



City of San Marcos

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, May 14, 2020

3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

This meeting was held using conferencing software due to the COVID-19 rules.

I. Call To Order

With a quorum present, the special meeting of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Hughson at 3:01 p.m. Thursday, May 14, 2020.

II. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Council Member Melissa Derrick, Mayor Jane Hughson, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Mihalkanin, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Mark Rockeymoore, Council Member Maxfield Baker and Council Member Saul Gonzales

Absent: 1 - Council Member Joca Marquez

PRESENTATIONS

1. Receive status reports and updates on response to COVID-19 pandemic; hold council discussion, and provide direction to Staff.

Chase Stapp, Director of Public Safety provided an update and provided status reports in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Known Cases as of today:

- 1,342,594 U.S. cases with at least 80,820 fatalities in 55 states or territories including D.C. (More than 18,000 new cases since yesterday)
- 41,048 cases in 220 Texas counties with 1,133 fatalities
- 214 in Hays County with 3 fatalities (69 active and 142 recovered)
- 2,026 tests returned negative
- 19 active and 41 recovered in San Marcos (1 fatality)
- 20 cases have required hospitalization, 3 current

Update to Governor Abbott's Actions:

- **May 7: Executive Order eliminating confinement as a punishment for violating orders**
- **May 11: Federal funding for local jurisdictions**
 - Letter and call to city and county leaders announcing \$5.06 billion in funding available to local governments in Texas through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security

(CARES) Act; \$1.85 of this available to cities and counties under 500k population

- Cities under population of 500,000 eligible for \$55 per capita allocation from the \$1.85 billion - San Marcos potentially eligible for \$3.5 to \$3.7 million in reimbursement funds

- US Treasury: “funds may not be used to fill shortfalls in government revenue to cover expenditures that would not otherwise qualify as an eligible expenditure.”

- **May 11: All nursing home residents, staff to be tested**

Efforts to date:

- **Recovery Task Force continues to meet**
- **Processed Late Fee Exemptions for 117 commercial utility accounts, 80 residential utility accounts since implementation on March 26**
- Set up payment arrangements totaling over \$237,000 for 895 utility customer accounts over that same time period**
- **Transitioned to Council review of COVID-19 dashboard**

Upcoming Considerations:

- **Evaluate duration of parks closures**
- **Requirements for safety practices at re-opened businesses**
- **Phased approach of re-opening City services and facilities**
- **Business Assistance Program - partnership with County**
- **CDBG-CV applications due May 20**

(<http://sanmarcostx.gov/3065/CDBG-Action-Plans>)

- **Future Council meeting updates**

Mr. Stapp asked Council if they would like to continue weekly updates via a Special Meeting for the COVID-19 updates. Council consensus is to continue the update during the City Council meetings and continue the special meeting update during non-council meeting weeks through the month of June, adding to existing special meetings when available.

Council Member Baker expressed concerns regarding the city’s efforts to provide enough Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Director Stapp noted that we have plenty now and will request more as the need extends into the future. He also inquired about the Chamber of Commerce ensuring businesses are adhering to the Governor's recommendations. Council consensus is for staff to have discussion with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage their members to follow the Governor's recommendations. The Chamber of Commerce has been extremely helpful in getting the word out on a number of

topics that have been helpful, such as publicizing the list of restaurants that are open and quick links to the Governor's Open Texas plan.

Council Member Baker asked where does the City stand with liability when staff returns to work. Mr. Cosentino mentioned that Mr. Lumbreras has outlined the steps on how the City is handling the safety and health of staff. Mr. Lumbreras provide details on the processes, procedures, and requirements for city staff. Mr. Cosentino mentioned that as the City is rolling out the business financial assistance, the City can create criteria on the grants. If businesses are going to apply, then the business must adhere to the Governor's recommendations.

Mr. Lumbreras stated that city staff is developing a teleworking policy and it does have to be evaluated in which cases it will apply.

Council Member Derrick expressed concerns for staff being in cubicles and vent circulation.

Mr. Lumbreras reiterated if employees can't meet the social distancing requirement then staff will need to put on a face mask. Mr. Lumbreras stated that we are following CDC guidelines in terms of their recommendations. Mr. Lumbreras mentioned that we are putting up shields for public facing counters similar to the grocery stores.

Council Member Baker asked what is the number of deaths or hospitalizations that is designated to enforce strict measures. Mr. Stapp stated that staff is working with the health department and epidemiologist to develop a method of ratio that includes the daily new case count, number of recovery cases and active cases and that number will help determine to enforce strict measures.

Council Member Baker suggested to write a letter to the Governor and Attorney General to support our city to have strict controls as Austin and San Antonio has.

Council consensus is to contact different municipalities for interest in requesting from the Governor the ability to enforce authority as a local government.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Executive Session in accordance with Section §551.074 of the Texas Government Code: Personnel Matters - Council will be discussing and conducting annual performance evaluations of the City Manager and Municipal Court Judge.

Council convened into Executive Session at 4:21 p.m. to provide appointee evaluations to the City Manager and Municipal Court Judge.

DIRECTION/ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. Consider action, by motion, or provide direction to Staff regarding the following Executive Session item in accordance with Section §551.074 of the Government Code: Personnel Matters - Council will be discussing and conducting annual performance evaluations of the City Manager and Municipal Court Judge.

Mayor Hughson stated that evaluations were provided to the City Manager and Municipal Court Judge.

III. Adjournment.

Mayor Hughson adjourned the Special Meeting of the City Council at 5:09 p.m.

Tammy K. Cook, Interim City Clerk

Jane Hughson, Mayor