

City Council Minutes
March 23, 2020

The meeting was called to order in the Library meeting room at 7:00p.m. as posted due to the guidelines for COVID-19 precautions by Mayor J.D. Hegwood. Present were Lance DeLissa, Armando Gonzalez, Roberto Holguin, Brian Kroth and George Lucas. Also present were City Administrator Dean Cordes and City Clerk Janet Gleason. Visitors were Tom Kuhns, Bobbi Allison, Jeff Mathe and Michele Inlow.

There will be no utility shut offs in March as per State Resolution 20-05 until it is rescinded on May 1. Residents with past due accounts will be asked to complete an extension request and payment plan.

Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Kroth to follow the Governor's guidelines to not shut off for non-payment and not charge late payment surcharges but when State Resolution 20-05 is lifted, the customer will have 30 days to pay the account in full or the penalties will be added on the account. Motion carried with all in favor.

Gleason asked the council if they would consider waiving credit card fees to customers until the office is open to the public. The city would incur the cost of those fees. Council requested Gleason contact the credit card processor regarding the possibility of waiving the credit card fees. Motion by Kroth, seconded by Holguin to waive credit card fees to the customer until the executive order 20-07 ends.

Inlow presented the police report. Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by DeLissa to enter executive session with Council, Inlow and Attorney for matters related to security measures to meet back into this same room in 10 minutes. Motion carried with all in favor. After executive session, no action was taken.

Jeff Mathe explained to council that he has not received an increase in pay for his position as Animal Control Officer since he was hired in 2015. The position requires more paperwork and time than it did when he started. Motion by Kroth, seconded by Lucas to increase the monthly pay for the animal control officer to \$325.00 a month and requested he transfer all contacts related to Animal Control to the city owned cell phone. Motion carried with all in favor.

March 9, 2020 minutes were approved as written.

Council discussed the updated information bids for a security system for the municipal building.

Cordes presented to Council water report of the well static levels and gallons/minute from 2012 to present as well as pumping history for the past 30 years. Council also reviewed current water rates over the past 39 years. Council discussed the impending water project and the need to begin updating the infrastructure of the city. If the city would need a loan for a water project, the state would require the city to raise rates significantly so that the funds could be put into reserves to fund future projects. Cordes felt the increases would be much less if the city could review the current rules and adjust prior to the project.

Cordes informed the Council that due to directives regarding COVID-19 for social distancing and the disinfection of public areas and restrooms, the City Offices have been closed to the public. Council discussed concerns regarding the park play equipment and restrooms. It would be impossible to close the park to the public so council requested Cordes post signs at the city park and city park restrooms that it is in the public's own risk to use the facilities.

Motion by DeLissa, seconded by Holguin to renew the beer license for U Pump II. DeLissa-yes, Holguin-yes, Kroth-yes, Lucas-yes, Gonzalez-yes. Motion carried.

Council approved the purchase of a cell phone for City Office use.

Council approved for Taylor Kroth, Shari Christanson and Stelly Cook to share responsibilities of the management of the city pool this summer.

Kuhns reviewed information from the State regarding COVID-19 and the Family First Response Act. The 10-person limit to public meetings goes into effect tomorrow but KOMA still applies. Council discussed possible options for the next meeting if teleconferencing is necessary.

Kuhns informed the council and visitors that there would be a strategic planning meeting for economic development on Thursday May 28 at the Courthouse at 7 p.m.

Motion by Kroth, seconded by Gonzalez to enter executive session with Council, Cordes, Gleason and Kuhns for attorney client matters to meet back in this same room in 10 minutes. After executive session, no action was taken.