



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

Submitted By: Laura Mueller, City Attorney

Council Meeting Date: December 21, 2021

Agenda Item Wording: **Discuss and consider an ordinance amending Article 2.04 of the Dripping Springs Code of Ordinances as it relates to the Emergency Management Commission meetings and authority.** *Sponsor: Councilmember Harris-Allison.*

Agenda Item Requestor: Councilmember April Harris-Allison

Summary/Background: This ordinance amendment is to update the Emergency Management Commission structure to match other boards and commissions and to streamline the meetings process since the Commission is a recommending body. The changes include updates to meeting structure, members, liability, responsibilities of the board and staff support.

Membership would be changed to allow the Hays County Constable to have his designee attend the meeting. The membership also has changed to give the Chamber of Commerce the ability to have a member on the Commission.

One issue that was discussed was why this Commission sometimes is unable to gather a quorum. The issue is that when there is a major issue in Hays County or the City of Dripping Springs, many of the members are involved as they represent emergency management, law enforcement, and fire.

This change does remove the EMC from the purview of the Open Meetings Act because the EMC is a recommending body whose decisions are finalized by City Council. This means that they do not have to follow the strict requirements of the Act but would still be required to have monthly open meetings with agendas. A quorum is also required for the Commission to take any action, but they could meet in numbers less than a quorum for discussion. They also remain subject to the Public Information Act.

Commission Recommendations: EMC recommended approval of the ordinance.

Recommended Council Actions: Approval of the ordinance.

Attachments: Ordinance

Next Steps/Schedule: If approved, it will be codified and sent to the EMC members and the Emergency Management Coordinator. The City Secretary will update the meeting procedures for this Commission.