



CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL
EMERGENCY MEETING
MARCH 17, 2020

Members Present:

Mayor Linda Langerhans
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Neffendorf (left at 4:05 p.m.)
Councilmember Charlie Kiehne
Councilmember Tom Musselman
Councilmember Bobby Watson

Members Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Kent Myers, City Manager
Clinton Bailey, Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works and Utilities
Daniel Jones, City Attorney
Lynn Bizzell, Fire Chief
Steve Wetz, Police Chief
Brian Jordan, Development Services Director
Lea Feuge, Public Information Officer
Russell Immel, Information Technology Director
Andrea Schmidt, Parks Department Director
Tammie Loth, Human Resource Director
Laura Hollenbeck, Finance Director
John Culpepper, County Emergency Management Coordinator
Frank Stead, Fire Department Safety Officer
Kris Kneese, Assistant Director of Public Works and Utilities
Garrett Bonn, Assistant Engineer
Mary Gonzales, Accounting Clerk
Janelle Chapman, Accounting Administrative Assistant
Shelley Goodwin, City Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum of the City Council present, Mayor Langerhans called the special emergency meeting of the Fredericksburg City Council to order at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2020, in the City Hall Fire Training Room, 126 West Main Street, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624.

2. Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Mayor Langerhans stated several members of the public who would like to speak.

Tony Smith stated he feels the City should implement a Disaster Declaration Order to help fight the COVID-19 virus. He encouraged the City Council to shut down the City for 2 weeks.

Sam McQueen stated he feels the City is not at the point to shut down, people need to work to pay their bills.

Jeremy Ripencki stated he feels restaurants should look at alternative ways to serve the public instead of closing down.

Mickey Poole stated he can see both sides of the issue and encouraged the City Council to not close down at this point.

Russell Hutton stated he feels the public should use common sense and follow the CDC Guidelines.

A) Receive an update and discuss steps and guidelines for City response to health and safety concerns within the City.

Mayor Langerhans stated she has met with County Judge Mark Stroehrer and no one has suggested closing businesses. She stated there has been discussion regarding the possibility of limiting the number of people in restaurants.

Kent Myers, City Manager, reviewed the CDC guidelines and recommended the following:

- Postpone all events with 50 or more people held at City facilities for the next 60 days
- Increase the cleaning of City facilities
- Make changes regarding the COVID-19 that are recommended by Governor Abbott.
- Update website
- Work with media and provide updates regularly.

He also stated he appointed Lynn Bizzell, Fire Chief, as the point of contact for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lynn Bizzell, Fire Chief, he reviewed the current number of positive cases in the world, nation, and in Texas. He stated most cases are travel-related and those people are being asked to quarantine for 2 weeks. He stated the key to stopping the spread is:

- Washing hands
- Social Distancing
- Cleaning surfaces regularly

He also reported the following measures have occurred in his department:

- Limited access to the Fire and EMS Buildings.
- Meeting with Community Leaders every morning to provide updates.
- Temperatures are taken regularly.

B) Discussion on a possible local disaster declaration, related to the Coronavirus (COVID 19)

John Culpepper, Gillespie County Emergency Management, reported President Trump has issued a National Emergency and Governor Abbott has issued a State of Emergency. He provided options and reasons for issuing a local Order of Declaration.

The City Council discussed a Declaration Order and the benefits of issuing a declaration.

Steve Wetz, Police Chief, stated he feels with a Disaster Declaration Order, residents will know what to expect. He also recommended posting the CDC guidelines at all public places.

Andrea Schmidt, Park Department Director, reported all events held at City facilities over 50 people have been canceled until May 15, 2020. She also reviewed the closures and changes that have occurred at parks and park facilities.

Clinton Bailey, Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works and Utilities, reported all the changes that he has implemented in his department:

- Divided the staff into teams and keep them separated
- CDC Guidelines
- Split shifts
- Exercise extreme caution

Laura Hollenbeck, Finance Director, reported on all the changes she has made to eliminate the public access in her department, but still pay their utility bills, set up new utilities, or disconnect utilities.

Gary Klenzing inquired to whether the limiting of 50 people is for all events within the City.

Lynn Bizzell, Fire Chief, stated without a Disaster Declaration the limit for 50 people is only for City-owned facilities.

Sonia Rivera encouraged the City Council to think about a Disaster Declaration because she believes it will lead to other events like child abuse.

Mickey Poole stated he feels the City Council has not addressed the elderly and if we can continue to visit and take things to them.

3. Executive Session

The City Council will recess its open meeting and reconvene in Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.183(f)

- A. Consider and discuss information that relates to individuals with special needs and that is maintained for purposes of emergency management or disaster planning.**

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Musselman, seconded by Councilmember Watson, to go out of Regular Session into Executive Session at 3:55 p.m. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Neffendorf left the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

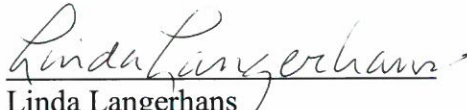
Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Kiehne, seconded by Councilmember Watson, to go out of Executive Session into Regular Session at 4:34 p.m. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

8. BUSINESS ITEM

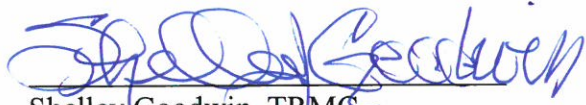
Mayor Langerhans reported that she will continue to work with County Judge Schroeder regarding disaster planning.

9. ADJOURN

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Watson, seconded Councilmember Musselman to adjourn the Tuesday, March 17, 2020, City Council Special Emergency Meeting at 4:48 p.m. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion passed unanimously.


Linda Langerhans
Mayor

ATTEST


Shelley Goodwin, TRMC
City Secretary