

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

September 14, 2020

8:00 PM

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

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 – Ansley Fleming, Clerk
 - a. Mayor Walter Ward – Present
 - b. Ebbie Lover – Present
 - c. Janeene Lucas – Present
 - d. Jean Chatman – Present
 - e. Earnest Starling – Present
 - f. Linda Timberlake – Present
4. Rules for Public Comment – Mayor Walter Ward
5. Public Comments and Announcements – General Public
 - a. None to be reported
6. City Council will discuss and/or approve the following items:
 - a. Review and/or approve August 25, 2020 minutes.
 - i. Jean Chatham-Edmond motions for the August 25, 2020 minutes to be accepted as read, Janeene Lucas seconds. Motion carried 5-0.
 - b. Review and/or approve proposed 2020 Tax Rate.
 - i. Item tabled.
 - c. Review and/or approve proposed FY20-21 Budget.
 - i. Item tabled.
 - d. Review and/or approve street and ground improvements.
 - i. Artis Anderson, gas supervisor, spoke with Commissioner Shannon Brown. Pct.4 is to donate around 100 tons of asphalt to the city. The city is to do the work on their own, to which Anderson stated that we need more help. Anderson also suggested that the City clean up the park, so the citizens can utilize it.
 - ii. Mayor Ward stated that the city would be receiving 186 dump truck loads of asphalt, which will be stored at the park.
 - iii. James Horton, citizen, informed the council that the county would send workers upon request.
 - e. Review and/or approve procurement for tractor.
 - i. Mayor Ward informed the council that Gregg County was auctioning off a tractor. Mayor Ward also gave details on how BuyBoard worked, as the city had approved the BuyBoard resolution at the meeting on August 25, 2020.
 - ii. Earnest Starling motions to approve the procurement for a tractor, Linda Timberlake seconds. Motion carried 5-0.

- f. Review gas system report.
 - i. Artis Anderson, gas supervisor, informed the council that the gas system was preparing for a complete inspection on October 5, 2020. They are currently getting the shut off valves inspection ready. Mayor Ward asked how often they checked the shut off valves. Anderson stated that they check them every six months. Mayor Ward requested that they check them every month to every other month.
 - ii. Anderson also stated that meter readings were coming up the following week. We have also gained a few new customers in the recent months.
 - g. Review fire department report.
 - i. Mayor Ward spoke on behalf of the fire department. He stated that they were working to get funding through the forestry service.
 - h. Review community center report.
 - i. Mayor Ward informed the council of the recent AC repair in the community center. Mayor Ward hopes to clean up and do some maintenance on the community center soon.
7. **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.
- a. Discussion and deliberation on personnel matter regarding continued employment of City Secretary Precious Wafer, including performance evaluation, assessment of compliance with city policies and procedures, financial management, analysis of job title and duties, attendance record, including an executive session in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.074, and consultation with attorney in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.071.

OPEN MEETING

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

1. Mayor Ward listed the complaints against City Secretary Precious Wafer. The council allowed her ten minutes to respond to the complaints against her and state her complaints.
2. Precious Wafer came before the council to respond.
 - a. Wafer stated that she had no comment on her attendance other than she came as directed.
 - b. Wafer stated that she performed all duties given to her to a satisfactory level.
 - c. Wafer stated that she returned all city property as directed. She gave all property to Mayor Pro-Tem Ebbie Lover to return to city hall, as she was legally instructed to not return to City Hall.
 - d. Wafer stated that although she was never officially appointed as city administrator, she performed the duties of one. She informed the council that she performed these duties pro-bono, as she knew the city could not afford those services.
 - e. Wafer stated that all financial transactions were approved by the mayor. She said that although the mayor finds that to be false, he did approve everything.

- f. Wafer stated that she gave the mayor an affidavit of the event that occurred on August 10, 2020. She was not sure if he shared that with the council.
 - g. Wafer stated that her failure to turn in receipts was due to her doing the work of a city administrator, a city secretary, and a clerk alone. She was unable to keep up with all the receipts.
3. Mayor Ward asked the council what they wanted to do moving forward with the employment of Precious Wafer.
 - a. Jean Chatham-Edmond motions to approve Resolution 2020-0914, Linda Timberlake seconds. Resolution 2020-0914 was approved by a vote of three for, one against, and one abstention.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:18

Walter D. Ward

Walter Ward, Mayor