

AGENDA

EAST MOUNTAIN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
September 14TH, 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.

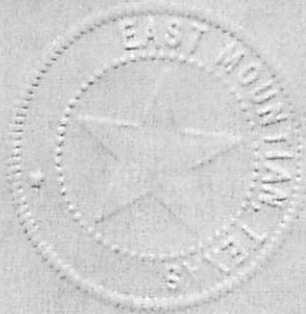
***CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL**

***PUBLIC COMMENTS: Must sign in. 5 minute limit**

***APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: August 10, 2020 Regular Session & August 20, 2020 Special Meeting**

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discuss Road Repairs with Limited Public Comments – Mayor Marc Covington
2. Discuss Rate increase on Trash Service – *Mayor Marc Covington*
3. Discuss and Schedule Budget Workshop – *Mayor Marc Covington*
4. Discuss Location for City Wide Fall Clean Up – *Mayor Marc Covington*
5. Report from Police Department – *Chief James “Mike” Rider*
6. Discuss Right to Life Ordinance – *Mayor Marc Covington*
7. Adjournment



WITNESSED MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL
OF THE CITY OF EAST MOUNTAIN, TEXAS
ON THIS THE 11th DAY OF **September, 2020**

Melissa Boyd
Melissa Boyd, City Secretary

POSTED THIS THE 11th DAY OF **September, 2020** AT **1:50 P.M.**

**CITY OF EAST MOUNTAIN
CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR SESSION
September 14, 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 August 10, 2020, and August 20, 2020. Mr. Billy Morrow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Open Discussion: None.

Agenda Item One, Discuss Road Repairs with Limited Public Comments – Mayor Marc Covington:

The Mayor updated the council on the following roads:

1. Beall Mountain Road: Bobby replaced and reworked 36” culvert where it meets East Mountain Road. Will wait 2 weeks to rain and to pack down then come back with oil top, seal and cover.
2. Nolte Rd: Dispute if Nolte is a city road. Restrictions recorded in the deed records from Billy Foote reserving a 45’ access easement and states that the road is not a maintained county road. The road was designated as a city street.

Floor was open to the public to address the council:

- Mr. Darren Nolte explained the difficulty in driving on Nolte road. He provided documentation obtained from Upshur County showing the road was dedicated. The Mayor let the council know that the county dedication was for 911 addresses and not as a City Road.
- Issues discussed: There are 4 property owners along the road who have difficulty traveling. The road has been dug down and washed away over the years and will need to be brought up. Trees along the side are falling down and will need to be removed. Property owners will need to know how much property they will be losing. Surveys may need to be done on each property.

Mr. Richard Lattier volunteered to research to see how much road footage will be needed to meet the standards for a City road.

Ms. Mary Jo Popma made a motion to look into and discuss the road. Mr. Billy Morrow seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Agenda Item Two, Discuss Rate Increase on Trash Service – Mayor Marc Covington:

Mayor Covington explained that Sanitation Solutions is increasing their rates for the 1st time in 2 years. Rate increase is 3.4% and will become effective November 1st 2020.

Agenda Item Three, Discuss and Schedule Budget Workshop. - Mayor Marc Covington:

Council scheduled Budget Workshop for Tuesday, September 22nd and Tuesday September 29th both at 5pm.

Agenda Item Four, Location for City Wide Fall Clean Up - Mayor Marc Covington:

The Mayor let the council know that the city owns a 3 acre parcel of fenced in land on 726 where the old cell tower is that would be good for a designated dumpster location.

Mr. Richard Lattier made a motion for the location of the dumpsters to be on 726. Ms. Mary Jo Popma seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Chief Rider informed the council that he checked the areas that are darkened and need street lights as well as missing stop signs and road signs that need to be replaced.

The Chief recommends the following:

4 intersections need lights: Coulter/1844; Floy Lee/1844; Medlin/1845; & E Mtn Rd/1845

8 stop signs needed, 6 road signs need replaced or are missing. Most of them have posts.

The speed limit on 1844 near the bakery may need to be lowered.

The Mayor informed the council that we would need to check with SWEPCO and Upshur Rural Electric on the light poles and we would also need to get the cost of signs in order to figure the expenses in on the budget.

The Chief informed the council there have been some break-ins and to be on alert. The citizens need to lock their doors and put valuables up.

Agenda Item Six, Discuss Right to Life Ordinance – Mayor Marc Covington:

The Mayor presented the City attorneys response to the Right to Life ordinance to the council and public.

The Mayor suggested putting this to a city wide vote at the next city election in May 2021 with the only way to have it remove is by another city wide vote.

Mr. Eugene Brown pointed out that this may be nothing more than a resolution because there are no penalties or enforcement action for violating this.

Mr. Richard Lattier suggested voting to address the issue of abortion from a zoning standpoint.

Mr. Tim Smith, Preacher of the East Mountain Baptist Church apologized for not being at the last meeting. Mr. Smith pointed out this would be proactive rather than reactive. Additionally, he pointed out that the most powerful legal group, ACLU, backed off their law suits against 7 cities that passed this ordinance.

Mr. Mark Dickson, Director of Right to Life of East Texas, addressed the city attorney's opinion on the ordinance. He referenced multiple other attorneys who are for the ordinance and pointed out that the city attorney's opinion is only one opinion who can't determine what is legal and isn't. Mr. Dickson stated that the ordinance is enforceable. There is a public enforcement that is dependent upon the

overturn of Row vs. Wade. There is a private enforcement that goes into effect immediately stating that if an unborn child was killed here in East Mountain than any family member of the unborn child can sue the abortionist of the unborn child.

Mr. Lonnie Cottrell, citizen, states he sees no benefit in adopting the ordinance. He feels it is making a personal statement.

Mr. John Adams made a motion to put it on the next city election for consideration by the citizens and to also make sure the citizens are given every opportunity to read it. Mr. Richard Lattier seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Agenda Item Seven, Adjourn.

Mr. Billy Morrow made a motion to Adjourn. Mr. Eugene Brown seconded. The vote was unanimous.

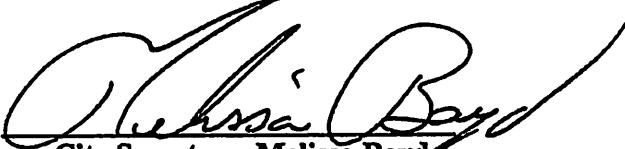
Adjourned approximately 7:46 p.m.

Accepted and approved this 12th day of October, 2020.



Mayor, Marc Covington

Attested:



City Secretary, Melissa Boyd