

The Early City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Mangrum

Council members:

Benny Allcorn

Economic Development Director Larry McConn

Leland Acker

City Secretary Brenda Kilgo

Travis Eoff

City Attorney Mark Bessent

Charles Matlock

Council Member Garry Forisha and City Administrator Tony Aaron were absent.

Establishing a quorum present, Mayor Mangrum called the meeting to order, Mr. Acker gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of the minutes for regular meeting held on October 10, 2023.

Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Allcorn, to approve the minutes as written. All members present voted "aye".

Citizen's comments

There were no citizen comments.

Consideration of Resolution 2023-EDR08, approving the final plat for Early Town Center to include the transfer of public space to the City of Early.

Mr. McConn explained that this Resolution authorizes the transfer of park land and right-of-way, approximately 42.3 acres, from the EMDD to the City of Early for maintenance and further improvements. This includes the park area, parking lot, grassy area identified within the multi-Use area and the boardwalk. It also authorizes the filing and recording of the final plat to identify these areas.

Mr. Acker made motion for to approve Resolution 2023-EDR08 as presented.. Mr. Matlock seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Consider approval of Ordinance 2023-12, establishing a speed zone limit of 45 miles per hour for a portion of Garmon Drive (US 84/183).

Mr. McConn stated that TXDOT conducted a traffic study specifically looking at the speed zone from the intersection of Garmon Drive/Early Blvd to approximately E. River Oaks. The data collected from the study resulted in a recommendation from the State and District level to reduce the speed limit from 50mph to 45mph. With approval of the Ordinance as authorization from the City of Early, TXDOT will change the speed zone for that section of Garmon Drive. Signage will be updated by TXDOT.

Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Matlock, to approve Ordinance 2023-12 as recommended. All members present voted "aye".

Consideration to approve a Services and Purchasing Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the car and body camera system approved within the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget for Early Police Department.

Chief Mercer stated that when Watchguard, the current camera system, was bought out by Motorola the products used by our Police Department are being phased out and either no longer available, cannot get parts for repair or no warranty remains. Axon carries a similar product that is rated better, although price is higher, and includes the maintenance and warranty services over a five-year term. The services include replacement with all new products after the completion of the third year. Cloud-based storage with faster uploads and copying provide an easier and more efficient process for the officers and court clerks. This agreement is for the total amount of \$44,000 for the first year of services and was included within the approval of the 2023/2024 fiscal year budget.

Mr. Acker made motion to approve the Services and Purchase agreement for the amount of \$44,000 within the 2023/2024 fiscal year. Mr. Allcorn seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Consideration to approve amendments to the City of Early Personnel Policy for changes to employee benefits approved within the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget.

Employee benefits approved and changed included the increase to Longevity Pay from \$0.03 per hour to \$0.20 per hour incremental increase per service year, with a cap of 20 service years and change to the City's match ratio for the Texas Municipal Retirement System from 1.5 to 2. Amendments to the Personnel Policy are specific to Section 4.9 Longevity Pay as Section 3.11 Retirement/Pension Plan is not detailed with the matching ratio it only refers to the TMRS plan itself.

Mr. Matlock made motion, seconded by Mr. Acker, to approve amendments to the Personnel Policy as presented. All members present voted "aye".

Consideration to approve street closure and barricades for Annual Christmas Tree Lighting.

Road closure is requested for Lucas Drive from Garmon Drive to the end of the parking lot of the First Baptist Church Activity Center. This will allow all attending the Christmas Tree Lighting event to walk freely between the parking lot and the event area throughout the duration of the celebration.

Mr. Acker made motion to the road closure as requested for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Mr. Matlock seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Department Reports – 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Fire Department:

Fire Marshal Seth Ringler reported the following for the Fire Department:

97	Medical calls
27	Motor Vehicle Accidents

6	House Fires
20	Grass Fires
10	Illegal Burns
785	calls for service for the year

Fire Marshal activity included fund raising efforts for the Early Primary School; 35 inspections; 2 investigation cases; and 172 NIMFORD entries.

Police Department:

Chief Mercer provided the following:

883	Calls for service
204	Case reports
478	Traffic stops
5	Fatalities (year)
6	Use of Force
169	Community relation
75	School walk-throughs

School Resource Officer activity included 8 incidents since beginning of school; 1 DWI in the pick-up line; and 8 parent disturbances.

Other department activity included 28.5 hours within the STEP grant; active shooter training with the Fire Department; planning next active shooter training with Fire and Early ISD.

Parks Department:

Director David Gist reported that most activity has been at Town Center development trying to finish various projects such as the batting cage, assist Texas Parks and Wildlife with aquatic planning around the lake, and lighting around the walking trail; successful 10U and 14U baseball tournaments in July; 1 full-time position is open within the department.

Finance Department:

Provided by City Secretary Brenda Kilgo.

Budget progress by department finished as anticipated and includes budget amendments for increased sales tax receipts and delivery of truck and equipment ordered back in 2021/2022 budget; Property tax receipts amount matched budgeted anticipation; Average increase of 12% for this quarter in sales tax receipts; interest rate increase applied to construction fund account at local depository prompted leaving funds where they are versus transfer to TX-Star or Logic investment pool accounts.

Administrator's Report

No report.

Announcements

- Christmas Tree Lighting - Tuesday, November 28th 6:00pm
- City of Early Christmas party – Thursday, December 14th 6:30pm

Adjourn

Mr. Matlock made motion, seconded by Mr. Acker, to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted "aye" adjourning the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

12-12-2023
DATE

Ronald Murphy
MAYOR

Brenda Kilgo
CITY SECRETARY