

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

**PLACE: Municipal Building
(844) 855-4444
Access Code: 7409250**

A. Call Meeting to Order.

The City Council of the City of Eagle Lake convened in regular session and allowed public attendance via telephonic means on the 23rd day of February 2021, with the following members present:

Mayor:	Mary Parr
Alderwoman:	Rene Cooper
Aldermen:	Michael Cooper
	Carlos Gonzalez
	John Young
City Administrator:	Melissa Landin
City Secretary:	Lina Ferguson

Absent: Alderman Larry Contreras

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Invocation.

Police Chief Federico Garza delivered the invocation.

D. Public Comments: Any person may comment on any subject, but Council must limit any discussion to placing the items on a future City Council agenda for discussion and/or action. (Comments made under this agenda item are limited to three (3) minutes per person. City Council members are excluded from public comments. This is in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.)

None.

E. Consent Agenda

All of the following items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by the Mayor or a Council Member, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

1. Previous Minutes – February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting
2. Payment of Accounts.

Alderman M. Cooper made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 regular meeting and payment of accounts as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman R. Cooper and it carried with all members voting AYE.

F. Items for Discussion and Action

3. Emergency Management Report. -- Mary Parr, Mayor

- Emergency Management Team.
- Disaster Declaration.
- Power Outages.
- City Team.
- City Facilities/Buildings/Water and Sewer Systems.
- Community Support and Outreach.

Emergency Management Coordinator/City Manager Landin presented and reviewed the winter storm report. The Eagle Lake Emergency Management Winter Storm Report, Exhibit A, is recorded as part of the official minutes. Mayor Parr commended Mrs. Landin for her efforts and coordination of the City Team.

Alderman M. Cooper made the motion to approve adoption of a Declaration of Disaster, and Resolution of the City Council of the City of Eagle Lake, Texas, consenting to the continuation and renewal of the Disaster Declaration issued by Mayoral Proclamation. Alderman Gonzalez seconded the motion and it carried with all members voting AYE.

4. Update and Discussion Regarding COVID-19, and Take Any Action Deemed Necessary.
 -- Mary Parr, Mayor

- **Current Report of Statistical Data.** There are 17 active cases in the County, restaurants were able to open up to 75% and bars were able to reopen to their prior guidelines.
- **Hospitalizations and GA-32.**
- **COVID-19 City Operations and Public Facilities** - All City facilities will remain closed.
- **Vaccines.** Call and get on a list with a pharmacy or hospital. The County is working on a sub for Colorado and Lavaca County.
- **Grant Opportunities and CRF Reimbursement.** The grant is in the last step of validation reimbursement.

5. Discussion and Action on Selection of a Certified Public Accountant to Perform Annual Financial Report (Audit) for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2020. -- Melissa Landin, City Manager

City Manager Landin reported that three proposals were received and the recommendation was made to continue with Trlicek & Co., P.C. out of La Grange. Alderman M. Cooper made the motion to approve City Manager Landin to negotiate an agreement with Trlicek & Co. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman R. Cooper and it carried with all members voting AYE.

6. Municipal Elections 2021 Update. -- Lina Ferguson, City Secretary

City Secretary Ferguson reported that the last day to file for a place on the ballot was on Friday, February 12 and four candidate applications were received for the May 1, 2021 General Election. Early voting will be held from April 19-27 at the Community Center and Colorado County Annex. The candidate ballot drawing was held on February 22 for the official ballot order. The election services contract with the County will be entered with three entities splitting the costs.

G. Reports

7. Administration

- Draft Rules of Procedure for City Council: To Be Updated.
- Salary Chart/Salary Ranges.
- Mental Health Task Force.
- Golf Course.
- LCRA Grant.

8. Public Works

- TDA/CDBG Grant for Sewer Line Improvements.
- Vacancies.
- Water Meters.

9. Police Department

- NIBRS Grant.
- New Hires. Officer Gabriel Ocot and Officer Dustin Blackburn have joined the team.

10. Airport

- Airport Agreements and Procedures: Legal Counsel.
- Terminal Building Repairs.
- Temporary Closure. The runway was closed due to icy conditions.
- Online Payments. The online portal has been set up for hangar rental payments. Building permits and water sales will also be set up for online payments.

11. Code Enforcement

- Schedule P&Z Commission Meeting.

H. Council Reports

- Expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolences;
- Information regarding holiday schedules;
- An honorary or salutory recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen, except that a discussion regarding a change in the status of a person's public office or public employment is not an honorary or salutory recognition for purposes of this subdivision;
- A reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body;

- Information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the political subdivision; and
- Announcements involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the political subdivision that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.

Alderman M. Cooper announced how heartening it was to see the number of people that came out to help during the food distribution at the fire department. He also commended Utility Foreman Noe Guerrero for his caring and helpful assistance to the people in the community.

Alderwoman R. Cooper read an open letter to Mayor Parr and City Manager Landin for the handling of the Winter Storm crisis. Ms. Cooper stated that she was moved with pride and abundant admiration for the responsiveness to the community needs. The City is fortunate to have them working for the betterment of Eagle Lake. Last but not least, Alderwoman R. Cooper thanked Chief Garza and his staff and expressed her appreciation.

Alderman Gonzalez on behalf of Peppers Burgers and More announced that he hopes that the person that stole the food enjoyed it.

Alderman Young announced that the City crew did an excellent job and he is very proud of everyone. They all worked together and it is good to be in a small town.

Mayor Parr emphasized to Mrs. Landin that it is a pleasure working with her and they work well together. Under the direction of Mrs. Landin, the City team did an excellent job with everyone working together.

I. Future Agenda Items: *List of additional agenda items to provide the City Manager for future Council meetings – without discussion and taking no action.*

Alderman Gonzalez requested to find out what Mrs. Landin is doing with the police department regarding the uptake of crime in the community.

J. Executive Session

Mayor Parr called the meeting into executive session at 7:44 p.m. in order to deliberate the two items listed below. The meeting was called back into regular session at 7:55 p.m.

12. Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting, Tex. Gov't Code § 551.074: To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of: City Manager.

13. Consultation with Attorney; Closed Meeting, Tex. Gov't Code § 551.071.

K. Return to Public Session

14. Consider and Act Upon Executive Session Items.

Alderman M. Cooper made the motion to approve a 3-year employment contract with City Manager Melissa Landin. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman R. Cooper and it passed with Alderman Gonzalez voting against the contract.

L. Adjournment.

There being no further business on the meeting's agenda, Mayor Parr declared the meeting adjourned.


 MARY PARR, MAYOR

ATTEST:


 LINA FERGUSON, CITY SECRETARY

Exhibit A:

Eagle Lake Emergency Management Winter Storm Report

A. Weather

- a. Weather History
 - i. Lows of at freezing or below Feb. 11-19 (9 days)
 - ii. Highs of at freezing or below Feb. 14-16 (almost 4 days)

B. Team Meetings Thursday, Feb. 11

- a. Facilities/Infrastructure
- b. Streets
- c. Staffing
- d. General Public Relations began

C. Emergency Management Meetings

- a. Daily and Consistent
- b. NWS daily until weather event ended
- c. TDEM daily

D. Power Outages

- a. Began late Saturday into Sunday
- b. Between an estimated 600-700 customers with no power until Feb. 18; went down to under 200
- c. Feb. 16: City emailed to Vee Strauss of AEP about Eagle Lake prolonged power outages. Ms. Strauss advised of transmission issue and it chosen to remain off the grid.
- d. County Judge/EM contacted about transmission issue; TDEM, state officials contacted.
- e. Feb. 18 power issues begin to be significantly address.

E. Staffing

- a. All public works on call: Sanding, leaks, water shut off/on
- b. All PD on call: Worked with PW to identify road issues
- c. Some staff stayed at PD/Motel

F. WWTP/Water systems

- a. Up until recently, checked every 2 hours than every 4 hours
- b. Water pressure did not go below 20 PSI; no water boil
- c. Timer issues at Davitt Water Plant
- d. W. Main; pipes burst – parts ordered

G. Animal Shelter

- a. Three dogs
- b. Heaters
- c. Checked on regularly
- d. Pipe burst; water shut off

H. Airport

- a. NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) issued to close runway.
- b. Hangar pipe busted – repaired yesterday and today

I. City Hall/Community Center/PD

- a. No current issues.

J. Community Outreach

- a. EM meeting called at City Council Chambers to discuss support needed for residents with no water/electricity

- b. Soup and Food Distribution Feb. 18
 - i. Team Effort: City, PD/FD, Chamber, Food Pantry, Food Bank, Judge Warfield, Colorado County Rice Mill, Inc., Brookshire Bros, County EM, numerous volunteers
 - ii. More than 250 home deliveries
 - iii. More than 1200 servings; four vats – no soup left
- c. Heaters/Blankets/Water
 - i. PD/City Staff/Community Hometown Heroes
 - ii. Many home deliveries
- d. Families at Motel
 - i. At request of County
 - ii. Elderly Family
- e. Water
 - i. Residents with no water identified first; Four pallets distributed
 - ii. More to be picked up Feb. 24 from County
- f. Individual Assistance designation
 - i. Survey outreach successful

K. Public Relations

- a. Constant Contact
 - i. Regular email blasts of more than 700 emails
 - 1. Utility customers
 - 2. Businesses
 - 3. General public
- b. CodeRED Alerts
 - i. Two issued to close to 1400 phone numbers
- c. Social Media
 - i. Consistent updates
 - ii. Flyers/Marquee

L. Post-event Updates

- a. Continue with water and food distribution
 - i. Food giveaway Friday at 10 a.m.
- b. Workforce Solutions
- c. SNAP documents
- d. FEMA individual assistance support
- e. Documenting expenses
- f. Continued resource public relations
- g. Permitting: Plumbing permit fee waived
- h. Sewer averaging proposal to be presented at next council meeting
- i. No late fees/disconnects until further notice (PUCT)

M. Extension of Declaration of Disaster Issued by Mayor Parr on Feb. 18

TEAM! COMMUNITY!