

Duncanville City Council Meeting Minutes Special Meeting Thursday, March 19, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Duncanville City Council was called to order on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Briefing Room at City Hall with a quorum to wit:

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Barry L. Gordon
Councilmember At-Large Patrick Harvey
Councilmember Joe Veracruz
Mayor Pro Tem Don McBurnett
Councilmember Monte Anderson
Councilmember Mark D. Cooks
Councilmember Johnette Jameson

I.1. CITIZENS' INPUT

"Pursuant to Section 551.007 of the Texas Gov't Code, any member of the public has the opportunity to address the City Council concerning any matter of public business or any posted agenda item; however, the Act prohibits the City Council from deliberating any issues not on the public agenda and such non-agenda issues may be referred to City staff for research and any future action; all persons addressing are subject to council adopted rules and limitations permitted by law"

To address the Council, please submit a fully-completed request card to the City Secretary prior to the beginning of the Citizens' Input portion of the Council meeting.

Mayor Gordon read the item into record. The following spoke during the Citizens Input Period:

No one spoke.

I.2. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

I.2.A. *Consider a Resolution extending a Mayoral Declaration of a State of Emergency and order as a result of the COVID-19 Virus; providing for Interim Public Safety Measures; repealing all Resolutions in Conflict; providing a severability clause and providing for an effective date.*

City Manager Hugman discussed the precautions the city is taking during COVID-19.

Facilities:

Senior Center – closed Friday, March 13, 2020.

- Hot lunches being provided by VNA in individual trays for pickup at curbside (averaging 35-45 meals per day)
- Those seniors who depended on transportation to Senior Center are getting their meals delivered (approximately 15 seniors)

Recreation Center, Fieldhouse – closed Monday, March 16, 2020

- Reservations through March have been canceled; reservations placed for April have been told they may be canceled.
- FT and some PT staff cleaning facilities, working projects.

Library – closed Monday, March 16, 2020

- Staff providing book pickup at curbside with advance notice; working projects and cleaning.

All other facilities – open for business as usual (there has been a decreased walk-in traffic in City Hall).

- Stressing "social distancing" for customer interactions and meetings.
- Increased cleaning efforts in all city facilities.
- Posted the DCHHS 2019 Novel Coronavirus FAQ document in English and Spanish at the entrance to all city buildings.

- Parks and playgrounds are open, with attention to “recreation gathering” restrictions.
 - Public restrooms at parks are cleaned and sanitized appropriately
 - Looking at putting up signage – cautioning use

Police:

- Protocols established contacts with individuals; use of PPE and coordination with EMS when necessary
- Sworn personnel not assigned to patrol division directed to have a patrol uniform and proper equipment ready in case they need to be assigned to Patrol.
- Temporarily suspended all police volunteer programs and meetings since many volunteers are elderly and more susceptible to the COVID-19.
- Ellis-Davis Fieldhouse may be activated for drive-thru testing – PD may be asked to supply (2) officers for security.
 - Looking at using City marshal; also requested DISD PD assistance to supplement if possible.

Fire:

- Protocols established to minimize number of Fire/EMS personnel who may come into contact with a potential COVID-19 patient
- Working with SWRCC, Desoto and Cedar Hill FDs to provide (1) paramedic at SWRCC to go through medical questionnaire with 911 callers if potential COVID-19 patient.
- Regional Emergency Management Coordinator working with all four BSW cities and coordination with Dallas County HHS, city of Dallas Emergency Management, and others on regional coordination and response.

PIO:

- Ensuring updated communications on website, social media with closings, cancellations, COVID-19 information, etc.
- Ensuring communication to employees on latest developments, status of city responses.

Health Inspector / Code:

- Visiting restaurants, food establishments to ensure they are aware of Dallas County Order, answering questions.

Municipal Court:

- Municipal court cases suspended to May at order of Municipal Court Judge.

Personnel Status:

Health related:

- (1) employee on 14-day self-quarantine at home after recently returning from trip to Spain.
- (2) employees on self-quarantine at home due to spouses exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, aches, etc.) No test results available at this time to confirm.
- (1) employee with significant risk to exposure is working at home.
- (1) employee with significant customer interaction sent home for precaution and for rest due to feeling fatigue, but NOT exhibiting fever.
- Employees with moderate risk are being moved to reduce interaction and contact with customers when possible and being cautioned to use gloves if necessary and increase cleaning, washing of hands.

Childcare related:

- A few employees noting issues with childcare; are allowed to work at home when feasible.

Personnel Policies:

- Drafting temporary policy to address work-at-home, use of leave if quarantined, etc.
- Reviewing Family First Act passed by US House and Senate for impact and implementation.

PIO Reiling briefed Council on how the city is keeping the community and employees up to date on communication pertaining with COVID-19.

Discussion on Council events, Boards and Commissions meetings, and city events took place. Council agreed to provide teleconferencing and videoconferencing for social distancing for City Council meetings. Council agreed to move forward with the search firm interviews for a new City Manager; the City Manager is considered essential to future operations in the City. Depending on the spread of the COVID-19 virus could change the dates of the interviews. All Boards and Commissions meetings have been canceled unless pertinent business needs to be handled. Town Hall Meetings and the Boards and Commissions banquet is canceled. Joint Meetings with City Council are postponed.

Council agreed to postpone the May 2, 2020 Election to November 3, 2020. Councilmember Cooks would like to have the unopposed candidates' names added to the November ballot. City Secretary Downs stated Dallas County Elections Department stated by adding the unopposed candidates to the ballot could result in tripling the cities elections cost and the Secretary of State stated the unopposed candidates have the opportunity to be sworn in after May 2, 2020 and not wait until November 3, 2020.

Council agreed to have a Special Meeting on March 31, 2020 to postpone the General Election of May 2, 2020 to November 3, 2020 and consider ordering a cancellation of the Joint Election of unopposed candidates for Mayor and Councilmember from District 4.

Mayor Gordon and Council reviewed and discussed Resolution No. 2020-025 and the Amended Order of the City of Duncanville; date amended order issued March 19, 2020.

At-Large Councilmember Patrick Harvey made a motion to approve the item as stated, Councilmember Mark D. Cooks seconded the motion. The vote was cast 7 for, 0 against. Item passed.

II. ADJOURNMENT

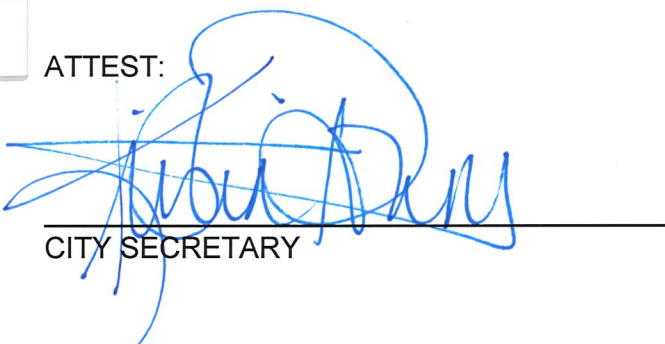
The meeting was adjourned at 8:35p.m.

APPROVED:



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY SECRETARY