

Ebbie Johnson Lover,  
Mayor Pro-Tem



Janeene Lucas, Councilmember  
Linda Timberlake, Councilmember  
Earnest Starling, Councilmember

Walter Ward, Mayor  
EASTON CITY COUNCIL  
**MINUTES**

February 9, 2021

1. Called City Council to order at 8:00 pm – Mayor Walter Ward
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Walter Ward
3. Roll Call – Crystal Jenkins, City Secretary
  - a. Mayor Walter Ward – Present
  - b. Ebbie Lover – Present by Phone
  - c. Janeene Lucas – Present
  - d. Earnest Starling – Present
  - e. Linda Timberlake – Present
4. Public Comments and Announcements – General Public
  - a. No comments
5. City Council will discuss and/or approve the following items:
  - a. Review and/or approve January 12, 2021 meeting minutes.
    - i. Linda Timberlake motioned for the January 12, 2021 meeting minutes to be accepted as read by City Secretary, Crystal Jenkins. Janeene Lucas seconds. Four for, zero against.
  - b. Guest introduced by Mayor from Sanitation presented by Arnold Berndino with Ameritech Services in Whitehouse, Texas, a full-service trash service. Ameritech: represent about 55,000 residents in this area and specialize in small cities ie Reklaw; can make the city about \$1,000 to \$1,200 per month; will take care of all trash pickup; partner with city to offer student scholarship of \$250; offer annual city cleanup bins; offer 3 portable toilets and 6 garbage cans for festivals at no extra charge; will offer help in other ways for festivals; will reduce costs to customers with cans by \$5; offer tan colored cans. City will be assigned a yard mngr who will call city to make sure no customer is missed on route. System will be customized to city needs. Pick up once a week. Also, offer billing. Ameritech can submit a bid package for presentation at next meeting.
  - c. Review gas report.
    - i. Artis Anderson, gas supervisor, informs the council that leak survey is completed and we do have minor leaks. Picked up 2 new services. Will install at end of storm. Need to order new meters to install and some to have 3 – 5 on hand. Need to order utility working signs and cones.
    - ii. Mayor Ward asked City Sec. about Gas system inspection. Secr reported that after making required corrections the gas system passed the inspection and is in full compliance.
  - d. Review fire department report.
    - i. Larry Kellams, assistant fire chief of Easton VFD, informed the council that they have run on onr call in January, a propane leak. Reported that he will be out for surgery on fractured foot. TatumFD will cover Easton until Kellam and Coleman are recovered. Have 2 persons interested in joining EVFD who is an EMT. Kellam will stay in contact. Monday kellam talked to rep of company that will be working on installing bridge across Sabine. They are planning

to be working about one year. He wants to have a meeting in March with Kellam, Mayor, Christus EMS, and Tatum and Elderville FDs re safety and the Kellams concerns about steep grading. Mayor asked about truck radios. Kellams stated they are up and running fine.

e. City Secretary Report.

Reported that resolutions need to be passed for Drug and Alcohol Plan, Designating Banking Authority, Designation Newspaper, Purchase of Vehicle. Earnest Starling made motion to use Longview News Journal as city's official paper, seconded by Ebbie Lover, passed and approved by all ayes no nays. Earnest Starling made motion to purchase new city vehicle (3), seconded by Ebbie Lover, passed and approved by all ayes no nays. Earnest Starling made motion to designate banking authority and amend to add Ebbie Lover (discussion was held to clear why Linda Timberlake was added to banking authority when Ebbie Lover was already designated. Mayor explained that Linda was added as an alternative incase Ebbie Lover was not available.) Resolution was seconded by Linda Timberlake, passed and approved by all ayes no nays. Earnest Starling made motion to approve Drug and Alcohol Plan, seconded by Ebbie Lover, passed and approved by all ayes no nays.

f. Review 2021 Elections.

i. Reported that City Sect has been working with county elections officials to conduct our election. County instructed that if all seats are running unopposed the election can be ordered but can be cancelled. We are in compliance for having an election as long as the election is ordered.

6. Discuss and Approve Items:

- a. Approved to work on policy for the use of City owned vehicles.
- b. Approved to work on mileage reporting on a weekly basis.
- c. Approved to work on expense report form to be used by all City Personnel and City Council.
- d. Approved to work on seeking grant funding opportunities through FEMA, General Land Office, Community Development Block Grants, U.S. Economic Development agencies and East Texas Regional Council of Governments.

**7. ACTION ITEMS**

1. Council chose website name: cityofeastontx.com to replace the website name of cityofeaston.municipalimpact.com.
2. Council signed Order of Election.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:21**

*Walter D. Ward*

Walter Ward, Mayor