

City of East Bernard
Board of Alderman
Minutes of Regular Meeting
20th March 2017

Present:

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

Absent:

Alex Warncke, Alderman Pos 2

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 Monday, March 20, 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

- ◆ Sheila Bochacek expressed her concern about a fence that was erected behind her business on Main Street. The gate does not open during business hours, and she believes it blocks an alleyway. Her customers who need access to her back entrance cannot get into her salon because of the fence. She believes there should be public access use in this area and the fence needs to come down or opened. It is an inconvenience for all parties involved. She has had to have her dumpsters re-routed because of the gate. Virginia Acuna lives next to the gate and does not have a way to park her vehicle. She has to park on US 90A.
- ◆ Dana Daigle also expressed concern regarding the fence erected by another business owner. She feels it is a hazard for emergency vehicles and an inconvenience to his neighbors. It was distasteful and she would like to see the gate taken down.
- ◆ Susan Tomchesson spoke on the new park benches that were placed in the City Park.
- ◆ Danny Crane spoke on behalf of the East Bernard Little League with questions on a parking lot that was to be constructed for the organization. They were told when the park was being built, it would include a parking lot on their side. The purchase of the land by the city for the park was done with a gentleman's agreement. In this agreement, the parking lot was a condition. He is aware that the county attorney pulled the interlocal between the city and county to build the parking lot. However, he feels it still needs to be done. He also mentioned the Little League helped get the dugouts finished with a donation of \$10,000.
- ◆ Mark Somer also spoke on behalf of the East Bernard Little League. He was not on the board at the beginning of the project, so he could not confirm all the details, but his understanding was that the city did not have a lot of cash to fund the park project and the city needed the land to come up with the \$500,000. It was the contractor's idea to include the parking lot on the Little League side. Then when she ran out of money, it was cut, even though the agreement had already been made. He feels both organizations need to work together to come up with a solution.
- ◆ Brad Dixon is new to East Bernard and he has a few concerns he would like to address. He heard rumors of a burning ordinance going in to effect, and he feels that would be detrimental to citizens in his neighborhood. He lives near the river and has to deal with debris from floods, and falling trees. He suggests that if an ordinance should be passed, it should have a clause that citizens who own five or more acres be exempt from the burning ban. He also has concerns about Morris Street and the new houses that are coming up. He believes parking will be an issue and the city needs to consider a no parking ordinance on this particular street.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Holub reported that irrigation at the park has been repaired and everything should be up and running. We are waiting for some drier weather to begin our drainage projects. It is necessary to have dry conditions to complete the project properly. Streets will be cleaned in two sessions. We are trying this approach to see how often a street sweeper is needed and how well this type of sweeper does for us.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Scarce reported on animal control. In the previous month, animal control had 17 calls. The calls are around the clock and Joel is having to put in a lot of extra time. Preparations are beginning at the pool for the upcoming summer season. Financials were provided to the board of alderman. There was no discussion on the reports.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING AND FEBRUARY 20, 2017 REGULAR MEETING.

Mayor Holub asked if there were any corrections or concerns about the minutes as read. Alderman Bucek pointed out an error on the February 16, 2017 minutes. It should have read "adjourn special session" instead of "regular session". Alderman Bucek made a motion to approve the minutes with correction, seconded by Alderman Hammock. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL RESOLUTION 2017-003: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN OF EAST BERNARD, TEXAS CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR THE INCREASE IN THE TAX CAP FOR E.S.D. #1.

Mr. Randy Kresta spoke briefly on the upcoming election Wharton County E.S.D. #1 would be holding. Alderman Hammock made a motion to support the E.S.D. #1 and pass the resolution as read, seconded by Alderman Toellner. The motion passed 3-1, with Alderman Murrile against.

ADJOURNMENT

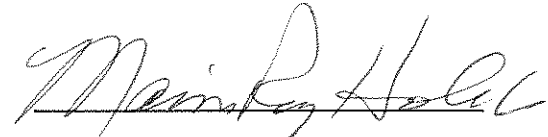
Alderman Toellner made a motion, seconded by Alderman Hammock, to adjourn the Regular session. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

These minutes are approved on the 17th day of April, A.D. 2017.

ATTEST:


AUDREY SCARCE
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED:


MARVIN R. HOLUB
MAYOR