

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
DECEMBER 12, 2023**

**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**

**PLACE: Municipal Building**

**A. Call Meeting to Order**

The City Council of the City of Eagle Lake convened in regular session on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023, with the following members present:

	Mayor: Timothy L. Kelley
	Mayor Pro-Tem: Amy Maxwell
	Councilmembers: Larry Contreras
	Rene Cooper
	Chris Parker
	Jim Wood
	City Manager: Charles "Tink" Jackson
	City Secretary: Lina Ferguson
Other staff present:	Budget Officer: Angie Jackson
	Chief of Police: Donald L. Chaney
	Public Works Director: Victor Shimek
	Building Official: Antonio Rodriguez

**B. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Rev. Colby Shorter III delivered the invocation.

**C. 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.

**D. Consent Agenda**

*All 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 – November 14, 2023 Regular Meeting.**

Councilmember Cooper made the motion to approve the previous minutes as presented. Councilmember Wood seconded. VOTE: 5-0 in favor, motion passed.

**E. Items for Discussion and Action**

**2. Recognition of Whispering Oaks 4-H Club and Eagle Lake 4-H Club for their Volunteer Service. – Timothy L. Kelley, Mayor**

Mayor Kelley recognized Whispering Oaks 4-H Club and Eagle Lake 4-H Club for their volunteer service.

**3. Presentation Discussion and Possible Action regarding an Election Services Contract Between Colorado County Elections Administrator for the May 4, 2024 Municipal Election. – Lina Ferguson, City Secretary**

Councilmember Cooper made the motion to approve the Election Services Contract as presented. Councilmember Contreras seconded. VOTE: 5-0 in favor, motion passed.

**4. Discussion and Discussion and Possible Action upon City Council Salaries for 2024. – Charles "Tink" Jackson, City Manager**

Councilmember Cooper made the motion to keep the salaries the same. The current mayoral salary is set at \$37.50 per meeting and the councilmember salary is set at \$25.00 per meeting. Councilmember Contreras seconded. VOTE: 5-0 in favor, motion passed.

**5. Discussion and Possible Action on City of Eagle Lake 2024 Holiday Schedule. – Charles "Tink" Jackson, City Manager**

Councilmember Maxwell made the motion to approve the 2024 holiday schedule as presented. Councilmember Wood seconded. VOTE: 5-0 in favor, motion passed.

**6. Discussion and Possible Action upon Resolution No. 2023-20 finding that AEP Texas Inc.'s application to amend its Distribution Cost Recovery factors to increase distribution rates within the city should be denied; authorizing participation with the cities served by AEP Texas; authorizing hiring of legal counsel.** – Charles “Tink” Jackson, City Manager

Councilmember Parker made the motion to approve **Resolution No. 2023-20** as presented. Councilmember Wood seconded. VOTE: 5-0 in favor, motion passed.

**7. Discussion regarding Downtown Signage Grant Program.** – Charles “Tink” Jackson, City Manager

City Manager Jackson presented the idea of creating a grant program that would provide the city with the opportunity to encourage the downtown businesses to erect signs on their buildings to attract business. The council discussed the benefits of creating a grant program in the city and instructed administration to have discussions with the downtown business owners for additional ideas.

**8. Discussion and Possible Action regarding the City's Christmas Decorations.** – Charles “Tink” Jackson, City Manager

Councilmember Wood made the motion to approve expenditures of \$20,000 from capital improvement for Christmas decorations. Councilmember Parker second. VOTE: 5-0, motion passed.

**9. Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Eagle Lake Community Center Rental Rates and Rental Agreement.** – Charles “Tink” Jackson, City Manager

Councilmember Maxwell made the motion to increase the Eagle Lake Community Center rental and deposit to \$800.00. Councilmember Parker seconded. VOTE: 5-0, motion passed. The senior dance and civic clubs' rates will remain the same. The rental agreement and rules will be reviewed and presented at another meeting for council approval.

**F. Presentation and Discussion of Reports** – Charles “Tink” Jackson, City Manager

**10. Administration and Department Reports.**

- City Manager Report: Met with Mayor Pro-Tem Maxwell at The Pointe to begin moving forward with the new Welcome to Eagle Lake sign. The Chamber has officially cancelled the 2023 Eagle Lake Wild event and will start planning the 2024 event instead. Met with representatives of the Wintermann Foundation last month to move forward on the land swap at the airport. Met with the TxDOT representative and she will be getting the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) update. Contacted TxDOT and requested the District Engineer come to have a face-to-face meeting to discuss the truck traffic on main street, truck parking along US-90, flooding issues on US-90, and the stop light at FM 3013 and US-90. Completed the LCRA Steps Forward Program application which assists entities with projects requiring specialized skills or equipment. The Merry on Main event was a great event and significantly bigger than last year. The Chamber Parade of Lights was also a great event. Met with Gareth Bracken of BSR Properties in relation to proposed development in the city. A tabletop exercise related to the Endeavors facility will be held with local law enforcement, emergency services, and Endeavors management and staff. Will be meeting with Jared Engle with Strand Engineering and Commissioner Darrell Gertson in relation to the bond road project. The City Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 15. The EPA has issued a new set of guidance regarding the Lead and Copper Pipe Rule which will push back the requirements three (3) years.

- Finance: Mrs. Jackson presented the check register, fund balance report, and investment report for November. She announced that the auditor had started the audit and the sales tax information received from the state comptroller did not match or provide local information.

- Public Works: The Christmas decorations have been set up; two blowers are down at the sewer plant and the contractor will be replacing them next week; and the generator is out at Davitt and West Main.

- Police Department: Department responded to 67 calls of service; 1,267 miles driven by officers while on patrol; three sergeants attended a new supervisor course; reconstructing case management; all Axon body equipment cameras are in and live with integrated taser and in car cameras; has one vacant position with one application in the background phase; and a Union Pacific training course will be held at the community center.

- Code Enforcement/Inspections: Code Official Rodriguez reviewed the monthly permit summary report. He has been speaking with the property owners about the lead and copper rule requirements.

- Airport: The clearing of the brush at the airport has been completed; the AWOS wind sensor is not functioning; fixed a broken toilet and door at the airport restroom; and the hangar owners were contacted, and information obtained for completion of FAA report.

**G. Council Reports**

- Expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolences.
- Information regarding holiday schedules;
- An honorary or salutary 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 salutary 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 have arisen after the posting of the agenda.

Mayor Pro-Tem Maxwell announced that the construction for the signage at The Pointe will continue for six weeks and the substandard houses need to be addressed.

Councilmember Wood announced that Santa used to come in a helicopter for the parade.

Councilmember Cooper inquired on the status of how many individuals Endeavors was approved for. Announced that there is an issue with speeding on Partridge Lane during school pickups and driveways being blocked. Ms. Cooper commended the city staff on the City Facebook page and congratulated Inspector Rodriguez on the work with the downtown building owners. She read a Thank You card she received for the activities the city held celebrating Veterans.

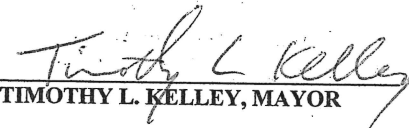
Councilmember Contreras inquired about the working relationship with Endeavors.

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

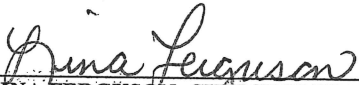
Discuss dilapidated houses.

**I. Adjournment**

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

  
TIMOTHY L. KELLEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
LINA FERGUSON, CITY SECRETARY

## City Managers Report – December 12, 2023

1. **New Signage at The Pointe** – Public Works and myself met with Mayor Pro-Tem Maxwell at The Pointe to begin moving forward with the new Welcome to Eagle Lake sign that will be placed there. Since that day, we have been working with AEP to get power to the site for the lighting that will be on the sign. At this point, it appears they will have the power in sometime in early February, however, I believe Ms. Maxwell might be giving an update in her Council Report letting us know the construction will start sooner than that.
2. **Eagle Lake Wild** – I was informed by the Chamber that the 2023 Eagle Lake Wild has been officially cancelled, and their efforts will be put into planning the 2024 event instead. They have scheduled the event for September 28, 2024, and are asking for the city to reserve the Community Center as a “Plan B” for the band, in case of bad weather.
3. **Wintermann Land Swap** – Mayor and I met with representatives of the Wintermann Foundation last month to work on moving forward on the land swap at the Airport. It was a very productive meeting. Both parties agreed to work together to complete the survey, rather than doing two separate surveys. That will save money for all parties. Once the survey is done, we will meet again. At that point, with the completed survey, we can work on ordering an appraisal and begin negotiations on the final land swap deal.
4. **TxDOT Aviation** – I met with our TxDOT aviation representative a couple of weeks ago. She finally logged in for our monthly online meeting for the first time in four months. Long story short, she is supposed to be working on getting the Request for Proposals (RFP) for our Airport Layout Plan (ALP) Update moved up the list for posting ASAP. I have a follow-up meeting with her later this week to see where she is at with this project.
5. **TxDOT and Social Media Posts** – Some of you may have seen the post on social media a week or so ago from a couple of our citizens about truck traffic and them coming in to meet with me and the Chief. We did sit down with some local citizens and listen to their traffic concerns. At the completion of the meeting, I accumulated a list of everything we need to address with TxDOT and called the Columbus Office and requested the District Engineer come to Eagle Lake for a face-to-face meeting. That meeting will be next week. Topics include truck traffic on main street, truck parking along US-90, flooding issues on US-90, and the stop light at FM-3013 and US-90 that is years past due.
6. **LCRA Steps Forward Program** – I completed our LCRA Steps Forward Program application during the last month. Under this program, LCRA sends out their crews and equipment to help entities with projects requiring specialized skills or equipment. For this year, we requested that they bring out a bucket truck and assist us with the cleaning of the groundwater storage tanks at Davitt and West Main that TCEQ noted in our most recent audit. We have algae build up at the top of the tanks that we cannot reach without renting the equipment to do it. If they approve our request, it will cut our expenses in meeting the requirements of the audit.
7. **Merry on Main** – We held the Merry on Main Tree Lighting event on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Kelley lite the tree, the kids got to visit with Santa, and we had Christmas Movies and food provided by John Morales. The weather tried to get us, but it cleared out just in time for the event to begin on time without any issues. Santa might be filing a workers compensation claim from all of the “big kids” that came and sat on his lap for a picture after the kiddos were finished! All in all, it was a great event that was significantly bigger than last year.
8. **Lighted Christmas Parade** – City elected officials, staff and volunteers were ever present at the Chamber Parade of Lights this past Saturday evening. Before the event got started, the Police Department had a pizza party and movie with the kids from the New Beginnings Childcare Center, who were subsequently deputized to ride with the Chief in the parade as his “posse”. Once we got started, from blocking off downtown to blocking the roads along US 90, from providing traffic control to leading, being present throughout, and ending the parade train, and

everything in between, city officials and staff were everywhere. The City had the Chief leading the parade, the mayor right behind him, a City Float, Council members representing their local business and Santa bringing up the rear. Luckily, the storm stayed to the south of us, and save for some chilly wind, the weather was great. Santa came to the end of the parade route, then went to the Chamber to meet with the kiddos. After, as Santa was headed back to portal out of City Hall back to the North Pole, he stopped by the local businesses that were open and thanked them for participating. Overall, it was a great event.

9. **BSR Properties** – The Mayor and I met with Gareth Bracken of BSR Properties in relation to his proposed development here in Eagle Lake. It was a positive meeting and felt like he was excited about providing some new housing opportunities here in Eagle Lake. After our meeting, we received an email from Mr. Bracken stating he had spoken with their engineers and that they would begin putting some ideas together for housing that might meet local needs and be back in touch with us soon.
10. **Endeavors Table Top** – Local law enforcement, emergency services and others will be participating in a Table Top exercise related to the Endeavors facility tomorrow. These types of exercises are meant to simulate emergency events and provide for both coordination of responsibilities and brainstorming for other ideas/issues/concerns in case of any events at or with the facility. Endeavors management and staff will be participating as well.
11. **Road Project Meeting** – I will be meeting tomorrow with Jared from Strand Engineering and Commissioner Gertson in relation to the bond road project. Mayor and I previously meet with the Commissioner and discussed the potential of an interlocal agreement with the county for them to assist with road construction. That meeting was fruitful, and we will continue that discussion tomorrow. Every road the county helps with further stretches the bond dollars farther to get more done.
12. **City Christmas Party** – Don't forget, the City Christmas Party will be held this Friday night beginning at 6:00 at the Community Center. We will have foods from Lamberto's, Santa for the kids and a White Elephant game with a new twist – Grinch UNO. See you all at the dinner!
13. **Lead and Copper Pipe** – At the last meeting we discussed our initial plan to get out in front of the Lead and Copper Pipe Rule requirements that we will be facing as a city beginning next year. As discussed, we have approximately 456 residences that are going to require replacement of the water distribution lines from our meter to the houses to meet the requirements of the rule. Previously, it was stated that we would have until October 16, 2024, to meet this requirement, or be forced to provide pitchers and filters for all of our water system users. However, since our last meeting, the EPA has issued a new set of guidance in relation to the rule. Based on a plain reading of the guidance, it appears we will still be required to submit our inventory by October 16, 2024; however, all other requirements of the Rule will be pushed back three (3) years. That would mean that line replacement and pitcher and filter requirements would not go into effect until October 16, 2027. We have requested verification of this from TCEQ. As such, until we receive that verification or are told otherwise, we are holding off on sending out the letters to our affected citizens here in Eagle Lake. No need to start a rush if we have three years to get this done. Once we have a definitive statement from TCEQ, we will move forward with a letter to each of our 456 addresses outlining what they need to do any by when. No reason not to go ahead and get started and allow those that are able to clear up their requirements in 2023.