zoning regulations. While attending the Chamber of Commerce meeting, they discussed looking into zoning for the city.
- Attended a meeting with the mayors and city secretaries of El Campo and Wharton, alongside Phillip Spenrath. Learned about a loan opportunity for water and sewer infrastructure at the industrial park. We need to decide how to move forward.
- Will focus on streamlining the permitting process by clarifying the documentation requirements based on the type of work being performed.
- Spoke to Eric Scheibe with Scheibe Consulting LLC. They have conducted a drainage study for the industrial park and applied for a FEMA grant back in January and expect to hear back from them any day now.
- 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.
- Our phones will be switched to VoicelP on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

**CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- Craig Pietzsch has invited the Alderman to celebrate the Masonry's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 5<sup>th</sup> 12:30 to 3:30. I need a head count of who will attend by September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Budget is completed and presented.

- Hurricane Beryl: I attended the recovery scope meeting yesterday with FEMA. This meeting started the clock, and I have 60 days to complete all the necessary paperwork to turn in for reimbursement consideration.

**CONSTABLE'S REPORT**

Constable Szymanski reported that Hurricane Beryl is behind us. School has started. The school should be getting the new bleachers soon and have asked for security for the games. Alderman Woodward asked how many stops have been made this past month. Constable Szymanski said he did not have that information available.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2024 REGULAR MEETING AND AUGUST 5, 2024 BUDGET WORKSHOP 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 July 15, 2024 minutes and August 5, 2024 budget meeting minutes. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**DISCUSS AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON A COMMUNITY OUTREACH SURVEY.**

Susan Tomchesson discussed the need for a community survey presentation. She explained that the city should do something like this every five years to get an idea of what citizens are looking for as the city continues to grow. No action was taken. The motion was tabled.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL 2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the 2025 Holiday Schedule. Alderman Webster made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Woodward. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE ACTION TO SET THE PROPOSED 2025 TAX RATE.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the proposed tax rate of .16449 for 2025. Alderman Woodward made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Webster. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**DISCUSS AND REVIEW 2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET.**

Mayor Rejsek presented the proposed budget. Alderman Woodward made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Domel.

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ANY POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE ROAD BIDS.**

Mayor Rejsek asked to reject the previous road bids for Pietzsch Street. Alderman Woodward made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE ACTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF TWO 2024 FORD F-150 REGULAR CAB TRUCKS FOR APPROXIMATELY \$73,000.**

Mayor Rejsek brought a bid to purchase two new F-150s. Alderman Woodward asked if there was warranty included. Mayor Rejsek said he would double check but was certain that it did. Alderman Tomchesson made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Woodward. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**DISCUSS AND TAKE ANY POSSIBLE ACTION ON ARPA GRANT ALLOCATION.**

Mayor Rejsek discussed the ARPA grant. We will find out how much it will cost to move forward with the project and present options at next meeting. No action taken, motion tabled.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Regular Meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 6:48 p.m.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION, RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION**

The Executive Session was adjourned, and the Regular Session was reconvened at 7:34 p.m. The motion was tabled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Domel made a motion, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson to adjourn the Regular session. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

These minutes are approved on the 23 day of September, A.D. 2024.

ATTEST:

  
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RENEE NORTON  
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED:

  
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LANCE REJSEK  
MAYOR