

Walter Ward, Mayor
Jean Chatham-Edmond, Councilmember
Earnest Starling, Councilmember



Ebbie Johnson Lover, Mayor Pro-Tem
Janeene Lucas, Councilmember
Linda Timberlake, Councilmember

Walter Ward, Mayor
EASTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 13, 2020

8:00 PM

**EASTON COUNCIL CHAMBER, EASTON CITY HALL
185 KENNEDY BOULEVARD
EASTON, TEXAS 75603**

1. Called City Council to order at 9:00 pm – Mayor Walter Ward
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Walter Ward
3. Roll Call – Ansley Fleming, Clerk
 - a. Mayor Walter Ward – Present
 - b. Ebbie Lover – Present
 - c. Janeene Lucas – Present
 - d. Jean Chatman – Present
 - e. Earnest Starling – Absent
 - f. Linda Timberlake – Present
4. Public Comments and Announcements – General Public
 - a. Artis Anderson mentions the city potentially auctioning off items we no longer need to bring in more revenue.
5. City Council will discuss and/or approve the following items:
 - a. Review and/or approve September 22, 2020 meeting minutes.
 - i. Janeene Lucas motioned for the September 22, 2020 meeting minutes to be accepted as read by city clerk, Ansley Fleming. Ebbie Lover seconds. Four for, zero against.
 - b. Review gas report.
 - i. Artis Anderson, gas supervisor, informs the council of the Railroad Commission inspection on October 5, 2020. The gas system had three violations that needed to be corrected immediately. He also stated that he is in need of help with the gas system.
 - c. Review fire department report.
 - i. Larry Kellams, assistant fire chief of Easton VFD, informed the council that Homeland Security was offering the fire department two palettes of face masks, in which the fire department would distribute to the members of the fire department, city employees, and the citizens. The fire department is also having training classes coming up, such as an EMR class, an emergency landing class, and an introductory firefighter class. All fire trucks have been inspected and they were working on getting them registered. Elderville water will be starting three new projects in Easton.
 - d. Review roads, grounds, and sanitation report.
 - i. Artis Anderson will be working on filling potholes. All sanitation is going smoothly. Mowing is looking great. The city has been making good use of the

new bushhog and tractor. Councilmember Linda Timberlake has been picking up litter around the city every morning, and it's looking good.

- e. Review 2021 Election.
 - i. Gregg County gave the city paperwork regarding the upcoming 2021 election pricing.
- f. Review and/or approve FY20-21 Budget Amendment.
 - i. Jean Chatham-Edmond motions for the budget to be approved with the necessary corrections. Ebbie Lover seconds. Four for, zero against.
- g. Review and/or approve temporarily contracting a Gas Technician.
 - i. Jean Chatham-Edmond motions to contract a Gas Technician for one year. Linda Timberlake seconds. Four for, zero against.
- h. Personnel Matter: Grievance Hearing as requested by former- City Secretary Precious Wafer, as per Texas Government Code Chapter 554, including any related personnel actions and a possible executive session in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.074.
 - i. Attorney Steve Kardell spoke on behalf of Precious Wafer.
 1. Her termination on September 14, 2020 was in retaliation to prior events.
 2. Retaliation dates back to December 2018 with threatening behavior and stalking from Dewayne Ward.
 3. On 6-21-2019, at City Hall, physical confrontation and physical threats directed to Ms. Wafer on the part of Janene Lucas, Sharon Coleman, Latoya Young-Wright, and Velma Timberlake. Encouragement on the part of Mayor Walter Ward.
 4. Misuse of city funds on the part of Dwayne Ward, Mayor Walter Ward (brother), Andrew Erwin, (Mayor Walter Ward nephew) Marlana Jackson, Crystal Jenkins, and Shannon Brown. Reported to the FBI on 5/7/2020. Precious Wafer's personal laptop taken into possession of FBI on 8/25/2020.
 5. The incident with city clerk, Ansley Fleming, on August 10, 2020 was orchestrated to try and terminate Precious Wafer. Debit card cancellation and changing locks were also retaliatory acts from the city.
 - ii. Damages requested include backpay from August 19, 2020-October 13, 2020, reinstatement of Ms. Wafer's job as secretary, emotional distress, and miscellaneous damages.

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.

OPEN MEETING

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

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45

Walter D. Ward

Walter Ward, Mayor