



City of Garden Ridge

"A way of life, not just a place to live"

MINUTES CITY COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020, 3:00 P.M.

Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Larry Thompson
Mayor Pro-Tem John McCaw
Councilmember Lisa Swint
Councilmember Bryan Lantzy
Councilmember Todd Arvidson
Councilmember Kay Bower

Councilmembers Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Nancy Cain, City Administrator
Marisa Spencer, City Secretary
Ron Eberhardt, Chief of Police
Karen Ford, Finance/HR
Steven Steinmetz, Public Works Director
Jacob Parsons, Water Manager
Linda Crosland, Librarian

1. Call to Order

With a quorum of the City Councilmembers present, Mayor Thompson called the emergency special meeting of the Garden Ridge City Council to order at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, in the City Council Chambers of the Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266.

2. Roll Call: See above.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

4. Citizen Comment Period: No one signed up to speak.

5. Approvals/Authorizations

The following are for discussion, consideration, and action.

a) Discussion and possible action on precautionary public health measures in reference to the COVID-19 Virus.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding recommendations and actions taken by federal, state, and local leaders in reference to COVID-19. He stated that on March 13th, President Trump declared a National State of Emergency and Governor Abbott declared a State of Disaster for all 254 counties in the State of Texas. He further stated that a few large counties and cities in the State of Texas declared a local disaster due to this public health emergency. Mayor Thompson spoke regarding Councilmember Swint coordinating with volunteer organizations to provide food, supplies, resources, and any other items or services needed.

Mayor Thompson provided City Council with an update on meeting with Department Heads and implementing precautionary public health measures in reference to COVID-19, stating Department Heads did a great job working together and brainstorming ideas.

Each Department Head spoke regarding steps taken in their department to ensure continuity of operations while also limiting in-person contact to protect citizens and staff.

The City Council discussed the precautionary public health measures implemented on March 13, 2020 (see attached). The City Council agreed by consensus on the following additional measures:

- Water bill late fees/notice will not be issued during April 2020.
- Extend the closure of the Garden Ridge Library through April 2020, including cancellation of all Library activities.
- Extend cancellation of City Commission and Committee meetings through April 2020.
- Extend cancellation of rentals for the Garden Ridge Community and Event Center Wildflower Room and Bluebonnet Room through April 2020.
- Extend cancellation of reservations for Paul Davis Park Pavilions and Concession Hut through April 2020.
- Close City Hall Lobby through April 2020 with public access on an appointment only basis.
- Place signs at City parks encouraging citizens to follow all guidelines and recommendations set out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Approval of employee pay during self-quarantine, mandated quarantine, or shutdown.
- Discourage public gatherings within the City that violate federal and/or state guidance.

The City Council discussed working with Comal County and Comal Independent School District regarding their May election and use of the Council Chambers for early voting.

b) Discussion and possible action on an Ordinance declaring a local state of disaster and public health emergency in reference to the COVID-19 Virus.

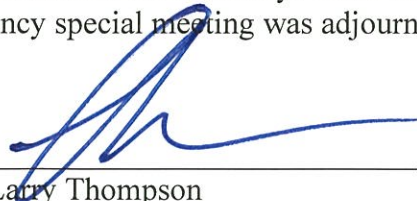
Mayor Thompson spoke regarding discussions with Jeff Kelley, Comal County Emergency Management Coordinator, and stated County Judge Krause has not declared a local state of disaster. The City Council agreed by consensus to continue implementing precautionary public health measures and not take action on an ordinance declaring a local state of disaster and public health emergency at this time.

The City Council discussed testing standards and procedures. Mayor Thompson spoke regarding a dedicated hotline number for Comal County (830-221-1120) to address questions and concerns related to COVID-19 in addition to providing information to alleviate potential rumors.

6. Citizen Comment Period: No one wished to speak.

7. Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Lantzy, seconded by Councilmember Arvidson, to adjourn. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously. There being no further business, the Tuesday, March 17, 2020, City Council emergency special meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m. by Mayor Thompson.



Larry Thompson
Mayor

ATTEST



Marisa Spencer
City Secretary