

City of East Bernard
Board of Alderman
Minutes of Regular Meeting
17th April 2017

Present:

Marvin R. Holub, Mayor
Dale Toellner, Alderman Pos 1
Alex Warncke, Alderman Pos 2
Caton Hammock, Alderman Pos 3
Wes Murrile, Alderman Pos 4
Charlie Bucek, Alderman Pos 5
Audrey Searce, City Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum of the Board members present, Mayor Marvin Holub called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2017 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

- ◆ There were no public comments.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Holub reported drainage is on hold due to the weather. King Construction is going to finish Industrial Park project and his major project on Leveridge and Clubside. He needs hot dry weather for that project; at least a week of absolutely no rain. After that project is completed, he will move to the alleys on Norman and John Albert Drive. These are the same plans that we approved. We are planning on repaving Magnolia this summer. We will also repair Clubside Drive once the drainage work is complete. The pool is scheduled to be repaired for the May 13th grand opening. This is our yearly free event. The park will be getting inspected by Texas Parks & Wildlife sometime in the future. It will be a surprise inspection. Katie Kubes has been hired as the pool manager for the upcoming pool season.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Searce reported animal control has slowed down. Election is coming up and we are trying to educate everyone on what our proposition is about. We are not raising taxes, we are simply trying to align ourselves with other surrounding towns with our sales tax rate. The dates were given for early voting and election day. Peddler's permits were also discussed. The City of East Bernard does enforce our peddler's permit ordinance. All individuals have to be approved by city hall before they solicit door to door.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2017 REGULAR MEETING.

Mayor Holub asked if there were any corrections or concerns about the minutes as read. Alderman Murrile made a motion to approve the minutes as read, seconded by Alderman Toellner. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND TAKE ANY NECESSARY ACTION ON THE APPLICATION FOR CENTERPOINT ENERGY FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND ITS DISTRIBUTION COST RECOVERY FACTOR.

Mr. Steven Gipson with Centerpoint Energy was at the meeting to answer any questions the Alderman had. Alderman Murrile asked for a general explanation of why they were asking to amend the distribution cost recovery factor. Mr. Gipson stated that in the last year, Centerpoint Energy had made several improvements to their infrastructure due to service area growth and aging infrastructure. Of the \$139 million spent, they are only trying to recover \$44 million. They can simply request an amendment, ultimately the PUC sets the rate. This amendment would increase the rate customers would pay. It does not change or impact the franchise agreement in any way. After some further discussion, Alderman Murrile made a motion to approve the application for Centerpoint Energy to amend its distribution cost recovery factor, seconded by Alderman Warncke. The motion passed 4-1, with Alderman Bucek opposing.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL CHANGING TO A CLASS A FORM OF GOVERNMENT FROM A CLASS B FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

Mayor Holub started the conversation with facts that were given to him by Texas Municipal League. Of the cities in the state of Texas that are members of the Texas Municipal League, 600 cities are a Class A city, 109 cities are a Class B city, and 33 are a Class C city. The main difference between a Class B and Class A is the taxing cap. In a Class A the tax cap would be \$1.50, whereas Class B is \$.25. Alderman Warncke stated that switching to class A would give us more ability to borrow. He also stated with Senate Bill 2, our tax rate would be capped at 5% rather than the 8% we currently use to fund our budget. Alderman Toellner spoke with concerns about this legislative session. He attended a meeting with Judge Spenrath and the way it was explained, with the new bills being passed, the local government will be responsible for more with less funding. He believes it is the right time and needed to move to Class A. Alderman Bucek made a motion to table the agenda item. Alderman Bucek pulled his motion to table the agenda item after further discussion. Alderman Toellner made a motion to change to a Class A type of government from a Class B, seconded by Alderman Hammock. The motioned passed with a 4-2 vote, with Mayor Holub and Alderman Murrile opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

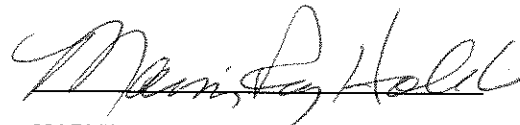
Alderman Hammock made a motion, seconded by Alderman Warncke, to adjourn the Regular session. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

These minutes are approved on the 15th day of May, A.D. 2017.

ATTEST:


AUDREY SCEARCE
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED:


MARVIN R. HOLUB
MAYOR