



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

Submitted By: Diana Boone, City Secretary

Meeting Date: July 15, 2025

Item Wording: **Approval of the re-appointment of Barney Austin and Lara Dudek to the Utility Commission for term ending June 30, 2027, and the re-appointment of Charlie Busbey as Chair for a one (1) year term.**

Item Requestor: Dane Sorensen, Utilities Director

The Utility Commission is a five-member advisory commission tasked with representing various citizen groups and their interests as part of the City Council's greater discussion of transportation, planning, and improvements. The Utility Commission shall assist the City in Wastewater Plant operations and reuse plans (including expansion), achieving the City's goal of 100% beneficial use and assisting the City with procedures and policies related to retail water services provided by the City.

Members of the Utility Commission are appointed by City Council with two (2) members being nominated by the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (HTGCD), two (2) members shall be residents of the City Limits, and where one can have interests in the ETJ.

Current Commission

<i>Member</i>		<i>Term</i>	<i>Seat Description</i>
Charlie Busbey, Chair	City	06/30/26	At-Large
Lara Dudek	ETJ	06/30/25	At-Large
Zach West	N/A	06/30/26	HTGCD Representative
Barney Austin	N/A	06/30/25	HTGCD Representative
Matthew Ordway	City	06/30/25	At-Large

There are three (3) members whose terms expired on June 30, 2025. Two (2) have requested re-appointment and one At-large member has resigned from the commission. The HTGCD letter recommending the re-appointment of their representative is included in the packet. The City received one (1) application for the Utilities Commission, but the applicant did not meet the membership requirements because they live withing the ETJ. Since we currently have one commissioner that lives within the ETJ, the new member must be a resident of the city.

**Commission
Recommend
ation:**

The Chair recommends approval of the re-appointments of Barney Austin and Lara Dudek.

**Recommend
ed
Council
Actions:**

Staff recommends approval of the re-appointments.

Next Steps:

1. Update website
2. Notify commission of reappointments
3. Swear-in re-appointments