

Minutes of Emergency Meeting held July 7, 2020

Emergency meeting with the following present: Mayor Mark Bowen; Aldermen Erik Dahler, Jerry Stone, Sam Cortez, Ruben Gonzalez; (Aldерwoman Laura Reyna attended via phone); City Secretary Josie Campa; Director of Public Works James McGrath; City Attorney Tom Cate; Police Chief Richard Priest.

Mayor Mark Bowen called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. and read the notice aloud. The Mayor told Council the Emergency Management Team had met and had come up with some changes to the last declaration. He told Council that the team had talked to the Local Health Authority, the HEB manager, and Judge Hurley while they discussed the needed changes. The Mayor said the two main changes are for the Municipal Court-Item #4 being rescheduled till after August 1st and Item #13-Businesses requiring face masks be worn by employees, customers and visitors. Mayor Bowen told Council the team had recommended this before the Governor mandated masks being worn. The Mayor said the team looked at the number of cases that are rising in this area and felt the declaration needed to be changed to protect people.

City Attorney Tom Cate told Council that the Local Health Authority had recommended that court be kept closed until August 1st. Mr. Cate told Council H.E.B. was wanting the city to enact an ordinance requiring face masks to be worn.

Mayor Bowen asked Council members if they wanted to make changes to this declaration.

Alderman Dahler asked that the second (2nd) line on Item #13 be stricken. City Attorney Tom Cate said it could be left out, but feels individuals should wear face masks.

Alderman Gonzalez suggested the wearing of face masks be addressed in Item #17, that says individuals wear face masks in public to comply with the Governor's Order. Alderman Dahler agreed that Item #17 be added and the 2nd line of Item #13 be deleted. Aldерwoman Reyna agreed that an item should be added to make sure the Governor's Order is followed and people be required to wear face masks in public places.

Alderman Dahler asked Chief Priest if he is okay with the 3rd line of Item #13. Chief Priest said he was as it is pretty standard.

Mayor Bowen told Council that he has surveyed people about the Governor's Order and half of them don't know about it.

Mayor Bowen asked if Council has noticed anything with the park. Aldерwoman Reyna told Council she has not heard much about the park other than the fields being locked. Alderman Dahler said he went by on Friday and people are using the track and wearing masks. City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Wayne Newman has said that there are not too many people using the park other than the track and that they are wearing masks.

Minutes of Emergency Meeting held July 7, 2020-page 2

Alderman Gonzalez told Council that he feels every date should be aligned and extended to September 1st as stated in the last declaration.

Mayor Bowen told Council that if you look at the numbers, Devine and Natalia are spiking and the next month will be very challenging. He told Council he will try to minimize exposure, if the numbers continue to increase. He said only priorities will be taken care of since the worse thing would be to expose people to the virus.

The Mayor told Council that Atascosa County Emergency Management Coordinator David Prasifka had passed away this past weekend due to Covid-19.

Mayor Bowen told Council that if the numbers continue to go up, the city will have to hold back and let time pass.

Alderwoman Laura Reyna told Council she would like Dr. Hack to speak to Council about Covid-19 and Mayor Bowen told her and Council that Dr. Hack will not get out in the public. Alderwoman Reyna suggested this be done with zoom to keep Council abreast of things. Council then discussed guidelines for using zoom.

City Secretary Josie Campa asked if they would be holding a meeting next Monday and Mayor Bowen told Council he would be monitoring the numbers.

Chief Priest told Council that they would have to hire someone to set up zoom for meetings since the department is short-staffed.

Mayor Bowen told Council that zoom should be added to Item #6 -City Council meetings.

Alderwoman Reyna asked about city personnel wearing masks and Mayor Bowen told her they are and they have also been divided, so they are not all together.

Council discussed zoom meetings and it was agreed to add this to Item #6.

Alderman Gonzalez questioned Item #12, and the City Attorney told Council he had used the wrong template and the last ordinance has the correct wording that says Mayor and department heads instead of City Council.

Alderwoman Reyna asked about the Governor's Order concerning gatherings in reference to Item #5. The City Attorney told Council that Item #5 only pertains to city gatherings.

Alderwoman Reyna questioned whether all gatherings would be made to comply with the Governor's Order. Mayor Bowen told Council that the County Judge had put this back on the cities having to approve large gatherings.

Minutes of Emergency Meeting held July 7, 2020-page 3

City Attorney Tom Cate reviewed the changes made by Council.

Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve the declaration with the changes made by Council. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.