



CITY OF ROLLINGWOOD EMERGENCY SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

On March 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., the City Council of the City of Rollingwood, Texas held an Emergency Special Called meeting, open to the public, via video conference and telephone in accordance with an order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16, 2020.

The public was able to watch this meeting live and had the opportunity to comment via audio devices at the following link: <https://meetings.ipvideotalk.com/160804384>

The public was also able to participate in this meeting by dialing one of the following numbers: 1(617) 315-8088 or toll free at 1(888) 330-2489 and entering the Meeting ID: 160804384. The public was permitted to offer public comments via their audio devices when logged in to the meeting or telephonically by calling in as provided by the agenda and as permitted by the presiding officer during the meeting. The following items were discussed at this meeting.

CALL REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

Mayor Michael Dyson called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Present Members: Mayor Michael Dyson, Councilmember Wendi Hundley, Councilmember Gavin Massingill, Councilmember Amy Pattillo, Councilmember Buck Shapiro, and Councilmember Sara Hutson.

Also Present: City Administrator Amber Lewis, City Attorney Charles Zech, Police Chief Jason Brady, and City Secretary Ashley Wayman.

Mayor Michael Dyson explained how the public is able to participate in this meeting. He also commented on the Shelter in Place Order issued by the County yesterday and stated that the purpose of today's meeting is to potentially extend the public health disaster order declared last week.

He gave an overview of the current situation in the City of Rollingwood. He thanked City Staff for their efforts during this time as well as the group of Rollingwood Residents that are ensuring that those in the community that need assistance are able to receive it. He also discussed precautions people should be taking to protect public health during this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals spoke during public comments:

- Leslee Bassman, asked about the list that was created for pairing the most vulnerable of the city's residents with those volunteers and how to get on that list, who to contact, and what safeguards are in place.
- Mayor Michael Dyson discussed that this is an effort that has been taken on by some members of the community and thanked those Rollingwood citizens. He also stated that the best way for those that need assistance to get on the list is to have them contact City Hall or the Police Department. He gave his email address as well. He stated that Rollingwood is always here to lend a helping hand.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Discussion and possible action on an ordinance extending a declaration of local disaster in the City of Rollingwood and adopting any rules and regulations deemed necessary to protect the health and safety of the Citizens of Rollingwood in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Michael Dyson stated that City Council has been provided the declarations from Travis County and one from the City of Austin. He stated that City Attorney Charles Zech has a question in regarding what is considered "essential infrastructure."

City Attorney Charles Zech stated that he does not have an answer from the county regarding whether residential and commercial construction would be considered exempt from this order as "essential infrastructure."

Wendi Hundley asked for clarification on if the City of Rollingwood was covered under Travis County's declaration and what actions need to be taken today.

City Attorney Charles Zech explained that according to the Local Government Code, the Mayor has the authority to declare an emergency declaration of disaster, which gives them discretion to implement certain restrictions associated with the disaster. That declaration lasts for 7 days, and then the governing body can extend it for a certain period. The Mayor's powers to implement those restrictions would be extended with it. He explained that the County Judge also has those powers and the City can only go more strict than the county, not less strict, and that the City's local law enforcement has the power to enforce the county's declarations.

City Attorney Charles Zech also stated that by extending the declaration the City would qualify for funding to be reimbursed for expenses related to this public health disaster. He discussed the City's options at this point. He also asked the Mayor whether he had executed the amended declaration of disaster that incorporated all of the County's language.

Mayor Michael Dyson stated that he did not yet execute the amended declaration and he discussed the next steps for the City Council. He then stated that what he is asking the Council to do today is to extend the disaster declaration incorporating the new information from the County's declaration.

The City Council discussed residential construction in Rollingwood and where it may fall under this declaration. Wendi Hundley stated that she felt that projects that are underway that would pose a public health/safety risk should be able to continue. City Attorney Charles Zech stated

that local law enforcement officers have discretion in how they handle certain issues on a case-by-case basis.

The Council discussed getting formal notice to contractors letting them know of the new restrictions, and the water line break incident that happened day before.

Sara Hutson stated that she has received questions about whether yard services can continue, and City Administrator Amber Lewis stated that her understanding is that routine landscaping and lawn care is permitted to continue. City Attorney Charles Zech stated that he was not clear on if the exemption extends to all areas of lawn care.

Gavin Massingill clarified that if the City extends the current declaration that the Mayor has issued, it would still carry the provisions that the County has already adopted and that it would give the city maximum flexibility to be stricter than the County. City Attorney Charles Zech agreed with this clarification.

Mayor Michael Dyson asked that the City Council consider extending the declaration as amended to include the changes put forward by the County.

Amy Pattillo stated that she has gotten the most questions about the construction issue, and agrees that builders need to be given some kind of notice. She also explained that she hopes that we can continue to have a health and safety prospective on this issue and that builders and contractors are respectful in following these rules.

Sara Hutson asked if there is any way to put a restriction on excavation at this time because that would include mostly projects that are just beginning and this would help prevent water line breaks. Mayor Michael Dyson agreed that this is an important issue and could be looked in to though it may be difficult to put a blanket prohibition on excavation and it may be better to look at these on a case-by-case basis.

Buck Shapiro advocated for dealing with these construction issues on a case-by-case basis and finding compromises as opposed to shutting everything down and risking the economic impact that would have.

City Attorney Charles Zech stated that the city could enforce the order however they want, but if a citizen asks the County to come in and enforce something further they can.

Mayor Michael Dyson stated that Rhett Bennett inquired about the differences between the Austin and Travis County ordinances and he stated that though he did not know all the specific differences, but he felt that the level of clarification on essential construction was a main difference.

Police Chief Jason Brady stated that they have already received some complaints and had been out to visit some sites. He stated that he felt that there does need to be some discretion but that the goal is to keep people from gathering in large groups. He said that there might not be a framework that could be created but that, going forward, discretion would be used to determine what is appropriate.

Gavin Massingill motioned to extend the Mayor's existing declaration of emergency for 30 days from today. Sara Hutson seconded the motion.

Amy Pattillo asked if the declaration needs to be amended to include the Travis County order. Gavin Massingill stated that in his opinion they do not need to because they are already under the Travis County order and that this gives the city maximum flexibility to go stricter than that order.

Buck Shapiro inquired about the length of extension of the order and how it is impacted by Travis County's timeline. Mayor Michael Dyson stated that if the county sees fit to rescind the order at any time in the future, the city could consider doing so as well. City Attorney Charles Zech reiterated the implications of today's actions.

Mayor Michael Dyson called for a roll-call vote.

- **Buck Shapiro - Yes**
- **Amy Pattillo - Yes**
- **Wendi Hundley - Yes**
- **Sara Hutson - Yes**
- **Gavin Massingill - Yes**

The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Michael Dyson stated that the city is required per ordinance to establish a Municipal Disaster Emergency Services Committee. He listed the members of this committee as well as the members of the Operational Disaster Services Organization. He stated that the city is complying with this ordinance and that the Police Chief put together a great message that has been put on the page on the website.

City Administrator Amber Lewis stated that disaster services page is easy to find on the website and discussed the information that is on the page.

Wendi Hundley thanked the Mayor and city staff for their work during this time. Mayor Michael Dyson echoed her thanks to the staff and community.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Gavin Massingill motioned to adjourn the meeting. Wendi Hundley seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Minutes Adopted on the 15th day of April, 2020.

Michael R. Dyson

Michael R. Dyson (Apr 15, 2020)

Michael R. Dyson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Awayman

Ashley Wayman, City Secretary






03-25-2020 Emergency Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2020-04-15

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