

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
April 30, 2020

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Alamo Heights, Texas was held via teleconference on Thursday, April 30, 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
City Attorney Frank Garza
Assistant to City Manager/City Secretary Jennifer Reyna
Human Resources Manager Lori Harris
Finance Director Robert Galindo
Public Works Director Pat Sullivan
Police Chief Rick Pruitt

Mayor Bobby Rosenthal opened the meeting at 9:02 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. 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 Approval of Minutes

Mayor Rosenthal asked City Council for any revisions to the minutes of the April 13, 2020 Council Meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Fred Prassel to approve the

minutes of April 13, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote via roll call.

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Item # 2 Announcements

a. Census 2020

Assistant to City Manager/City Secretary Jennifer Reyna reported the time period for Census 2020 had begun and stated it occurs every 10 years. Letters have been mailed informing residents how to submit online submittals via www.my2020census.gov. During this time of the pandemic, residents are encouraged to submit their surveys online. If the survey is not completed online, a survey will be mailed to you. Ms. Reyna emphasized the importance of completing the survey so federal dollars may appropriately fund schools, healthcare and emergency readiness needs. Responses are required and confidential.

Item # 3 Citizens to be heard

There was no one that signed up to speak.

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Items for Individual Consideration

Item # 4 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 April 13, 2020

City Manager Buddy Kuhn shared this is the fourth extended local state of disaster due to pandemic, COVID-19 (Coronavirus) since current declaration is set to expire today.

Mr. Kuhn explained the goal is for the City of Alamo Heights' extended declaration mirrors Bexar County's and State's local state of disaster declarations and extend Stay Home Work Safe precautionary measures until May 19, 2020. Mr. Kuhn noted Governor Greg Abbot did not mandate the public to wear facial masks. However, Bexar County and the City of San Antonio are asking the public to wear facial masks but will not be penalized if they are not. Mr. Kuhn asked City Attorney Frank Garza for an update.

Mr. Garza informed Council regarding Governor Abbott's recent orders. Governor Order GA-18 did not list Stay Home Work Home order because you are part of an essential service or now reporting to a re-opening business. If you are not reporting to an essential service or a re-opening business then it is encouraged to stay home work home. Governor Abbott's order recommends facial masks but does not mandate and specifically cities and counties can not issue

civil or criminal penalties for failure to wear facial masks. Bexar County and the City of San Antonio mandated facial masks but in compliance with the State's order, their order was revised to include no penalty if you are not wearing a facial mask. Beginning on May 1, 12:01 a.m., businesses such as restaurants that provide more than 50% in food sales will reopen with a 25% occupancy to include movie theatres, malls, libraries, and museums. The re-opening of video arcades, bars, bowling alleys, salons, public swimming pools, and salons will be revisited after the order expires on May 15th or unless extended. Mr. Garza shared information about order GA-19 which allows medical offices that are not providing emergency services be allowed to reopen to include dental offices. He commented the local state of disaster declarations allow municipalities to be eligible for federal funding for COVID-19 but there is uncertainty of the designated time period of declaration.

Mayor Rosenthal asked the status regarding facial masks and are gatherings restrictive.

Mr. Garza emphasized Bexar County was clear in removal of penalties for not wearing facial masks. He shared other municipalities are allowing Bexar County's orders to control and noted other cities are in control due to the uncertainty of declaration as local disaster for federal assistance. He noted a municipality may be strict but not contrary to the governmental orders. Business owners will regulate the use of face masks. Mr. Garza stated social distancing is still in place and encouraged individuals not to gather with people that are not in your household and follow Stay Home Work Safe orders. He stated Stay Home Work Safe order is still in place.

Mr. Kuhn added Home Depot mandates a facial mask to be worn prior to enter premises. Councilmember Billa Burke stated Central Market is another business requiring facial masks upon entering place of business.

Mr. Garza responded to Mayor Pro Tern Sharpies that Stay Home Work Safe orders are still in effect; although, Governor Abbott did not specify in current order and it is supported by the Texas Municipal League (TML).

Mr. Kuhn recommended to mirror Bexar County's order and extend the local state of disaster due to the uncertainty of federal reimbursement. He shared the Fire Department had received one check of reimbursement.

Mr. Garza recommended the City's order comply with the State and County and clarified if there is a conflict, the Governor's order would prevail. He stated there are a few exceptions when facial masks are not required when walking outside, engaged in a physical activity, riding in the same vehicle with individuals from the same household, and pumping gas. In summary, the City of Alamo Heights' order will state Stay Home Work Safe measures, facial masks to be worn but there is no penalty if not worn, and note any revisions to the Governor's order that the City's order will comply with Governor's order noting if there is any conflict with Bexar County and City of Alamo Heights, the State order will control. Mr. Garza suggested May 15th as the expired date as the City anticipates announcement of additional openings or changes by Governor Abbott.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jessee for the Stay Home Work Safe measures, facial masks to be worn but no penalty if not worn, and note any revisions to the Governor's order the City's order will comply with Governor's order; however, if there is any conflict with the orders of Bexar County and the City of Alamo Heights, the State order will control. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Savage and passed by unanimous vote via roll call.

Mayor Rosenthal announced today's meeting was Councilmember Prassel's last meeting and thanked him for his dedication and the contributions he made.

Councilmember Prassel thanked Council and wished everyone the best.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fred Prassel to adjourn the meeting.



Bobby Rosenthal
Mayor



Jennifer Reyna
City Secretary