

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACHSE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2020

The City Council of the City of Sachse held a special meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at Sachse City Hall, 3815 Sachse Road, Building B, Sachse, Texas. Those present were Mayor Mike Felix, Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Howarth, Councilmembers Brett Franks, Paul Watkins, Chance Lindsey, and Jeff Bickerstaff; City Manager, Gina Nash; City Secretary, Michelle Lewis Sirianni; IT Manager, Danny Wheeler; Fire Chief, Marty Wade; and Police Chief, Bryan Sylvester. Councilmember King participated via Zoom meeting.

Mayor Felix opened the special meeting at 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO U.S. AND STATE FLAGS:

Councilman King offered the invocation and Councilman Lindsey led the pledges.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Consider continuing the Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency declared by the Mayor on March 12, 2020 and associated control order regarding community gatherings for a period exceeding 7 days.

Mrs. Nash stated that in order to extend the declaration beyond the initial seven days, the City Council must approve the extension, which will now be through Friday, April 3, 2020. Any further extensions would have to be approved by the City Council likely within a special meeting due to the evolving and rapid changes that continue to occur.

Mayor Pro Tem Howarth made a motion to approve a resolution of the City Council of the City of Sachse, Texas, continuing the declaration of local disaster; providing for implementation of the City's Emergency Management Plan; providing prompt and general publicity; declaring a local disaster for public health emergency and adopting the City of Sachse's Emergency Order dated March 13, 2020 and Dallas County's Emergency Order dated March 18, 2020 both attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; granting the mayor the power and authority to review, adopt, ratify, and execute any subsequent Dallas County emergency orders on behalf of the City Council.

Discuss and receive direction if necessary regarding actions taken because of the imminent threat to public health and safety arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and further measures necessary including but not limited to closing of facilities, postponement of events, implementation of emergency pandemic leave policy and other directives as may be necessary to protect the public health and welfare of the City and its residents

Mrs. Nash stated the following report will be made available on the City's website and noted that there is an alert button on the City's website that will have updated information and press releases regarding COVID-19.

Mrs. Nash stated City Hall is closed to the public effective at 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 19. Residents may meet with staff by appointment only. To request an appointment, contact the specific department.

In regards to City operations, Utility Billing is open and accepting payments. The City is encouraging residents to utilize payment methods that do not involve in-person contact. Most payment requests can be handled via phone, email, or drop-box. If residents must make a cash payment, please contact Utility Billing to schedule an appointment. Trash operations with CWD remain normal. Municipal Court has reset all court hearings through the remainder of March. The Senior Center, Community Center, and Library will remain closed until further notice. The Library continues to offer a number of online resources where card holders can access e-books, audiobooks, and other digital content, including videos and movies through Hoopla streaming services. The City's parks and trails are open, but it is recommended to keep at least six feet between you and others.

In regards to Public Safety, their lobby will be closed to the public. The police department requires residents to report certain offenses/incidents via telephone to minimize potential exposure to officers. A dispatcher will screen calls to determine if officer response is needed or if the call can be expedited by an officer calling the resident to complete the report via telephone. Fire services will continue as normal, but all station tours are currently unavailable. The Animal Shelter will have an Animal Services officer on duty during normal business hours. Telephones will be answered during normal business hours. Owners wishing to reclaim pets, individuals dropping off a stray animal, or people interested in adopting a pet must make an appointment.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been partially activated. This is in response to the need to assist the memory care/assisted living communities.

Mrs. Nash stated another item to note is the election changes. The Governor has requested entities to postpone the May General Election until November. Entities must take official action at a later meeting. Staff is recommending this change. Mrs. Lewis Sirianni added that if the City Council approves this change, the May election will then follow the November election calendar schedule. No further candidates would be able to apply. Mayor Felix asked how this affected the terms of those affected. Mrs. Lewis Sirianni indicated that this has not been addressed at this time, but would believe their term would expire in May of the appropriate year. She indicated that she would contact the Secretary of State for further guidance and will notify the Council of their response.

Mrs. Nash stated the City has also placed an alert button at the top of the City's website regarding COVID-19 where residents can stay updated with City and County press releases and information.

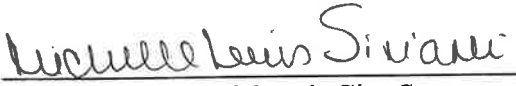
The City Council discussed briefly moving forward with conducting meetings telephonically, if needed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Felix adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.


MIKE J. FELIX, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Michelle Lewis Sirianni, City Secretary

