

Minutes

March 24th, 2020 @ 3:00pm
Emergency Council Meeting

1. Call to Order @ 3:00pm
2. Roll Call: Fladmark, McDonald, Austin, Hamaker, Sestito and Harrison. Quorum established with Mayor Austin presiding.
3. Discuss and take action to extend the Emergency Declaration issued on March 19th, 2020 pursuant to COVID-19.
 - Mayor Austin explained that we are required to extend for funding reasons. This extension will be "Until Further Notice".
 - Motion to approve was made by Council Member Sestito, second by Council Member Hamaker. Motion passed 5-0.
4. Discuss and take action to issue a "Shelter-in-Place" order for the City of Tool pursuant to COVID-19.
 - Mayor Austin explained that in the last 24-48 hours all major metroplex areas have put in order "Shelter-in-Place", including Kaufman County. Lake homeowners / weekenders' from more highly affected areas are coming to our area to quarantine and have caused our population to double in 1 week.
 - Gun Barrel City is believed to have their first confirmed positive COVID-19 case.
 - The Mayor opened the item up for discussion:
 - Council Member McDonald thought it would be more appropriate for the Shelter-in Place order to come from the County, rather than from every smaller local government.
 - Mayor Austin addressed his concern and explained that it has been the experience of local area mayors that Henderson County is lagging behind other counties who have taken action, but she is open to hear everyone's thoughts on the matter.
 - City Secretary Lyons spoke, after having microphone trouble, to clarify that even if the County declares Shelter-in-Place, the City will have to declare its own order, because a county order only covers outside city limits.
 - Based off other questions and concerns from council members and staff members, the Mayor explained that:
 - Gun Barrel City will be passing their order at 5:00pm today
 - There will not be a curfew for citizens. Only limits where and how you go about.
 - There will be not gatherings, no elective medical things/only emergency, strict social distancing. Essential reasons to leave home (groceries, medical, essential workers, etc.)
 - Mayor believes that weekenders will be able to go back and forth from either home they own, just not out in public. In car driving is ok.
 - Boats will be able to be on the water with social distancing in mind (can't tie up together, congregate, etc.)
 - Social distancing is not with members of your household.

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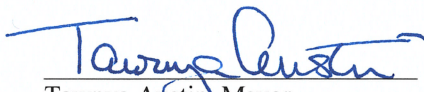
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- Council Member Sestito said that he supports the City putting order in place before the County given the rate of exposure and the R-Naught number.
- Council Member Fladmark questioned the “until further notice” part of the order and asked if it being open ended was the same as Dallas. Mayor Austin explained that we could have an end date but would like to keep it open and asked if everyone was ok with that.
- The Mayor, Council, and Staff addressed the many ways in which we would make the public aware of the order, including, but not limited to, informing press and POA presidents, social media, website, Code Red, digital sign, etc.
- Jeff Nekuza, citizen, was in attendance of the meeting and clarified a few items:
 - Curbside food and groceries are allowed.
 - Libraries and other places of congregation are not allowed.
- Council Member McDonald asked if there has been any communication with the County to declare the order together rather than piecemeal it together. Mayor Austin said that there has been discussion, but nothing confirmed.
- Motion to approve was made by Council Member Sestito, second by Council Member Hamaker. Motion passed 4-1 with Council Member McDonald in opposition.

5. Adjourn @ 3:31 pm.

Passed and Approved this 16th day of April 2020.


Tawnya Austin, Mayor



Attest:


Makenzie Lyons, City Secretary