

City of East Bernard

Board of Alderman

Minutes of Regular Meeting

15 February 2016

Present:

Marvin R. Holub, Mayor
Kim Tielke, Alderman Pos 2
Caton Hammock, Alderman Pos 3
John Salcido, Alderman Pos 4
Charlie Bucek, Alderman Pos 5
Audrey Searce, City Secretary

Absent:

Dale Toellner, Alderman Pos 1

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum of the Board members present, Mayor Marvin Holub called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2016 in the Union Room of the Prosperity Bank Building.

INVOCATION

Mayor Holub gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Holub led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- ◆ No public comments were made.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Holub reported as follows:

- ◆ Mayor Holub informed the board we are revamping the signs we have and we will order signs we are missing.
- ◆ Streetlights are also in the works. We have 50 available streetlights and we will be working with CenterPoint on placement of those poles.
- ◆ Drains were fixed at the city park.
- ◆ The mayor is also interested in creating a Mayor's Youth Council for the City of East Bernard. This is a program that allows kids to participate in city government. They would help in city planning and let us know what they would like to see. It would be community service hours for them.

CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Audrey Searce reported to the board that the city is busy with meetings for the FM 1164 sewer project. Monica Martin is aware of project and she is also helping us with maps for the streetlight project. We have started a beautification initiative in the city. Nuisance violations and junked vehicle violations are being addressed first. We are giving people notice of the violations and giving them time to correct the issues before citations are issued. We are also looking into main street revitalization program. Vacek's Hardware is remodeling and we would like to help them clean up main street. Alderman Bucek asked about the line item concerning rental of buildings. We pay the bank monthly and Kubicek family twice a year. Alderman Bucek also recognized the F.B.L.A. group of East Bernard for their hard work cleaning up U.S. 90A.

CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Constable J.A. Szymanski was not present at the meeting.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2016 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

Mayor Holub asked if there were any corrections or concerns about the minutes as read. There was no further discussion of the minutes. Alderman Bucek made a motion, seconded by Alderman Tielke to approve all proposed minutes. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS APPOINT THE RABIES CONTROL OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF EAST BERNARD.

Joel Torres has been certified to take over the rabies control officer for the City of East Bernard. Alderman Hammock made a motion to appoint Joel Torres as such officer, seconded by Alderman Tielke. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS WHARTON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

The public meeting was opened at 7:10 p.m..

There was no discussion or concerns about the hazard mitigation plan from the public.

The public meeting was closed at 7:11 p.m.

CONSIDER AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE.

The ordinance passed in 2009 neglected to include a board of appeals for Section 8 of the ordinance, which is the section that covers the property maintenance code. We will need to find at least five individuals to name to the board of appeals. These individuals can hear all complaints. They would only meet when needed. Alderman Hammock made a motion to approve Ordinance 2016-001, seconded by Alderman Salcido. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ORDINANCE 2016-002 ORDERING A GENERAL ELECTION ON MAY 7, 2016.

A general election will be held on Saturday May 7, 2016 to elect the positions of Mayor, Alderman, Position 2, and Alderman, Position 4. Alderman Bucek made a motion to approve Ordinance 2016-002, seconded by Alderman Hammock, The motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSIDER AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES CALLING AN ELECTION FOR IMPOSITION OF SALES TAX:

"An ordinance of the City of East Bernard, Texas, ordering a special election to be held on the 7th day of May, 2016 on a proposition pertaining to the authorization of the local sales and use tax at the rate of one and one-half percent as authorized by Chapter 321 of the Texas Tax Code"

"An ordinance of the City of East Bernard, Texas, ordering a special election to be held on the 7th day of May, 2016 on a proposition pertaining to the reauthorization of the local sales and use tax at the rate of one-fourth percent as authorized by chapter 327 of the Texas Tax Code"

The City of East Bernard currently has a quarter cent sales tax for street maintenance that is expiring on December 31, 2016. Due to the expiration of the sales tax, we are looking at options that we have for the City of East Bernard. We can reauthorize the quarter sales tax or we can look at other options to generate some additional revenue for the City of East Bernard. Currently we are at a quarter cent below the maximum amount we can tax on purchases. With new legislation, we are allowed to go up to 1.5% sales tax for the city. We have a few options. We have two options: reauthorize the street sales tax or go for the 1.5% sales tax. After much discussion the council concluded, we would reauthorize the quarter cent sales tax and we would also like to ask for an additional quarter cent sales tax. Alderman Bucek made a motion to order a special election to vote on a proposition reauthorizing a local sales and use tax at the rate of one-fourth percent as authorized by chapter 327 of the Texas tax code, seconded by Hammock. The motion carried by unanimous vote. Alderman Salcido made a motion to order a special election to vote on a proposition increasing our local sales and use tax to 1.25% from 1% as authorized by Chapter 321 of the Texas Tax Code, seconded by Alderman Hammock. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT


Alderman Tielke made a motion, seconded by Alderman Hammock, to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

These minutes are approved on the ____ day of March, A.D. 2016.

ATTEST:

AUDREY SCEARCE
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED:


MARVIN R. HOLUB
MAYOR