



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78602

Submitted By: Laura Mueller, City Attorney

Council Meeting Date: August 18, 2020

Agenda Item Wording: Discuss and consider approval of a Resolution Establishing Priorities for the 87th Legislative Session in Texas, and Authorizing Representation of the Municipality in Advocating Certain Positions.

Agenda Item Requestor: Mayor Bill Foulds, Jr.

Summary/Background:

Every two years the Texas Legislature meets to make decisions that affect the City of Dripping Springs. In anticipation for this, the City adopts a legislative program every other year. This year we asked our boards and commissions, as well as staff, to weigh in. We expect to receive more input from City Council and City Staff, and rely heavily on the 2019 program (attached to agenda), for creation of a 2021 program that will be presented to City Council in August. Once we approve our legislative program, we will send it to the Texas Municipal League which is the non-profit organization that represents all cities in Texas and has a legislative staff dedicated to assisting cities. We reached out to our legislative representatives and received feedback from our House Representative Erin Zwiener. Here are the suggestions related to us by our boards, commissions, and staff at this time.

City Staff

1. Legislation that expands the uses of Local Hotel Occupancy Tax revenues, including using the funding for the construction of trails, sidewalks, parks improvements, and pedestrian amenities that attract tourists.

Mim James-Planning

1. Maintain local control over signage in city and etj;
2. Oppose limitation of the city's ability to regulate water quality;
3. Review the site development and subdivision "shot clock" provisions.

Jim Martin-Transportation

1. More transportation funding for TxDOT city projects;
2. Allow for greater flexibility for funding of transportation projects; and
3. Protect federal funding for cities who lose population due to natural disasters.

Dave Edwards-TIRZ

1. Maintain current authority related to TIRZ.

Bruce Lewis-Historic Preservation Commission

1. Oppose party affiliation requirement for city council elections;
2. Beneficial amendments to the appraisal statutes so that appraisals are more accurate;
3. Allow cities to lower speed limits from 30 to 25 without the need for a traffic study;
4. Council-option reduction in appraisal cap.

Gouri Johannsen-Farmers Market

1. Prioritize local food security;
2. Less regulation and more incentives of small scale farmers.

**Commission
Recommendations:**

See above.

**Recommended
Council Actions:**

Adoption of the program.

Attachments:

Resolution and program.

Next Steps/Schedule:

Send to the Texas Municipal League and the City's state representatives.