



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

Submitted By: Andrea Cunningham, City Secretary

Council Meeting Date: October 5, 2021

Agenda Item Wording: **Discuss and consider approval of a Resolution designating the Official Newspaper for the City of Dripping Springs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.**

Agenda Item Requestor: Andrea Cunningham, City Secretary

Summary/Background: Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 2051.049 Selection of Newspaper, the governmental entity or representative required to publish a notice in a newspaper shall select, in accordance with this subchapter, one or more newspapers to publish the notice, which is subject to certain criteria in sections 2051.044 – 2051.051. The following types of notices are published in the official newspaper of record:

- Public Hearing – planning and development notices, budget, tax rate, capital projects, etc.
- Bids – RFQ, SOQ, RFB, etc.
- Notices – ordinances, resolutions, elections, etc.

Annually the City solicits submissions from local newspapers that meet the publishing requirements and staff reviews each submission accordingly. Approved submissions are provided to the Council for selection.

Submission packets were provided to Dripping Century News General Manager Dalton Sweat, and News-Dispatch Publisher Cyndy Slovak-Barton via email and USPS mail on August 30, 2021, and due September 30, 2021.

Submissions were received by September 30, 2021, from Dripping Springs Century News and News-Dispatch and both meet the criteria set forth in TGC Section 2051.049. *Please Note: Century News has included online subscriptions in their counts. Attached to the submission for News-Dispatch are their online subscription counts.*

Century News has been the city's official newspaper since 2016 and has provided excellent customer service specific to the posting of notifications. I have also had the pleasure of working with the staff at News-Dispatch who have also provided excellent customer service.

**Recommended
Council Actions:**

After reviewing both submissions I have determined that pricing for notices is comparable (+/- \$2.00 either way), as are submission deadlines and affidavit (tear sheet) fees. News-Dispatch has a slightly higher online presence, and Century News has slightly higher readership/subscription count. Both newspapers are carried locally at HEB, pharmacies/drug stores, convenient stores, etc.

It is important to remember that the selection of the official newspaper is for the sole purpose of publishing notices as to reach the most citizens within the city's jurisdiction - both city limits and ETJ. The majority of notices posted are for items that affect those in the city limits; however, we have several projects located in the ETJ as well. It is my recommendation that the Council select the newspaper that reaches the most residents in the media that you feel is most important, whether that be print or digital.

Attachments:

1. Texas Government Code Section 2051.049
2. News-Dispatch Submission Packet
3. News- Dispatch Supplemental – online count and letter to City Council
4. Century News Submission Packet – online count and rack distribution
5. Resolution Designating Official Newspaper
6. Official Newspaper Agreement

Next Steps/Schedule:

1. Notify newspapers of decision
2. Sign and File Resolution
3. Sign and File Agreement
4. Notify Staff