



City of San Marcos

Special Meeting Minutes

City Council

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

This meeting was held using conferencing software due to the COVID-19 rules.

I. Call To Order

With a quorum present, the special meeting of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Hughson at 6:03 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2020. This meeting was held virtually.

II. Roll Call

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

Absent: 1 - Council Member Joca Marquez

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Executive Session in accordance with Texas Government Code - Section 551.071 - Consultation with Attorney: To receive legal advice from the City Attorney regarding proposed Ordinance 2020-17 to repeal Ordinance 2020-16 that previously ordered a special election to fill a vacancy in City Council Place 5 for May 2, 2020.

Mayor Hughson reordered the agenda and Council received the status reports and updates on response to COVID-19 pandemic and held discussion prior to going into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Council Member Derrick, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mihalkanin, to enter into Executive Session at 6:58 p.m. 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

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Receive status reports and updates on response to COVID-19 pandemic; hold council

discussion, and provide direction to Staff.

This item was presented prior to going into Executive Session.

Bert Lumbreras, City Manager, gave a brief introduction of the COVID-19 item. Chase Stapp, Director of Public Safety, provided status reports and updates on response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Updates to Governor Abbott's Actions:

- **March 25 - Waiver of certain licensing and regulatory requirements**
 - **Allowance for facilities with pending license applications to operate under the license of another licensed facility**
 - **Allowance for a remote hospital to be operated further than 30 miles away from main licensed hospital**
 - **Waiver of certain licensing renewal requirements for nurses to include a grace period for license renewals**
- **March 26 - Executive Order related to travel**
 - **Applies to people travelling to TX from or through an airport in the NY Tri-State area, the states of California, Louisiana, Washington, and the cities of Atlanta, GA, Chicago, IL, Detroit, MI, and Miami, FL.**
 - **Requires 14-day self-quarantine**

Efforts to date (updated)

- **River parks closure**
 - **park playscapes, Dog Park, Skate Park, park public restrooms are also closed**
 - **open spaces remain open with social distancing**
- **City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings held in virtual environment**
- **Business information line active: 512.393.5930**
 - **Call volume has been light (10 calls on Monday 3/30 by 1:30 p.m.)**
 - **Calls generally center around clarification of essential business functions and “should my employer still be open?”**
- **County email “hotline” active:**
CitizenComments@co.hays.tx.us
- **Daily Council email updates and message board additions**
- **Multiple State of Texas Assistance Requests (STAR) pending**

Other local efforts

- **San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District closed until at least April 13**
 - **Distance education in place**

- **Texas State University dorm move-out in progress**
- **Remote instruction beginning Monday, March 30 through end of semester**
- **Enhanced City Website with resources**
- **Addition of COVID-19 dashboard on Monday 3/30**

Additional City Actions

Posters reminding people to wash their hands after touching gas pump and other handles have been distributed to local businesses as applicable.

Upcoming considerations

- **Researching options to provide support for people experiencing homelessness due to many public restrooms being closed**
- **Possible partnership with Southside Community Center**
- **Finalizing arrangements for potential bed space for quarantine and hospital overflow**

New emergency Order considered by Mayor Hughson

Intended to mimic County Order to reduce confusion

- **Discussion – should it pertain to gas stations like the City of Kyle order?**
- **Occupancy limit of 10**
- **Minimum distance requirements (6-foot spacing)**
- **Required hand sanitizer station and/or attendant required at entrance**
- **Doors remain open or opened by attendant**

Council decided to continue with the education campaign and posters and not require door handles to be continually sanitized or left open or opened by an attendant.

Councilmember Baker expressed concern about physical distancing and the recent study at the University of Texas at Austin showing the benefit of cutting down contacts by 90 percent.

Councilmember Gonzales inquired about our local buses. Mr. Stapp noted that sanitizing is being done in addition to physical distancing.

Councilmember Rockeymore inquired about towing companies towing cars. They are on the Governor's list of Essential Services and therefore are required to maintain the social distancing regulations.

Financial Assistance Follow-up:

Implemented Strategies/Underway

- **Temporarily Halt Utility Service Disconnections for Nonpayment (evaluate**

after 90 days)

- Offer Utility Bill Payment Arrangements
- Waive Utility Bill Late Fees (evaluate after 90 days)

Council noted that publicizing these items will be appreciated by all.

Strategies Requiring Additional Analysis

- Re-allocate CDBG Funds - Consolidated Annual Action Plan must be amended to change any planned use of funds.
- Grants and Loans - Promoting Federal grant and loan programs including Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and Payroll Protection Loans created through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
- Strategic Initiative Funding / Special Economic Development Fund - Focus on federally-funded programs first before considering local funding from General Fund revenues which could potentially jeopardize ability to fund current staffing levels.

Items for consideration by Council will be on the April 7 meeting:

- Consider emergency ordinance requiring landlords to provide a notice to tenants that they have a right to cure a rent delinquency within XX days (60 or 90 depending on council's direction) before having to move out
 - Consider emergency ordinance raising the City Manager's spending authority to \$500,000 during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Consider emergency ordinance waiving late fees for non-payment of Hotel Occupancy Taxes (evaluate after 90 days)
 - Hold discussion on budget amendment for purchase of test kits and personal protective equipment for residents
3. Consider approval of Ordinance 2020-17, repealing Ordinance 2020-16 that ordered a Special Election to be held on May 2, 2020 for the purpose of filling a vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term of office of city council place five; giving public notice that a new date for conducting a Special Election to fill the vacancy will be ordered by adoption of a subsequent ordinance, with new filing deadlines, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic; declaring an emergency creating the need to adopt this ordinance with only one reading; and providing an effective date.

Mayor Hughson stated Executive Session concluded at 7:16 p.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Mihalkanin, seconded by Council Member Gonzales, to approve Ordinance 2020-17, on first and final reading. 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

III. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rockeymoore, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mihalkanin, to adjourn the special meeting of the City Council at 7:26 p.m. 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