

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE CITY OF LAMPASAS, TEXAS
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
302 E THIRD STREET
Monday, April 6, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Lampasas met in regular session on the above date with Mayor Talbert presiding.

Council Members present:

T.J. Monroe, Mayor Pro Tem
Chuck Williamson
Cathy Kuehne
Delana Toups
Mike White

Council Members absent:

Randy Clark

City Staff Present:

Finley deGraffenried, City Manager
Christina Marez, City Secretary
Monica Wright, Information Systems Director
Jeffry Smith, Fire Chief
Sammy Bailey, Police Chief
Van Berry, Golf Course Manager

**SPECIAL SESSION
5:30 p.m.**

1. Call to order Special Session

Mayor Talbert called the special session to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding continuing, renewing, or cancelling the City of Lampasas Emergency Disaster Declaration (Stay Home, Stay Safe) ordered March 23, 2020 and extended through April 6, 2020.

City Manager deGraffenried explained that the attached Declaration Order remains substantially the same as the Order dated March 23, 2020, however, Council is asked to consider extending the Order through April 30, 2020. That date coincides with Governor Abbott's executive order number 14. He said that some of the recitals in the Declaration have changed but the body and intent of the Declaration is the same. He noted that Council will have a regular Council meeting on April 27, 2020, should Council want to modify or extend the Declaration at that time or set another date for consideration. He then deferred discussion over to Fire Chief Jeffry Smith.

Mayor Talbert announced that for those that watching and listening to the live meeting that may have any questions, please call 512-556-0332.

Jeffry Smith, Fire Chief, reviewed the following Covid-19 information and updates:

- In the U.S.
 - 1.9 million people tested
 - 361,331 positive cases
 - 45,168 hospitalized
 - 10,680 deaths
- In Texas, as of 8:00 p.m., Sunday, April 5
 - 85,357 people tested
 - 7,319 positive cases reported today
 - 140 deaths
 - 1,053 hospitalized
 - 157 Counties now reporting active cases
 - First Covid-19 death was on March 17
 - With the rapid progression of this virus the deaths and cases have increased as follows:
 - March 24 – 9 deaths
 - March 31 – 41 deaths
 - As of April 6 – 140 deaths
 - March 8 – 8 cases
 - March 15 – 56 cases
 - March 22 – 334 cases
 - One week ago – 2,552 cases
 - Yesterday – 6,812 cases
 - Today – 7,319
- In Lampasas as of today, 2 people have tested positive

Smith continued by saying that these increasing numbers tell you how fast this virus is spreading. It is still in the acceleration stage and still a way from peak. We need to continue social distancing and practice good hygiene.

Mayor Talbert expressed the importance of continuing the efforts outlined in the Declaration not only for yourself and your family but also for your neighbor. Keep in mind that this time is not an extended spring break, it is important that we continue our efforts to prevent the spread of this virus.

Council member Kuehne moved to approve the Order extending the Disaster Declaration through April 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Monroe and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Clark absent)

3. Discussion and possible action with regards to modifications to the City of Lampasas Declaration Q&A and the City of Lampasas “What the Order Means” document based on changes in Orders, services or fees; which may be considered under this agenda item as well.

City Manager deGraffenried explained that through this agenda item, Council has the opportunity to provide input on supplemental documents related to online fees, the Golf Course and procedures for worship.

deGraffenried explained the following:

- A question was posed if the online fees for credit card payments could be waived for utility payments

- The fee is a 2% charge for credit card payments
- Keep in mind that the drive thru is available for citizens to pay their utility bill, drop their payment in the drop box and they can also mail their payment
- Should Council consider waiving the 2% fee, there is still a fee to the City for web payments

deGraffenried turned discussion over to Van Berry, Golf Course Manager, in reference to the Golf Course.

Van Berry, Golf Course Manager, reviewed the number of golf courses that are currently closed in different counties. Should the City's Golf Course remain closed, he could prorate membership fees for the timeframe that it remains closed.

Jeff Smith, Fire Chief, explained that he and Sammy Bailey, Police Chief, met with a few local churches, specifically Grace Fellowship and First Baptist Church, that are interested in having parking lot church services, especially for Easter services. Parishioners would remain in their vehicles and vehicles would be parked in designated areas that provide sufficient distancing. No vehicles would be allowed to remain on during the service, they must be turned off.

Smith explained that he and Chief Bailey have no issues with the churches having the worship services as long as they comply with everything that was discussed with them.

City Manager deGraffenried explained that the City did discuss and review this with the County Emergency Management Coordinator, County Health Official and City Attorney, Jo Christy Brown. Though still concerned of the spreading virus, they expressed that as long as they stay in their vehicle during the service, social distance requirement met, and have their vehicles off, they understood of the worship request, they just wanted to make sure that the church's ensure compliance of those requirements.

For discussion purposes, Council member Kuehne moved as follows:

1. Approve waiving the 2% credit card fee
2. Approve that the Golf Course remain closed through April 30
3. Not approve the request for worship services in parking lots.

The motions made was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Monroe.

Discussion by Council member Kuehne included:

- She understands that the credit card fees are a part of doing business, but right now during this pandemic, those fees could buy someone a gallon of milk and a carton of eggs. She is only asking for temporarily waiving these fees to help accommodate citizens in need.
- She did agree that the Golf Course should remain closed in line with the Declaration Order.
- As for parking lot church services, the churches should continue to stream their services online. It is too risky to chance spreading the virus with people traveling into our community from other counties to attend these services. She asked for everyone to look at the logistics. She felt that the City would be setting themselves up if they allow. It would be a step backwards toward trying to control the spread of the virus. If it were a request for Easter services only, it might be ok, but to allow would only open it to becoming larger crowds in time.

Council discussion included:

- Council member Toups felt that since the City is currently waiving any utility late fees and not disconnecting any utilities and working on payment arrangements, the 2% fee did not need to be removed
- Mayor Pro Tem Monroe agreed with Council member Kuehne on waiving the 2% credit card fee due to so many people not working or jobs lost and also was concerned with the worship parking lot services request.
- All Council members agreed that the Golf Course should remain closed. However, the membership fees should be prorated, or credited time for as long as the course is closed, when the next membership fees come due.
- Council member Toups felt that for some people it means a lot for them to be in the presence of their church and just isn't the same to view it online. Also some churches don't have the means or capability to stream online.
- Mayor Talbert agreed with Council member Toups. She said that to some people, it may be a mental and spiritual health reason to attend services in person.
- Council member White also agreed and said that if people want to attend services in person by being in a vehicle, let them.

Mayor Talbert reminded Council of the motion made by Council member Kuehne and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem. She called for a vote. With a vote of two in favor and four opposed (White, Talbert, Williamson and Toups), the motion failed. (Clark absent)

Council member Toups moved as follows:

1. Not approve waiving the 2% credit card fee
2. Approve that the Golf Course remain closed through April 30
3. Approve the request for worship services in parking lots in accordance with Fire Chief Smith and Police Chief Bailey's requirements that were set forth.

The motion was seconded by Council member White and with a vote of four in favor and two opposed (Kuehne and Monroe), the motion carried. (Clark absent)

4. Discussion and possible action regarding the approval of purchase of two 60 hp VFD Motors and Motor Adapter Assembly at Hancock Park Golf Course

Van Berry, Golf Course Manager, explained that the Golf Course has two 60 horsepower VFD motors that operate the irrigation system. These motors are approximately seven years old. During the peak season at the Golf Course, usually seven months of the year, these motors run 8 to 10 hours, two to three days a week. He said that one motor has gone out and the bearings on the other motor does not sound good. Due to the necessity of maintaining the operations of the Golf Course, he is requesting approval of the purchase of two 60 horsepower motors and motor adapter assembly from PMT Pump Services in the amount of \$16,504.96.

Council member Toups moved to approve the quote received from PMT Pump Services in the amount of \$16,504.96 for the purchase of two 60 hp VFD Motors and Motor Adapter Assembly at the Golf Course. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Monroe and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Clark absent)

5. Adjourn Special Session

Mayor Pro Tem Monroe moved to adjourn the special meeting at 6:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Council member Kuehne and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Clark absent)

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Misti Talbert, Mayor

ATTEST:

Christina Marez, City Secretary