

SPECIAL MEETING

LOCKHART CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 24, 2020

6:30 P.M.

**CLARK LIBRARY ANNEX-COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 217 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 3rd FLOOR,
LOCKHART, TEXAS**

Council present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Angie Gonzales-Sanchez
Councilmember Juan Mendoza
Councilmember Jeffry Michelson

Mayor Lew White
Councilmember Derrick David Bryant
Councilmember Kara McGregor
Councilmember Brad Westmoreland

Staff present:

Steven Lewis, City Manager
Miles Smith, Public Information Officer
Randy Jenkins, Fire Chief

Connie Constancio, City Secretary
Monte Akers, City Attorney (via teleconference)
Pam Larison, Finance Director

Citizens/Visitors Addressing the Council: James Jewell, EMS Director; Hector Rangel, Caldwell County Emergency Management Coordinator; Dr. Charles Laurence; and, Citizen, Rebecca Allen.

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Lew White called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ITEM 2-A. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING THE CITY OF LOCKHART'S
MAYORAL DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY ORDERED BY MAYOR LEW WHITE ON MARCH 17, 2020 AND AMENDED
MARCH 19, 2020, RELATED TO COVID-19.**

Mayor White requested updates from various individuals regarding the COVID-19 status in Caldwell County.

Hector Rangel, Caldwell County Emergency Management Coordinator, Randy Jenkins, Fire Chief, and James Jewell, EMS Director gave an update regarding COVID-19 procedures, cases and public safety measures taken by each entity.

Dr. Charles Laurence gave an update regarding medical practices for determining who to test for COVID-19 and he provided health safety tips.

Mayor White requested the following citizen to address the Council:

Rebecca Allen, 515 Wichita, requested that the City consider implementing a plan to assist the low income and elderly with obtaining basic necessities during the pandemic.

Mayor White encouraged all to maintain healthy practices, to work at home, if possible, and to follow the social distancing requirements. He recommended that the Declaration be extended to April 7, 2020 and to put the item on the agenda for each Council meeting thereafter for consideration.

Mayor White made a motion to extend the City of Lockhart Mayoral Declaration of Local State of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency ordered by Mayor Lew White on March 17, 2020 and amended on March 19, 2020, related to COVID-19 until April 7, 2020. The Declaration is to be placed on each council meeting agenda thereafter. Councilmember McGregor seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Akers clarified that the minutes reflecting that the Declaration was extended to April 7, 2020 was suffice.

Mr. Lewis provided the Council an update regarding modified services in several city departments to follow the social distancing requirements. Central Texas Refuse requested that the city-wide cleanup be postponed until further notice. He provided additional city and community updates relating to COVID-19.

Ms. Larison gave an update regarding the utility payment processing to follow social distancing regulations as follows:

1. **Pausing Payment-Related Disconnections.** To ensure customers have the power they need during this crisis, the City of Lockhart has suspended service disconnections for residential and small commercial customers for 60 days effective March 24, 2020.
2. **Late Payment Waivers.** The City of Lockhart is providing relief by waiving late payment fees. In order to qualify for a late fee waiver, customers must contact the City of Lockhart's Utility department to make a partial payment towards their account on or before the due date. The City will forego the current requirements for extensions and payment plans.
3. **Encourage Social Distancing.** With the importance of social distancing to curb the spread of COVID-19, the City of Lockhart has reminded citizens of the various ways they can reach the Utility department to make payments, including drop boxes located at both the front and back entrances of City Hall, drive-thru window at Municipal Court building, credit card payment by phone, and online web pay through the City's website.

There was discussion.

ITEM 3. ADJOURNMENT.


Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Mendoza seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

PASSED and APPROVED this the 5th day of May 2020.

CITY OF LOCKHART


Lew White, Mayor

ATTEST:


Connie Constancio, TRMC
City Secretary

