

AGENDA

EAST MOUNTAIN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
July 20TH, 2020
MONDAY 6:00 PM
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

THIS FACILITY IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AND PARKING SPACES ARE AVAILABLE.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY OFFICE AT 903-297-6041.

***CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL**

***PUBLIC COMMENTS**

***APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: June 8, 2020 Regular Session**

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Swear in Chief Mike Rider, Municipal Court Judge Wyone Manes and Municipal Court Clerk Melissa Boyd – *Mayor Marc Covington*
2. Discuss and consider action on Right to Life Ordinance – *Mayor Marc Covington*
3. Close Session with Attorney Kirk Kennedy to Discuss Settlement agreement – *Mayor Marc Covington*
4. Open Session: Vote on Settlement Discussion – *Mayor Marc Covington*
5. Discuss Grants - Consider/discuss authorization to issue requests for proposals (RFP) for administrative services and requests for qualifications (RFQs) for engineering services related to the 2021-2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). – *Mayor Marc Covington*
6. Discuss Potential Land to Purchase for Well Site– *Mayor Marc Covington*
7. Discuss Designating 10 acres around City Hall as a city park and secure area for dumpsters and road repair aggregate – *Mayor Marc Covington*
8. Discuss Cleaning up around City Hall and signage – *Mayor Marc Covington*
9. Report from Police Department – *Chief James "Mike" Rider*
10. Adjournment

WITNESSED MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL
OF THE CITY OF EAST MOUNTAIN, TEXAS
ON THIS THE 17th DAY OF JULY, 2020



Melissa Boyd
Melissa Boyd, City Secretary

POSTED THIS THE 17th DAY OF JULY, 2020 AT 12:00 P.M.

**CITY OF EAST MOUNTAIN
CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR SESSION
July 20, 2020 - 6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Marc Covington. The invocation was given by Mr. Eugene Brown. All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Those Council Members present were: Ms. Mary “Jo” Popma, Mr. John Adams, Mr. Eugene Brown, Mr. Richard Lattier and Mr. Billy Morrow.

Approval of the Previous Minutes:

Mr. Eugene Brown made a motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes dated June 8, 2020, and Mr. John Adams seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Open Discussion: None.

Agenda Item One, Swear in Chief Mike Rider, Municipal Court Judge Wyone Manes and Municipal Court Clerk Melissa Boyd – Mayor Marc Covington:

Moved to last item before Adjournment.

Mayor Marc Covington Swore in Judge Manes as the Municipal Court Judge, Melissa Boyd as the Municipal Court Clerk and Chief Mike Rider as the Chief of Police.

Agenda Item Two, Discuss and Consider Action on Right to Life Ordinance – Mayor Marc Covington:

Mayor Covington turned the floor over to Mr. Mark Lee Dickson, Director of Right to Life of East Texas. Mr. Dickson explained the history of Right to Life of East Texas and what it represents. (Please refer to the audio recordings for further information.)

Mr. Dickson presented to the council, The Sanctuary City Ordinance that would ban all abortions within the City limits of East Mountain and prohibiting any abortion provider from doing business within the City’s jurisdiction. Additionally, Mr. Dickson provided a letter from elected officials in support of the ordinance and a letter of Promised Representation.

The council had many questions for Mr. Dickson (refer to audio recording).

Mr. John Adams made a motion to accept the Sanctuary City Ordinance as is and come back next month and amend as needed with an ordinance number. Ms. Mary “Jo” Popma seconded the motion. Mr. Richard Lattier and Mr. Billy Morrow abstained. The vote passed 3-2.

Agenda Item Three, close Session with Attorney Kirk Kennedy to Discuss Settlement Agreement - Mayor Marc Covington:

Attorney Kirk Kennedy was absent.

Mayor Covington let the council know that Attorney Kennedy informed him that the council does not have to go into a closed session. Session will be open for discussion.

The Mayor informed the council that he met with the attorneys for mediation last Thursday, July 16, 2020, and was able to come to an agreement on a settlement of \$295,000. If the council does not accept the settlement agreement, the other option is to go to trial.

Agenda Item Four, Open Session: Vote on Settlement Discussion - Mayor Marc Covington:

Mr. Richard Lattier made a motion to accept the settlement. Mr. John Adams seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Agenda Item Five, Discuss Grants – Mayor Marc Covington: - Consider/discuss authorization to issue requests for proposals (RFP) for administrative services and requests for qualifications (RFQs) for engineering services related to the 2021-2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).

Mayor Covington updated the council on the meeting with Grant Works. They are hoping that by the end of July the government will release grants. To avoid missing a grant deadline, Grant Works is requesting the council to give Mayor Covington the authority to go ahead and begin the application process, with Grant Works, to give us bids on writing grants for the City, so that there is no wait time once the grants are released.

Ms. Mary “Jo” Popma made a motion to give Mayor Covington the authority. Mr. Billy Morrow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Agenda Item Six, Discuss Potential Land to Purchase for Well Site – Mayor Marc Covington:

Mayor Covington updated the council on 2 acres of land located at the North end of Grouse & 300.

Mr. Bobby Jenkins and the Mayor have been working with the land owner on a contract.

The property owner is asking around \$25,000 for 2 acres. Purchase of the 2 acres is contingent upon the test well having good water.

The property owner would like the City of East Mountain to pay to have 3 Phase ran down and across the property which will need to be done anyways for the well.

The property owner will let us drill the test well at the edge of his pasture for \$500 damages. If the well has good water, the property owner would like to keep the test well and will pay to get the test well up and running for his use. The property owner will give us an easement to run water line across land. If the test well has bad water it will be plugged. The test well will cost about \$40,000.

Mr. Richard Lattier made a motion to do the contract to buy the land. Ms. Mary “Jo” Popma seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Agenda Item Seven, Discuss Designating 10 Acres around City Hall as a City Park and Secure Area for Dumpsters and Road Repair Aggregate – Mayor Marc Covington:

Mayor Covington recommended the council designate the 10 acres around City Hall for something useful to the citizens of East Mountain. The Mayor recommends hiring someone to clean out the underbrush to see what is back there so that the council can decide what can be done with it.

Mr. Billy Morrow made a motion to clear it out and see what is back there. Mr. John Adams seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Agenda Item Eight, Discuss Cleaning up around City Hall and Signage – Mayor Marc Covington:

Mayor Covington presented to the council, a quote from Aqua Clean, to pressure wash the North, West, and East sides of City Hall, North side walk, monument sidewalk, cleaning and sealing of the monument for \$834.20.

The Mayor opened the floor for discussion of signage on the building and at the corner of 1844 & 1845.

Mr. Billy Morrow made a motion to clean up City Hall, sidewalk and monument and to get pricing for the signs. Mr. John Adams seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Agenda Item Nine, Report from Police Department – Chief Mike Rider:

Chief Mike Rider reminded the council and citizens that that if anyone in the community needs assistance from the police department to call 911 in the event of an emergency and for non-emergencies to call the non-emergent number. Dispatch will direct calls to him accordingly. The Chief explained that he is working odd hours and that county will assist.

The Chief reported to the council that since last month, he has worked an accidental shooting, recovered a stolen trailer from Dallas, made one arrest and wrote 7 or 8 tickets.

The Chief reported that normally he will be in the office sometime during the week between 9-12, may stay later one day and may cut out early to work on the weekends.

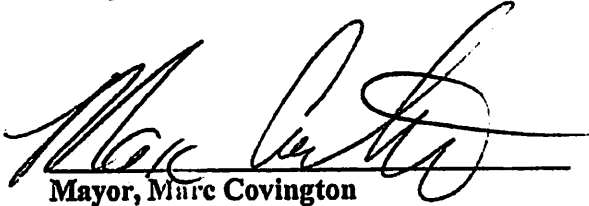
The Chief reported that he has received his vest, new camera in the car, body camera and is up and running.

Agenda Item Ten, Adjourn.

Mr. John Adams made a motion to Adjourn. Mr. Eugene Brown seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Adjourned approximately 7:17 p.m.

Accepted and approved this 10th day of August, 2020.



Mayor, Marc Covington

Attested: 

City Secretary, Melissa Boyd