



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
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Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Submitted By: Aniz Alani, City Attorney

Council Meeting Date: July 21, 2026

Agenda Item Wording: Public hearing, discussion, and possible action to approve an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Dripping Springs relating to mayoral appointments, City Council committee appointments, committee membership, City Council liaisons, and designated City representatives.

Agenda Item Sponsor: Mayor Bill Foulds, Jr.

Summary/Background: At the May 19, 2026 City Council meeting, staff presented a draft ordinance to clarify the Mayor's role in appointing council members to serve on City committees, in areas of oversight, and as designated City representatives. The prior draft also proposed conforming amendments to several committee provisions so that the Code would better match current appointment practice and annual post-election appointment procedures.

During Council discussion, Council supported the general purpose of the ordinance but requested revisions to distinguish between a council member serving as a voting committee member and a council member serving only as a liaison. Council expressed particular concern that, for certain community-facing advisory committees, adding a voting council member could affect quorum, committee independence, and public perception of whether committee recommendations are being driven by Council before the matter returns for public consideration.

The revised ordinance responds to that direction. It preserves the general mayoral-appointment framework, but changes the proposed council role for the Founders Day Committee and Farmers Market Committee from voting committee member to non-voting council liaison.

Updates Since the Prior Meeting

The revised draft ordinance makes the following updates relative to the version presented at the prior meeting:

1. Clarifies committee-member versus liaison roles

The ordinance caption, recitals, and Section 1.02.045 have been revised to recognize that a mayor-appointed council member may serve either as a

voting committee member or as a non-voting council liaison, depending on the governing provisions for the specific committee.

The prior draft generally treated the mayor-appointed council member as a committee member and liaison unless otherwise stated. The revised draft keeps that default concept but makes the distinction clearer and expressly provides different treatment for Founders Day and Farmers Market.

2. Founders Day Committee — council role changed to non-voting liaison

The prior draft would have added one City Council member appointed by the Mayor as a member of the Founders Day Committee and increased the committee size from 15 to 16 members.

The revised draft removes that approach. Instead, the Mayor may appoint one City Council member to serve as a council liaison to the Founders Day Committee. The liaison may attend meetings and assist with communication between the committee and City Council, but the liaison:

- is not a committee member;
- does not vote;
- does not count toward quorum; and
- serves at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Because the council liaison is not a committee member, the revised draft keeps the Founders Day Committee membership at up to 15 members rather than increasing it to 16.

3. Farmers Market Committee — council role changed to non-voting liaison

The prior draft would have added one City Council member appointed by the Mayor as a member of the Farmers Market Committee.

The revised draft changes that role to a non-voting council liaison. The liaison may attend meetings and assist with communication between the committee and City Council, but the liaison:

- is not a committee member;
- does not vote;
- does not count toward quorum; and
- serves at the pleasure of the Mayor.

The revised draft also removes related references that would have treated the council appointee as a committee member for purposes of member selection, vacancies, and quorum.

4. Transportation Committee — no substantive change

The revised draft does not make a substantive change to the Transportation Committee provisions discussed at the prior meeting. The draft continues to provide that the Mayor appoints the City Council member serving on the Transportation Committee and that the appointed council member serves at the pleasure of the Mayor.

5. Emergency Management Committee — no substantive change to council-member role

The revised draft does not make a substantive change to the City Council member's role on the Emergency Management Committee. The draft continues to provide that the Mayor appoints the City Council member serving on the committee and that the mayor-appointed council member serves as chair unless the Mayor appoints another City Council member to serve as chair.

Council also discussed the possibility of adding a Hays County Sheriff's Office representative or designee to the Emergency Management Committee. That change is included in the revised ordinance subject to receiving a positive recommendation from the Emergency Management Committee at its July 15, 2026 meeting.

6. Economic Development Committee references remain removed

The revised draft continues to remove or repeal obsolete references to the former Economic Development Committee because that committee no longer exists.

7. Default rule for designated City representatives remains included

The revised draft continues to include the default rule that, unless an ordinance expressly provides otherwise, designated City representatives to external bodies or newly formed internal City bodies are appointed by the Mayor. This provision is intended to provide a clear appointment process when a committee, board, commission, task force, working group, or similar body calls for City representation but the Code does not otherwise specify an appointing authority.

Commission Recommendations:

N/A

Recommended Council Actions:

Staff recommends approval of the revised ordinance.

Attachments:

Draft ordinance.