



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

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**Submitted By:** Andrea Cunningham, City Secretary

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**Council Meeting Date:** February 20, 2024

**Agenda Item Wording:** **Public hearing, discussion, and consideration of approval of an Amendment to the Emergency Management Commission ordinance.**

**Agenda Item Requestor:** Roman Baligad, Emergency Management Coordinator

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**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.
  - a. **The Commission recommended reducing this to 1 At-Large Member, where they member must reside in Hays County**

- 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. **The Commission recommended keeping this seat, but changing to a Hays County CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) 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:**

At the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Commission recommended approval of the amendments with changes as listed below:

- At-Large seat further reduced to 1, with member only having to be a resident of Hays County
- Retain the Nonprofit/VOAD seat, but change to a Hays County CERT Member

**Recommended Council Actions:**

Staff recommends approval of the amendment with changes as recommended by the Commission.

**Attachments:**

- 1) Draft Ordinance
- 2) Attachment A, Draft Amendment to Code Section

**Next Steps/Schedule:**

- 1) Execute Ordinance, publish to Century News and send to Municode for Codification.
- 2) Inform members of changes and update webpage
- 3) Add item to March 5<sup>th</sup> City Council agenda for Chair Appointment, and amendment to code section related to Mayoral appointments to Committees