

Walter Ward, Mayor
James Horton, Council Member
Janeene Lucas, Council Member



Linda Timberlake, Council Member
Earnest Starling, Council Member
Kenneth Pruitt, Council Member

Walter Ward, Mayor
EASTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

May 13, 2021

7:00 PM

EASTON COMMUNITY CENTER
116 STARLING
EASTON, TEXAS 75603

1. Called City Council to order at 7:00 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. James Horton – Present
 - c. Janeene Lucas – Present
 - d. Earnest Starling – Present
 - e. Linda Timberlake – Present
 - f. Kenneth Pruitt - Present
4. Public Comments and Announcements – General Public (See Item 12)
5. Minutes were read and approved. CM Starling made a motion to accept minutes as read. Motion passed by a vote of all ayes and no nays.

Gas Report

6. Artis Anderson stated the Gas System still needs help and is looking at an applicant that seems to be pretty knowledgeable and is going to school at night to learn information that will help him on technical gas operations. Also, we lost two gas customers and we still need a truck.

Fire Dept Report

7. Mayor Ward reported that it has been a busy month. He has gone out on several accidents, we got a new door on the FD and new batteries for the FT. Earnest Starling asked if we got new radios put into the trucks, Mayor reported that he would get with Kellam on that. James Horton asked about fire chiefs. Mayor Ward responded that Mr. Scott is no longer with the FD, David Coleman is Chief and Larry Kellam Asst Chief. Mayor Ward said to remember our firefighters Chief Coleman and his wife in prayer.

City Secretary Report

8. Secretary pointed out the information in each council members' folder regarding webinar training for council members called "Municipal Fundamentals". Training will be conducted at the City hall conference room. The agenda for the training was read and offer extended to City Council to contact City Secretary to sign up for training before she pays for the webinar. Training time was set for Friday May 21st from 8:30 to 4:30. The agenda includes City Hall essentials,

parliamentary procedures which explains how to conduct meetings, open meetings information about how you're supposed to have your meetings open to the public, open records, municipal budget fundamentals, ordinances, resolutions and proclamations, use and misuse of social media as a city official. The training is conducted by our city attorney. Sect. Reported that a notice of public hearing for the Rusk county appraisal district for their budget and referred CM to their folders for the information on attending that meeting.

Ordinance for City Solid Waste Services

9. Mayor asked Sect to summarize the Ordinance on trash. Sect. Reported trash ordinance was reviewed, edited and updated by our city attorney and Sect. explained that this ordinance specifies the city's trash service and how it will be regulated. CM discussed and tabled Ordinance until next meeting.

Trash Service Contract Bid

10. CM Starling asked Sect. to bring new CMs up-to-date with the contract offered to the city by Ameritech. Sect summarized that Ameritech offered city-wide trash collection service, billing, free dumpsters and 2 portable potties for special occasions, a \$250 scholarship for students, a trash can for each customer, once a week pickup, a flat rate of approximately \$12. Council discussed trash service.
11. Mayor asked for public comment.
12. Ricky Norris commented on new service providing dumpsters and Wayne Ward commented on contract period, initial rate or raised rates, compliance and enforcement, rates uniformity, annexation requirements, contact person for different services.

City Line of Credit Loan for \$30,000 for new gas truck

13. Mayor asked CM to vote on 30,000 line of credit.
14. CM discussed how money would be spent – trucks, dump trucks. CM Starling and Mayor said money needs to be available to use if we need it. CM Starling made a motion to apply for a 30,000 line of credit, CM Horton seconded. Motion was passed by a vote of all ayes and no nays.

Closed session

Executive Session: The Council will now hold a closed executive session meeting pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Government Code, and Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, in accordance with the authority contained in one or more of the following sections: Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney; Section 551.072 Real Property; Section 22.010 Appointment of Official(s) and Resolution; Section 551.073, Deliberation regarding a Prospective Gift; Section 551.074 Personnel Matters. Section 21.022, 21.025 Public Official Misconduct.

15. CM met in closed session.

Open Meeting

Reconvene in General Council meeting and announce any items from Executive Session requiring Board action.

16. CMs reconvened and CM Starling made a motion to hire Leah Robertson and Carter Garcia. Motion was passed by a vote of all ayes and no nays.

Action Items

17. Council discussed attending the Municipal Fundamental Webinar. Decided to attend.
18. Council discussed the bid for locate services by USIC. Decided bid was too expensive.

Adjournment

19. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

Walter D. Ward

Walter Ward, Mayor

Attested:

Crystal Jenkins

Crystal Jenkins, City Secretary