



CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

MARCH 23, 2020

Members Present:

Mayor Linda Langerhans
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Neffendorf
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
John Culpepper, County Emergency Management Coordinator
Shelley Goodwin, City Secretary
Steve Wetz, Police Chief

Public Present in the Conference Room:

Sam Sutton, Fredericksburg Standard
Richard Zowie, KNAF Radio

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum of the City Council present, Mayor Langerhans called the special meeting of the Fredericksburg City Council to order at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020, in the City Hall Conference Room, 126 West Main Street, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624.

Kent Myers, City Manager, stated this meeting is being held under the Executive Order issued by the Governor and the Disaster Declaration approved by Mayor Langerhans. He stated the meeting is limited to only 10 attendees at a time, so staff will be switching in and out of the meeting room to keep the attendees at 10. The meeting will be televised on fbg.live and broadcast on KNAF Radio to keep the community informed.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Langerhans stated the City Council welcomes public comments concerning items on this agenda. The public was encouraged to submit their comments before 3 p.m. to sgoodwin@fbgtx.org or by filling out a Comment Card in the lobby. She stated the City did not receive any emails or Comment Cards.

3. CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19)

a. Report on status of the City response to the Coronavirus pandemic

Kent Myers, City Manager, reported he appointed Lynn Bizzell, Fire Chief, as the City representative for the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Lynn Bizzell, Fire Chief, provided the background of the virus, which is being monitored daily. He stated currently there are 334 cases in Texas and 5 deaths, 87,000 test have been performed. He also reviewed the symptoms, what to do if you feel you have the virus, and the CDC Guidelines. It will take everyone to work together to stop the spread of the virus. The City is doing the following:

- Eliminated the public access to employees and handling services over the phone or website
- Employees are required to take their temperature before entering and exiting the City facilities
- If dispatch calls out the Fire Department and EMS, will screen the call and if someone has the symptoms then a first responder will suit up in a PPE.
- Fire Department/EMS employee vacations have been canceled.
- Employees are being split into crews and being kept separate.
- Eliminate out of State and County travels.
- Zoom meeting every morning at 8 a.m. with City and County leaders regarding the virus.

Kent Myers, City Manager, thanked the following:

- Mayor and City Council for their role and their responses to the citizens
- City Staff- Clinton Bailey, Lynn Bizzell, John Culpepper, Lea Feuge, Steve Wetz, Laura Hollenbeck, Tammie Loth, Russell Immel, and Shelley Goodwin

He also reviewed the different protections the City is taking:

- Stopped all City traveling for education or meetings
- Froze non-essential vacancies
- Temporary place a hold on CIP Projects
- Internal reduction on expenses

b. Discussion and approval of Disaster Declaration

Daniel Jones, City Attorney, stated on March 19, 2020, Mayor Langerhans issued a local Disaster Declaration which was good for 7 days. He stated if the City Council wishes to extend the Disaster Declaration they will have to take action before the end of the 7 days.

The City Council discussed the CDC Guidelines, Governor Abbott's Declaration, curfew, and the timeframe of a Declaration.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Watson, seconded by Councilmember Neffendorf to extend the Disaster Declaration Order indefinitely. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Discussion and approval of temporary closure of certain City services

Clinton Bailey, Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works and Utilities, stated it is important to maintain critical City services and keep employees and residents safe. He reviewed how different departments are handling services and staying safe.

Recycling Center

Clinton Bailey, Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works and Utilities, recommended temporarily closing the Recycling Center and temporarily moving the Recycling Center employees to the Landfill to help with their operations.

The City Council discussed putting a moratorium on issuing violations for overstuffing trash cans and recycling. They also discussed temporarily providing larger trash cans,

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Watson, seconded by Councilmember Kiehne to temporarily close the Recycling Center at the close of business on March 25, 2020, allow residents with smaller recycling cans to switch to a larger can until the Center reopens at no charge, and waive the fine for overstuffing of household trash cans for City residents. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Golf Course

Chris Meade, LBJ Golf Course, reviewed the current operations and the safety precautions that are being taken to protect golfers and employees. He also stated only the restrooms are open in the Club House and everything else is not open to the public. The Golf Course operations are open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The City Council discussed the Golf Course operations and the safety precautions that are being taken to protect golfers and employees.

Parks

Andrea Schmidt, Parks Department Director, reviewed all the canceled events and reservations at the RV Park. She recommended closing the playgrounds, Tatsch House, Pioneer Pavilion, Marktplatz Restroom and Kitchen, and Fort Martin Scott. These closures are intended to minimize public exposure to the virus. She stated they will monitor the Skate Park and the Basketball Courts to make sure that there 10 people or less at a time.

The City Council discussed the closures and the cleaning operations of the restrooms.

d. Report and discussion on financial impact to the City

Kent Myers, City Manager, stated with the reduction of tourism, sales tax, mix drink sales, Hotel Occupancy taxes, and City Building Permit fees the City will begin to feel the financial impact. He stated the City does have some reserves, but we are not sure of how long this virus will last. City staff has been asked to look at ways to cut back expenses and to look at projects that can wait a few months or until next year.

e. Discussion on future City Council and advisory board meetings

Kent Myers, City Manager, reviewed the upcoming Commission agenda items. He also reviewed the City Council Future Agenda Items.

Daniel Jones, City Attorney, reviewed different options for holding meetings during the COVID-19 Pandemic. He stated Governor Abbott has waived some of the Open Meetings Act and Public Comment Period to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding meetings that bring people into a group setting and under Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code. He also provided the process required if the City Council uses a Zoom Video Meeting.

The City Council discussed the option of Zoom Video Meetings and Zoom Teleconference Meetings and the Open Meetings Act.

f. Discussion of continuing to provide critical City Services.

Kent Myers, City Manager, stated this item was discussed as part of Agenda Item #3.c.

g. Discussion and possible action on the May 2, 2020 City of Fredericksburg General Election.

Shelley Goodwin, City Secretary, stated Governor Abbott issued a Proclamation on March 18, 2020, suspending Section 41.0052 (a) and (b) of the Texas Election Code to extent necessary to allow political subdivisions that would otherwise hold a general election on May 2, 2020, to move their general election for 2020 only to the next uniform election date, occurring on November 3, 2020, and suspending Sections 31.093 and 42.062(c) of the Texas Election Code to the extent necessary to require all county election officers to enter into a contract to furnish elections services or enter into a Joint Election with any political subdivision that postponed its election to November 3, 2020. She also stated she contacted the Secretary of State's Election Office and was told that the City has until the day before Early Voting to move our election.

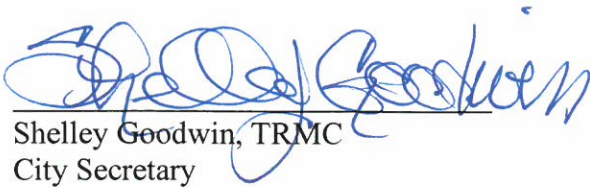
The City Council discussed holding May 2, 2020 General Election or moving to November 3, 2020. They also discussed extending the terms under the holdover provision for the 3 positions.

4. ADJOURN

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Watson, seconded by Councilmember Musselman to adjourn the Monday, March 23, 2020, City Council Special Meeting at 5:35 p.m.


Linda Langerhans
Mayor

ATTEST


Shelley Goodwin, TRMC
City Secretary