



City of San Marcos

630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

3:00 PM

City Council Chambers

630 E. Hopkins - Special Meeting

I. Call To Order

With a quorum present, the emergency meeting of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Hughson at 3:02 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2020 in the City Council Chambers, 630 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, Texas 78666.

II. Roll Call

Council Member Derrick arrived after roll call at 3:06 p.m.

Present: 6 - Council Member Melissa Derrick, Mayor Jane Hughson, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Mihalkanin, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Mark Rokeymoore, Council Member Maxfield Baker and Council Member Saul Gonzales

Absent: 1 - Council Member Joca Marquez

1. Consider approval of Resolution 2020-74R, under the authority of Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, declaring and extending a local state of disaster in the City of San Marcos, Texas due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Bert Lumbreras, City Manager, explained the need to extend this local state of disaster as the initial one is only valid for 7 days.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Mihalkanin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rokeymoore, to approve Resolution 2020-74R. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 5 - Mayor Hughson, Mayor Pro Tem Mihalkanin, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rokeymoore, Council Member Baker and Council Member Gonzales

Against: 0

Absent: 2 - Council Member Derrick and Council Member Marquez

2. Receive status reports and updates on response to COVID-19 pandemic; hold council discussion, and provide direction to staff.

Bert Lumbreras, stated that we are meeting today under special circumstances. The topic to consider the extension of the disaster declaration was moved up instead of having a special called meeting on Friday.

Along with this item, staff has prepared a presentation to go over all of the closures and actions City staff have announced in order to mitigate the spread of the virus.

This is a rapidly evolving situation, and City leadership has been in constant contact with State and local officials to stay apprised of the ongoing situation and coordinate our response. The City is following guidelines issued by both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as our local Health Authority to inform the actions we take.

As this situation continues, Staff is committed to keeping you informed on a regular basis and as changes occur.

Chase Stapp, Director of Public Safety led the presentation and provided information.

General update about known cases in the United States, Texas, and Hays County as of the March 16, 2020 4:00p.m. call with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS):

- 3,487 U.S. cases with 68 deaths in 53 states or territories**
- 57 cases in Texas**
- 3 in Hays County (additional cases under surveillance/pending testing)**

A working group of local emergency response and critical infrastructure decision makers was established two weeks ago.

Since COVID-19 became a known issue, emergency response staff have been participating in daily conference calls held by Texas DSHS to monitor the event and to stay abreast of changing CDC recommendations

City director teams began discussions about measures to protect employees including social distancing measures, telework potential, increased disinfection practices in work areas, and the use of remote meeting technology

The San Marcos Office of Emergency Management created High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) and Pandemic Response Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to help guide decisions about service delivery and emergency operations protocols. The SOP defines 5 levels of operation identified by DSHS. Each level is defined by certain trigger points related to the proliferation of the disease within the community. We are currently at Level 4 (multiple cases in Hays County, high to exceptional levels of media attention, International travel restrictions from the President of the United States

(POTUS), significant level of public panic.)
Level 4 is titled “Escalated”

Next level (5) is titled “Emergency Ops” and would be triggered by:

- Multiple cases in Hays County combined with confirmed community spread
- Exceptional levels of media attention
- Widespread mandated closures by the Hays County Health Dept
- Expected infrastructure breakdown (ability to deliver core services)

Other local efforts include:

- San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District is closed until April 5
- Texas State University has also extended Spring Break through March 27, and remote instruction begins Monday, March 30 through at least April 12 to enable social distancing measures on campus
- Hays County reported its first presumptive case of COVID-19 on Saturday, March 14
- Mayor and County Judge declared state of disaster on Sunday, March 15
This provides the Mayor authority to conduct certain restrictive activities aimed at reducing community spread and makes available state and federal assistance related to the disaster
- Yesterday, the Mayor signed an order related to limitations on gatherings larger than 50 people consistent with recommendations by CDC published March 15, 2020.

This does not impact schools, institutions of higher learning, and business settings (these could be impacted if Level 5 is reached.)

Effective March 17, 2020 the city has done the following:

- Closed the public library, activity center, discovery center, and senior center.
- Canceled all City-sponsored gatherings and programs with more than 50 people at city facilities.
- Limited library resources will be offered, social distancing procedures were implemented for all our outward-facing public areas, there have been changes to delivery of services, staff is working on outlining shift changes, the City Manager will review currently scheduled board and commission meetings, but the plan is to cancel or postpone all non-essential meetings through May 11
- agendas for Council, Planning & Zoning Commission, and Historic Preservation Commission will be evaluated and some items may be pushed to reduce duration of meetings
- Municipal Court is resetting all dockets scheduled through April 1 to a later date in April or May.

Defendants with appearance dates scheduled between now and April 1 are asked to call the court to schedule a new date. The court counter remains open, but customers are encouraged to pay their fines online.

• City is suspending utility disconnections due to the effects the COVID-19 crisis may have on customers. Customers are encouraged to pay their bill online or by phone

Mr. Stapp displayed the following helpful links for our community:

<http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/279/Coronavirus-and-Flu-Information-and-Prev> - will include FAQs

<http://haysinformed.com/health-update/>

<https://www.smcisd.net/>

Council held discussion and asked questions regarding what we are doing at the County and City level regarding testing for COVID-19 and what measures we are taking to ensure safety of our emergency services personnel.

There is criteria for testing and the individual will be asked questions regarding recent travel, if they have been exposed to someone that has tested positive, and if they are exhibiting symptoms.

There were members of the business community in attendance and Council asked about the restrictions on bars/restaurants.

Currently, it will result in the closure of bars, but restaurants will open in limited fashion.

A question regarding the homeless population and what we are doing to prevent this in that area was asked. Staff stated this is hard to determine as they move around often. However, they will be treated like any other patient should they seek medical attention.

Another population that is of concern are those that travel or live in vans and trailers, is there any way of reaching out to them?

There were questions regarding monitoring and regulating the restaurants to make sure they are in compliance with this order.

Questions about library services for our residents was addressed. Mr. Lumbreras explained there are and will be numerous impacts that our community may face from childcare, to distance learning, to library services,

and many others. Changes are occurring rapidly.

III. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rockeymoore, seconded by Council Member Derrick, to adjourn the emergency meeting at 4:06 p.m., March 17, 2020. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 6 - Council Member Derrick, Mayor Hughson, Mayor Pro Tem Mihalkanin, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rockeymoore, Council Member Baker and Council Member Gonzales

Against: 0

Absent: 1 - Council Member Marquez

Tammy K. Cook, Interim City Clerk

Jane Hughson, Mayor