

City of East Bernard
Board of Alderman
Minutes of Regular Meeting
15 May 2023

Present:

Marvin R. Holub, Mayor
David Tomchesson, Alderman Pos 1
Richard "Richie" Domel., Alderman Pos 2
Andrew Webster, Alderman Pos 3
Eric Viktorin, Alderman, Pos 4
Jonathon A. Szymanski, Alderman, Pos 5

Lisa Pless, City Secretary

Absent:

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, May 15th, 2023, 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

None

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Holub reported the pool repairs are complete for the season and the city will be holding Splash Day May twentieth
Mayor reported he will be in contact with M&M Asphalt regarding street repair/potholes.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Pless updated the Board of Aldermen regarding on-line bill payment which is still pending at this time but hoping to have it online by next meeting. The funding for the drainage study/project is still pending with the General Land Office. Mowing within the city will start once we maintenance the tractor. Our city employees are working hard to clean up the pool facility, getting it ready for the season. We have hired fourteen lifeguards (eight new lifeguards and six returning lifeguards). The city is looking into spraying for mosquitoes along with maintaining potholes. Financials were presented and reviewed. There were no comments or concerns by the Board of Aldermen.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17TH, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.

Mayor Holub asked if there were any corrections or concerns about the minutes as read. There was no discussion of the minutes. Alderman Webster made a motion, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson to approve the April 17th, 2023, Regular meeting minutes. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON HONORING RETIRED JUDGE CYNTHIA "CINDY" KUBICEK.

Retired Judge Cynthia "Cindy" Kubicek's family was in attendance and the Board presented two options for them to choose from. Option One: A park bench placed at the park with a name plaque or Option Two: A bench placed within City Hall with a name plaque and photo of Retired Judge Cynthia "Cindy" Kubicek. The family was honored by our gesture and decided to move forward with option 2. Alderman Viktorin made a motion, seconded by Alderman Szymanski. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL RESOLUTION NO. 2023-001: AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN COALITION OF CITIES CONCERNING CENTERPOINT ENERGY.

Discussion was open regarding the city participating in coalition of cities pertaining to proceedings concerning centerpoint energy increasing their rates. On or around April fifth, CenterPoint Energy filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas an application for Approval of Distribution Cost Recovery Factor and an Application to Amend its Temporary Emergency Electric

Energy Facilities Rider. The Texas Utilities Code authorizes an electric utility company to request periodic adjustments to its rate schedule between full base rate cases due to changes in the utility's invested capital by including a DCRF in its Commission approved rates. CenterPoint is requesting to amend its 2022 DCRF to request an eighty-four point six million increase to its revenue requirement for a total revenue requirement of one hundred-sixty-two point six to be recovered through ratepayers effective September first twenty-twenty three. There is no cost to the city for participating in the coalition of cities. Alderman Webster made a motion, second by Alderman Szymanski to participate in the coalition of cities. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ORDINANCE NO. 2023-003: DENYING THE APPLICATION OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY TO AMEND ITS DISTRIBUTION COST.

Discussion was open about CenterPoint filed an application to implement a distribution cost recovery factor in twenty-twenty two for an annual revenue requirement of one hundred-forty-five million, six hundred-eighty thousand, eight hundred ten dollars, after adjustment for load growth. The DCRF included revenue requirement for temporary emergency electric energy facilities, which the Public Utility Commission moved into a separate rider, and the Public Utility Commission approved for non-temporary emergency electric energy facilities revenue requirement. This ordinance goes with the above Resolution No. 2023-004. There is no cost to the city for participating. Alderman Webster made motion, second by Alderman Szymanski to participate in denying the application of CenterPoint Energy to Amend its distribution cost. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF EAST BERNARD AND WHARTON COUNTY.

Wharton County provided City of East Bernard with an Intergovernmental Agreement regarding the drainage study that has been going on for the past several months. The funding is still pending with GLO (General Land Office) but once approved Wharton County will handle the financials. Alderman Webster made a motion, seconded by Alderman Szymanski to participate in the Intergovernmental Agreement. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON BURN BAN ORDINANCE NO. 2023-004

After several months of discussion regarding the outdoor burn ban Alderman Domel made a motion, seconded by Alderman Webster to pass the outdoor burn ban. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL SAFEUILT PERMIT FEES AND FORMS.

After reviewing fees and forms provided by SafeBuilt Alderman Szymanski made a motion, seconded by Alderman Domel to move forward with option two regarding fees and forms. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING NEW AGE LIMIT FOR THE POOL.

Secretary Pless requested to the Board of Alderman a change in age limit at the pool from eight years old to thirteen years old. The board discussed the pros and cons of raising the age limit. Alderman Szymanski made a motion, seconded by Alderman Tomchesson to keep the age limit at eight years olds. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Tomchesson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Webster to adjourn the Regular session. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

These minutes are approved on the 17th day of July, A.D. 2023.

ATTEST:

Lisa Pless
LISA PLESS
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED:

David Tomchesson
DAVID TOMCHESSON
MAYOR PRO-TEM