

**EMERGENCY MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF DILLEY, TEXAS
MARCH 16, 2020
2:00P.M.**

**COUNCIL PRESENT: MAYOR MARY ANN OBREGON, MAYOR PRO-TEM EVERARDO CASTILLO, JR.
COUNCIL MEMBER PLACE 1 ALEXANDRIA INOCENCIO, COUNCIL MEMBER PLACE 3 ALICIA MACHADO**

COUNCIL ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER PLACE 2 JOANNE RODRIGUEZ

STAFF PRESENT: CITY ADMINISTRATOR JUAN ESTRADA, CITY SECRETARY JUANITA FONSECA, FINANCE DIRECTOR IRMA RODRIGUEZ, HR MANAGER RAQUEL YANEZ, PW DIRECTOR JIMMY ORANDAY, MUNICIPAL JUDGE LAURO FLORES, LIBRARY DIRECTOR NORMA HERRERA, CUSTODIAN ESTELLA GUZMAN, MUNICIPAL CLERK JOANN RODRIGUEZ, POLICE SECRETARY ANA LISA AGUILAR, INTERIM POLICE CHIEF ANTHONY ZERTUCHE, MOLLY SOLIS VIA CELL PHONE

CITIZENS PRESENT: AMY HERNANDEZ, AMADOR HERNANDEZ, THOMAS COOK, TAMARA COOK, KURT MCCLAIN, RENE LOZANO, KIMBERLY RAMIREZ, EDDIE INOCENCIO, HINER, GILBERT EGUIA, COMMISSIONER JOSE ASUNCION VIA CELL PHONE

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order @ 2:36P.M.

2. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS, VISITORS AND GUESTS TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON ANY ISSUE OR ANY ITEM OF THE AGENDA, IN COMPLIANCE WITH LGC SECTION 551.007. CITY COUNCIL MAY NOT DISCUSS ANY PRESENTED ISSUE, NOR MAY ANY ACTION BE TAKEN ON ANY ISSUE AT THIS TIME. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ARE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES EACH.

(ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION – JC-0169)

No citizen comments were made

**** Item 4 Next on the agenda****

3. DISCUSS/CONSIDER & ACT ON PLANNING REGARDING THE CITY OF DILLEY'S RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Back to item 3 after item 7.

City Administrator stated he was bringing forward two suggestions that had been brought forward to his attention to help spread the pandemic. One suggestion was to close the lobby doors to stop the traffic and avoid the spread. The other suggestion was to not disconnect water services due to the hand washing and keeping good hygiene to avoid the spread of the

pandemic. Council Member Place 3 Alicia Machado stated that it was not a good idea to close the lobby. Mayor Obregon questioned what would happen to the library if the lobby was closed. She further stated that there was a back door. Library Director Norma Herrera added that if lobby closed it would still defeat the purposes because you had the library traffic. Mayor Obregon commented that the lobby was the heart of City Hall. The most traffic was at the lobby. Interim Police Chief Anthony Zertuche questioned if by closing the lobby did, they mean city hall or did they mean city offices to include PD, he stated he felt it should be across the board. City Secretary stated that the item was being mis interpreted. The office was not closing it was closed to the public to avoid the spread. City Administrator asked City Secretary how she felt about the lobby closing. City Secretary stated that if lobby would be closed, library would need to be closed because if not you would still have traffic in lobby. The exposure to the staff is still there because we would be accepting money. Council Member Place 3 Alicia Machado stated that customers do not come and stay in lobby, they pay the bill and leave. She further stated that by not disconnecting it would avoid the traffic because people would not be rushing in to make payments. Kurt McClain added that if council didn't want anyone in the lobby and they weren't going to disconnect then why not post that no utility payments would be accepted until this pandemic passes. Judge Flores added that utility bills were not the only service provided, customers still needed connects, disconnects aps and what have you. Council Member place 1 Alexandria Inocencio added that city was trying to be proactive, then being reactive later. Judge Flores added that the court was not going to be conducting court proceedings for the next 30 (thirty) days. His court would be using telephone as much as possible. He asked if he could bring on community service helper to answer phones because phones were ringing off the wall. Mayor Obregon added that the item for part-time help was not on agenda. Eddie Inocencio questioned about public gatherings. Would they be cancelled. Mayor Obregon added that the prom has been cancelled along with a fund raiser at the park. Molly Solis City Attorney added that the CDC recommendation of social distancing was of gatherings of 50 or less and those activities were being cancelled. Press conference of Governing earlier today defined gatherings of 10 or less for the next 15 days and 50 or more for the next eight weeks so those rentals and activities have been cancelled. City Attorney Molly Solis recommended not disconnecting water services during the emergency stage. Customers would still be responsible in paying bill but there would be no disconnection. Bills are still due on time and will be penalized if not but would not be disconnect for delinquency bill is not being forgiven. Council Member Place 1 Alexandria Inocencio motioned to approve no disconnection of utility services during the state of emergency for the citizens of Dilley and close library to public until further notice in response to the Novel Corona COVID-19
Motion seconded by Council Member Place 5 Joe Garcia
All in favor
Motion carries unanimously

4. DISCUSS/CONSIDER & ACT ON APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPLY ELDERLY CARE PACKAGES
City Administrator and Council were approached by citizens to provide care packages for the elderly. City Admin Juan Estrada questioned City attorney Molly Solis if public funds could be

used to purchase the supplies for the care packages. City Attorney informed council that once a declaration of public health emergency is passed then city can expend any funds that would help address an urgent public necessity due to emergency and city can expect reimbursement for those funds. Funds can be used to address a public health emergency. If city exhaust resources they can apply from the state to get those funds reimbursed. It is recommended that city first go to local government for funds like for example the county and then the state. Council Member Place 1 Alexandria Inocencio questioned if Declaration of Public Health Emergency would need to be passed first before any action could be taken on this item. Mrs. Molly responded that yes it would need to be passed first and to keep mind the declaration was only good for seven (7) days. Mayor questioned city attorney if it would be possible to have persons donate if they wanted to contribute. Mrs. Molly recommended that donations be done through a non profit organization. Mayor stated she would rather go in the direction of using city resources rather than going through the donation process. Finance Director Irma Rodriguez stated that although it was not a budget line item the city did have the CCA funds that were not allocated to any line item that could be used. City Attorney Molly Solis stated that as long as CCA funds didn't have restriction on use they could be used once declaration was passed. City Administrator recommended item be tabled and come back once declaration was passed. Motion made by Mayor Pro-tem Everardo Castillo, JR. to table item until item #7 is considered and approved

Motion seconded by Council Member Place 1 Alexandria Inocencio

All in favor

Motion carries unanimously

** Back to item 4 after item 3

Mayor Pro-tem Castillo questioned what the packets would consist of. Council Member Place 3 Alicia Machado asked what the county was providing for the care packages. Council Member Place 1 Alexandria Inocencio stated that we should approve the need so that it is there in the event someone comes but not set what the package should be. She further added that they still had to go back to the county to see what they were providing so that they could work together. Council Member Place 3 Alicia Machado added that we had the funding. Mayor Pro-tem Castillo added that the CDC recommended everyone had supplies for at least 72 hours Emergency Survival Kit. Mayor Obregon mentioned that they were also thinking disabled citizens to add to the care package.

Motion made by Council Member Place 3 Alicia Machado to table item until they get with county to see what county is providing

Motion seconded by Council Member Place 1 Alexandria Inocencio

All in favor

Motion carries unanimously

5. **DISCUSS/CONSIDER & ACT ON FORMING / APPOINTING A COMMITTEE FOR COUNTY PANDEMIC EMERGENCY PLAN**

City Administrator Juan Estrada informed council and public about meeting held this morning at Commissioners court advising that all entities decided it would be best to have a committee

composed of members of each entity so that one committee could disseminating accurate information provided by all entities, to the public. Commissioner Asuncion provided information via cell phone on the county level as to what they plan to bring to the committee. Commissioner stated that the county was expecting resources. At the moment they were meeting with their departments, he further stated they were authorizing leave as necessary to deal with the COVID-19. At the county level they were looking at a skeleton crew. Department heads would be setting up remotely to assist the public is something they were looking at. The county parks will be open but to the recommended gathering size. The county will be utilizing the county website to put out information as to what is going on at county level and services that will be provided. Mayor Obregon called for a motion on item. Mr. Castillo and Mr. Garcia volunteered to be on committee. Council Member Alicia Machado questioned how many members were needed. Council Member Place 1 Alexandria Inocencio stated that she did not have an issue with anyone volunteering but it would be recommended for Mayor and City Administrator to be on committee. Mayor added that she would need to have meetings posted after 4:30PM. A call was placed to Commissioner Asuncion questioning how many members were needed. Commissioner stated that it would be best that it was not a quorum of the city. Council Member Place 3 Alicia Machado questioned commissioner that if it needed to be Mayor & City administrator. He replied that they would be valuable members. Mrs. Molly reminded council if a quorum would be present at the meeting scheduled for that evening a notice of quorum would need to be posted. Mayor Pro-tem Castillo questioned if a member could be a member of the public. Mrs. Molly stated that not for this type of committee. Motion made by Mayor Pro-tem Everardo Castillo, Jr. to appoint Mr. Joe Garcia, Mr. Everardo Castillo, JR. and Mr. Juan Estrada to the County Pandemic Emergency Plan Committee
Motion seconded by Council Member Place 3 Alicia Machado
All in favor
Motion carries unanimously

6. DISCUSS/CONSIDER & ACT ON APPROVING THE COVID-19 EMPLOYEE ADVISORY SUGGESTED BY LEGAL COUNSEL

Mayor Obregon & Mayor Pro-tem Castillo read the COVID-19 Employee Advisory. Advisory is for employee guidance and informational guidelines for the COVID-19 Pandemic.
Motion made by Mayor Pro-tem Everardo Castillo, Jr. to approve the COVID-19 Employee Advisory suggested by Legal Counsel
Motion seconded by Council Member Place 1 Alexandria Inocencio
All in favor
Motion carries unanimously

7. DISCUSS/CONSIDER & ACT ON APPROVING THE DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER DECLARATION

Copies of the declaration were handed to public. City administrator Juan Estrada noted that by passing this declaration is protocol to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and also to be eligible for resources from the county and state level. He further added that there were no confirmed

cases in Frio County. The declaration was also protocol to prevent the spread by enforcing the declaration. Council Member Place 1 Alexandria Inocencio questioned the declaration stating that in declaration it states once passed public could not attend meeting, she wanted to confirm that they could still stay for item 3 of the agenda that had not been addressed yet. The declaration passing would not affect the public for this meeting. Gilbert Eguia questioned where he could find a copy of the City's Emergency Plan. City Secretary replied that she could email a copy as requested. Mayor Pro-tem Everardo Castillo asked public if they were any comments before the declaration was acted on. No citizen comments were made.

Motion made by Council Member Place 5 Joe Garcia to accept and approve the Declaration of Public Health Emergency Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster Declaration

Motion seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Everardo Castillo, Jr.

All in favor

Motion carries unanimously

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mayor Pro-tem Everardo Castillo, Jr. to adjourn meeting

Motion seconded by Council Member Place 1 Alexandria Inocencio

All in favor

Motion carries unanimously



Mayor



City Secretary

