

The Early City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Mangrum

Council members:

Benny Allcorn

Leland Acker

Garry Forisha

Charles Matlock

Leland Acker

City Administrator Tony Aaron

City Secretary Brenda Kilgo

Economic Development Director Larry McConn

City Attorney Mark Bessent

Councilman Travis Eoff was 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 meetings held on February 11, 2025

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

Citizen's comments

No comments

Consider adopting an Ordinance, 2025-02, cancelling the General Election for May 3, 2025 and declaring the unopposed candidates elected.

Mr. Acker made motion to approve Ordinance 2025-02 to cancel the General Election. Mr. Allcorn seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Consideration of Resolution 2025-R13, designating an official newspaper and (or) an alternate official newspaper for the City's publication requirements.

An in depth discussion entailed the pros and cons of whether to change or add an alternate official newspaper. Currently the designated official newspaper is the Brownwood Bulletin, however since the publication has changed to only once a week (Saturday) and the deadline for submittal of a notice is one week and one day before the publication date some issues have occurred due to that deadline and the timeliness of the notification requirements. The Abilene Report News is another option as an official newspaper. The Abilene Reporter is published six days a week and submittal deadlines are less than 48-hours prior to publication; however, the cost of publishing a notice in the Abilene Reporter is considerably higher than the Brownwood Bulletin.

Mr. Acker made motion to designate the Brownwood Bulletin as the official newspaper and to have the Abilene Reporter News as an alternate or secondary option based on the type of notice and the time requirements. Mr. Matlock seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye" to pass the motion.

Consider accepting 2025 Telecommunication Right-of Way Access Line rates as provided by Public Utility Commission.

Maximum access line rates have increased by 1.4785% for 2025, due to inflation as measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI)

2024 Rates: Residential **\$0.59** Non-Residential **\$1.35** Point-to-Point **\$1.79**

2025 Rates: Residential **\$0.60** Non-Residential **\$1.37** Point-to-Point **\$1.82**

No action is required by the governing board in order to proceed with the 2025 rates as noted.

No motion was made and no further discussion indicated the acceptance of the 2025 rates as provided.

Consideration to appoint a member to the Corinne T. Smith Board as a representative for the City of Early.

Mr. Aaron provided a biography and recommendation for Kayla Armendarez to be appointed as a representative for the City of Early on the Corinne T. Smith Board. Ms. Armendarez lives and owns a business in Early and has been a volunteer at the animal shelter for the last five years.

Mr. Allcorn made motion, seconded by Mr. Forisha, to appoint Kayla Armendarez as recommended. All members present voted "aye" to approve the nomination.

Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code Sections 551.071-Consult with Attorney, 551.072-Real Property, and 551.087-Economic Development.

Mr. Acker made motion to enter into closed session. Mr. Allcorn seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye", entering into closed session at 6:17 p.m.

Reconvene into Open Session and consider action, if any, on items discussed in executive session.

Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Matlock, to reconvene into open session. All members present voted "aye" and Open Session resumed at 6:29 p.m.

Reports

Annual Fraud Risk Assessment

Mr. Aaron provided that the annual assessment is conducted by the Department Supervisors and Staff each year to review internal controls of daily operating processes to discuss or identify any risk areas and procedures needed. No significant areas were identified but some discussion was had regarding the potential need for an inventory software or system, such as bar coding, for network equipment, public works parts and supplies.

Town Center Project update

Boardwalk – Steel beam install in progress and could be completed within a couple weeks

Utilities infrastructure – Conduit for electric and fiber has been installed; Sewer lines and manholes are underway with Water lines to follow, both by City public works; contractors for the Gas lines will be onsite in the next month or so.

Mangrum Street – Grider Paving has begun ground work for Mangrum and progressing nicely

Administrator's Report

- Logan Way at Atwoods is slated for concrete pouring within the next two weeks; TXDOT contractors will begin construction of the intersection at Logan Way and 377 following concrete curing
- Fire Ladder truck – finalizing finance process and receipt of funds in order to purchase the truck; Chief Hill researching quotes for the transport of the truck from Illinois to Early.

Announcements

- March 22nd - Courts & Controllers, McDonald Park
- April 11th - State of the City, Early Visitors & Events Center
- April 24th - Smart City Expo, McDonald Park

Adjourn

Completing all business matters, Mr. Acker made motion that was seconded by Mr. Forisha to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted “aye” adjourning the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

04-08-25

DATE

Robert Maynor

MAYOR

Brenda K. T. Jones
CITY SECRETARY