

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL  
March 31, 2020

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Alamo Heights, Texas was held via teleconference on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, due to pandemic, COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, at 9:00 a.m.

Composing a quorum via roll call were:

Mayor Bobby Rosenthal  
Mayor Pro Tempore Wes Sharples  
Councilmember Lawson Jessee  
Councilmember Fred Prassel  
Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke  
Councilmember John Savage

Also attending were:

City Manager Buddy Kuhn  
Assistant City Manager/Community Dev. Services Dept. Director Nina Shealey  
Assistant to City Manager/City Secretary Jennifer Reyna  
City Attorney Frank Garza

Mayor Bobby Rosenthal opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

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Assistant to City Manager/City Secretary Jennifer Reyna announced the process for today's meeting via teleconference. She explained information was available at [www.alamoheightstx.gov](http://www.alamoheightstx.gov). Ms. Reyna announced if interested listeners desired to speak on a particular item, she instructed to them to press \*5 so they will be cued to express their comments. She reminded listeners when addressing Council, please state your name and address for the record.

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*Item # 1      Citizens to be heard*

There was no one that signed up to speak.

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*Items for Individual Consideration*

*Item # 2      Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.*

**Discussion and possible action extending the Disaster Declaration of a Public Health Emergency for the City of Alamo Heights issued by the Mayor on March 24, 2020**

City Manager Buddy Kuhn shared Mayor Rosenthal declared the City of Alamo Heights as a local state of disaster due to pandemic, COVID-19 (Coronavirus), on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. He stated the Mayor is allowed to enact but requires Council approval for a designated extension. He explained the extension for additional 14 days so it may align with the City's next Council meeting and stated this would be declaration # 2 in alignment with the City of San Antonio, Bexar County to be eligible for federal funding.

City Attorney Frank Garza stated the City needs to comply with Bexar County's declaration and the municipality has the power to enact further restrictions. Mr. Garza shared declarations had been declared by municipalities to receive funding and noted declaration closed small businesses or designated as non-essentials.

Mr. Kuhn informed Council emergency supplies had been purchased to allow EMS personnel to enter hospitals as it is now required when transporting patients. He shared unexpected expenditures had been made due to COVID-19 response and will seek reimbursement when federal reimbursement is available.

Mayor Rosenthal asked Mr. Kuhn regarding supplies to EMS personnel.

Mr. Kuhn confirmed EMS is not out of equipment but noted the pandemic is constantly increasing. He shared suppliers are also running short and supplies are being shipped to other facilities in most dire need.

Mayor Rosenthal commented on City staff. He stated employees are screened when they arrive to work. He shared the City purchased meals for the First Responders and commented Sorrento's Restaurant graciously delivered food to First Responders. He expressed concern on a possible outbreak among staff and options for First Responders when a family member is diagnosed with COVID-19.

Mayor Pro Tem Wes Sharples thanked Mayor Rosenthal, City Manager Kuhn for their leadership and staff for their hard work. He asked if the City can incorporate Bexar County's local state of disaster declaration by reference rather than lay out specific activities. He commented hopeful the City of Alamo Heights is not being stricter than Bexar County.

Mr. Garza stated the declaration is seven pages and noted the City's declaration is easier to follow and understand. He noted there is no conflict and stated if there is a conflict, Bexar County will supersede City's declaration. He stated Bexar County's declaration is through April 9<sup>th</sup> and noted President Donald Trump's federal declaration until April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmembers expressed agreement with extending the declaration an additional seven days through April 13, 2020.

A motion for approval was made by Councilmember John Savage to extend the local state of disaster through April 13, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

Councilmember Prassel inquired why 78209 had been reported as the zip code with most COVID-19 cases.

Mr. Kuhn explained 78209 encompasses more than the City of Alamo Heights to include Olmos Park, Terrell Hills and San Antonio and cases were primarily related to travel. He stated Bexar County confirmed residents with COVID-19 cases reside in 78209. He briefly reported staff's circumstances with quarantine and/or relative that may be ill. He commented the extra precaution is regarding garbage pickup. He stated there are not many staff in the Sanitation Department and emphasized the virus can live on unknown surfaces for a longer period of time that provides a higher risk to the sanitation crew; the health of everyone is a priority.

Mayor Rosenthal asked the protocol if someone does become ill.

Mr. Kuhn stated if the numbers to escalate, EMS may not transport at all. He is aware a few residents within the community are in self-quarantine. He stated the Fire Department in San Antonio are interviewing the person feeling ill, outside of a home. He reported personnel are being scanned by the Fire Department before allowing them to enter City Hall/Facility.

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Mayor Rosenthal stated adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

  
Jennifer Reyna  
City Secretary

  
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Bobby Rosenthal  
Mayor