



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Submitted By: Andrea Cunningham

Commission Meeting Date: February 15, 2024

Agenda Item Wording: **Discuss and consider City Council recommendation regarding an Amendment to the Emergency Management Commission Ordinance.**

Agenda Item Requestor: Roman Baligad, Emergency Management Commission

Summary/Background: At the request of Roman and Council Member Tahuahua, the attached amendments were made in an effort to condense the membership and allow more flexibility in meetings.

Changing from Commission to Committee

EMC meetings are sensitive in nature in that they discuss crucial safety and recovery functions of the City, and such discussions should not be open to the public for general consumption. In order to protect this information, we felt it would better suit this meeting body to be one that is not open to the public. Members of the public are always invited; however, when sensitive discussions are occurring, they public can be excused and a Closed Session is not required. Changing to a committee would also trigger the following necessary changes:

- 1) No longer required to have a quorum to meet and no longer required to comply with Texas Open Meetings Act.
- 2) Mayoral appointment of City Council member to meeting body.
- 3) Elimination of subcommittees – all work is done by committee which can be completed regardless of quorum.
- 4) No longer tied to meeting place, can meet at alternate locations.

Membership

Current memberships is 12 and staff is recommending reducing membership to 9 by:

- 1) Reducing At-Large membership from 3 to 2, where both members must reside in Hays County and at least 1 must be a Dripping Springs resident.
- 2) Eliminating the Emergency Management Coordinator as member and having them strictly as a liaison.

- 3) Removing the Nonprofit/VOAD Representative. For the past few years this has rarely been filled, and when filled the member seems to attend meeting infrequently.
 - a. Another option could be to change this to a Hays County CERT member.

Officers

Because this is a committee and will have a member of the City Council appointed, we are recommending that the appointed council member serve as the chair as a non-voting member. By doing this, we can keep the membership at 9, and still ensure that the council has oversight.

Meetings

Meetings are being amended to remove reference to subcommittees and quorums. With the EMC now serving as a liaison, they will draft the agenda under the advisement of the chair.

Commission Recommendations:

Staff recommends approval with any edits deemed necessary.

Attachments:

- Amended Ordinance section

Next Steps/Schedule:

- If recommended, present to City Council for consideration at the February 20th meeting; this can also be moved to the March 5th meeting if necessary.