

Minutes
Special Meeting
May 5, 2020

The City Council of the City of Devine, Texas, conducted a Special Meeting scheduled for May 5, 2020, 6:00 p.m., at 303 S. Teel Drive, Texas 78016, Live Stream, and the following members being present:

Mayor Cory Thompson – (In Person)
Alderman Steve A. Lopez – (In Person)
Alderman David Espinosa – (In Person)
Alderwoman Debbie Randall – (In Person)
Alderman Rufino Vega – (In Person)
Alderman Chuck Guzman – (In Person)

Thus, constituting a quorum.

Personnel present: Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary (In Person); Denise Duffy, City Accountant (In Person); Tom Cate, City Attorney (In Person); and Rob Flores, Emergency Management Coordinator (In Person).

Others present: None

Mayor Thompson, presiding, called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was to discuss and consider and act upon Declaration of Public Health Emergency issued by Mayor on March 25, 2020 including Possible Changes and Extensions.

Per Rob, most cities seem to be following the governor's orders but within the county, we are following the County's order. Medina County Judge Schuchart did the attestation to apply for the 50% capacity since we have five or less active cases within the County; currently we have two active within the County.

Mayor Thompson inquired if some of these city declarations are expiring and going with the governor's or county's orders. Per Rob, this seems to be the trend that was going on with the other towns.

Council reviewed Exhibit A. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez told Council that there were no changes.

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Mayor Thompson said he would like to go ahead and open the City Parks but follow the CDC guidelines as far as the six feet distancing and no more than 10 people gathering, effective tomorrow.

Alderman Guzman suggested going over the Exhibit A, line by line, since he was not familiar with everything that transpired before he came into office.

Council discussed the following items on Exhibit A:

1. City Hall – The lobby of City Hall is closed to the public until further notice. Mayor Thompson recommended leaving City Hall as it currently is, which is working through the drive-thru window and having the lobby remain closed. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez announced that the drive-thru window has been re-opened 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., from the previous 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon hours. She is also looking into getting Medina Glass to install Plexiglas in front of the lobby front counters, to be ready when we open up the lobby.
2. Utility Cut-Offs and Late Fees – Utility cut-offs and late penalties will be suspended for the duration of the pandemic. According to Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, we haven't done any cut-offs or applied any late fees until Council tells us to do so. Emergency Management Coordinator Rob Flores stated that if we can go another month, he would prefer to do that because there are still some issues with the stimulus checks. Mayor Thompson said that we will address this again sometime in June.
3. Community Center – All activities at this location are cancelled until further notice. Per Emergency Management Coordinator Rob Flores, all events through the end of May are currently cancelled. Mayor Thompson said it should stay this way for a while longer. We will look at this again in June.
4. Parks – Mayor Thompson, as stated earlier, said he would like to re-open the parks but follow CDC guidelines. Emergency Management Coordinator Rob Flores stated that if we do this, he needs a few days to make signs to post at the parks. He will try to get them done by Friday. Alderman Guzman recommended adding wording to the signs that children under a certain age must be accompanied by an adult; he suggested ages 14-15-16. He said that if these older kids should be approached by an officer, they're more likely to have some type of ID on them; a temporary driver's license or a permit. Council held lengthy discussion, and finally decided that the signs need to state that children 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult. Alderman Espinosa stated that he feels it's too early to open the parks and would like to revisit this at our next regular meeting in June.

Motion by Alderwoman Randall, seconded by Alderman Guzman to re-open the Briscoe and John Curcio Parks with signs indicating social distancing and age restriction, children 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult.

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Ayes	--	Four – Alderwoman Randall and Aldermen Guzman, Vega and Lopez
Nays	--	One – Alderman Espinosa

Motion carried.

5. Municipal Court – All Court has been rescheduled through June. This will be left as is, as it is out of our control.
6. City Gatherings – All gatherings with 10 or more people are cancelled until further notice. Discussion was held on there not being any gatherings in the near future. We will leave this as is for now, and re-address it in June.
7. City Council Meetings – City Council Meetings may be cancelled as required. The necessity of conducting meetings will be continually evaluated. If meetings are necessary, only essential items will be placed on the agenda. We will leave this as is for now, and re-address it in June.
8. Library – The Library will remain closed to the public until further notice. The setup that we have right now is working fine. This will be left as is for now.
9. Animal Shelter – The shelter shall remain closed to the public until further notice. We will leave this as is for now and re-address it in June.
10. Public Works – This will remain the same, and we will re-address it in June.
11. Police Department – Police Department will continue normal operations. Their lobby door remains locked as well. This will remain the same for now except for asking the patrol officers to be more aware when driving down the main streets by the parks. We will re-address this in June.
12. Municipal Airport – The Airport will continue normal operations at this time. This will remain as is.
13. Travel – All city employees and officers shall limit personal travel to essential travel. This will be left as is, and will be re-addressed in June.
14. Code Compliance – This is the same as City Hall; work is being conducted through the drive-thru window or via email, and packages are being dropped off at the front door, if needed. We will leave this as is for now and re-address it in June.
15. Businesses – All businesses in Devine shall clean and disinfect their premises as required by the existing facts and circumstances. Council held discussion on changing the wording on this to just follow the State guidelines.

Motion by Alderman Espinosa, seconded by Alderman Lopez to change the wording, for the Businesses section, to follow the State Guidelines.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

16. Signs of Illness – If any person or any members of a person’s family should exhibit signs of COVID-19 infection, they should remain at home and seek medical help from their doctor. Council . Council discussed the same as above, to change the wording to follow State Guidelines. They said that some of the symptoms have changed.

Motion by Alderwoman Randall, seconded by Alderman Lopez to update the symptoms and change the wording to follow the State’s CDC guidelines.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

17. Curfew – Mayor Thompson explained the daytime curfew was done to help out the schools by following their truancy guidelines. Discussion was held on school being almost over, and Council reviewed the actual ordinance. City Attorney Tom Cate went over the normal evening curfew hours with Council. Alderman Guzman inquired if our police department has actually enforced this or written any citations. After being told that, no, they haven’t, Alderman Guzman recommended to just strike this from the exhibit since our Police Department does not enforce it or issue any citations, and to just stay with our normal curfew ordinance. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary pointed out that the officers are not out there looking to give tickets; they’re just talking to the kids right now if they did see them out and about.

Motion by Alderwoman Randall, seconded by Alderman Vega to remove the Curfew from Exhibit A and revert back to our regular curfew ordinance.

Ayes	--	Four – Alderwoman Randall and Aldermen Guzman, Vega and Lopez
Nays	--	One – Alderman Espinosa

Motion carried.

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18. Golf Course – Recommendations for the Golf Course. Mayor Thompson stated that now the State has their own golf course rules, so we can just follow their guidelines. Discussion was held that the golf course now be covered under Item #15 – Businesses. Mayor Thompson recommended to strike this altogether from Exhibit A, and have the Golf Course fall under Item #15 – Businesses, and follow State guidelines.

Motion by Alderman Guzman, seconded by Alderwoman Randall to remove the Golf Course from Exhibit A and allow it to follow State guidelines.

Ayes	--	Four – Alderwoman Randall and Aldermen Guzman, Vega and Lopez
Nays	--	One – Alderman Espinosa

Motion carried.

19. City Advisory Boards and Committees – All meetings of the City Advisory Boards and Committees are canceled until further notice. Only the Planning & Zoning Commission is having meetings on an as needed basis because they are a state-required board. Council held discussion on the other boards. Mayor Thompson recommended that we leave this as is until we re-address it in June.
20. Food Pantry – This was following the San Antonio Food Pantry’s guidelines. Council held discussion on leaving this as is, it was a recommendation only, until we re-address it in June.
21. Operating Businesses – This had to do with businesses providing their employees with personal protective equipment (PPE), and all businesses cleaning and sanitizing all areas subject to be touched by the general public. This was a recommendation only. Council held discussion on various businesses, and on people wearing masks. Mayor Thompson recommended leaving this item in place for the time being until we re-address it in June.

Motion by Alderman Espinosa , seconded by Alderwoman Randall to accept the recommendations on all of the other items that were not addressed through motions during the discussions.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

The second order of business was an Update on Measures by the City of Devine on the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic.

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Emergency Management Coordinator Rob Flores commented that everything we just talked about is where we currently are with the City. Discussion was held on there being a lot of recommendations and guidelines and on how we can address and enforce all of this.

According to Emergency Management Coordinator Rob Flores, we've had limited complaints since this has been going on, but we address these issues through phone calls and stay on it until we're good. He stated we've not had a lot of complaints or issues around town. He said businesses are attempting to comply. Basically, as a whole, we're doing really well for the most part especially on our stats.

The free testing at the new Fire House on County Road 5710 went well on Saturday; they tested 63 people. The National Guard and TDA were there. According to Emergency Management Coordinator Rob Flores, everything was handled in a very professional and very courteous manner. Another testing will be held this Saturday in Hondo at the Fairgrounds.

Mayor Thompson thanked the people and businesses who are somewhat trying to adhere to the CDC guidelines.

Mayor Thompson then inquired about the loss of tax revenue in town and sales tax losses and was curious if the State or the County has put out some type of formula that we can apply to figure out what the losses in sales taxes will be. According to Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, they have a webinar tomorrow that will address what we can be reimbursed for. She's not sure if they will be talking about tax losses but said she will check on this and will let Council know. She told Council that we have collected over 80% in property taxes, based on our system.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez reported that SAWS reached out to various cities and donated 225 masks to the City of Devine.

Alderman Guzman inquired if we've had to furlough any employees. According to Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, we've not had to furlough anyone, but we've had some employees working out of their homes.

The third order of business was Informational Items.

Council held discussion on various items around town.

There being no further business to come before the governing body, motion made by Alderwoman Randall, seconded by Alderman Guzman to adjourn the meeting.

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Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

Mayor

City Secretary