

**MINUTES  
EMERGENCY CALLED  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
April 1, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.**

On April 1, 2020, the City of Hondo convened in Emergency Called meeting for the purpose of amending a statement regarding the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic to include a declaration regarding public and private gatherings and continuing and affirming the declaration to continue longer than thirty days.

In compliance with the state health emergency declarations, as amended, occupancy of the City Council Chamber was limited at all times to 10 people, including city council members and city staff. The meeting proceeding was broadcast in the plaza outside of the City Council Chambers. Persons listening to the broadcast in the plaza were also limited to 10 persons.

Persons listened and participated in the meeting telephonically by calling: 1-872-240-3311 Access Code: 781-096-277. Persons were requested to submit questions or comments by email to: [mcantu@hondo-tx.org](mailto:mcantu@hondo-tx.org). Questions or comments submitted by email must have been received by the city at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled start of the meeting in order to be presented to the City Council during the meeting.

**1. Call to order.**

Mayor Danner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**2. Quorum check.**

Mayor James W. Danner, Sr., Mayor Pro Tem John McAnelly, Councilman Eric Torres, Councilman John E. Villa, Councilwoman Ann-Michelle Long, Councilman Bobby Vela, City Manager Kim Davis, City Secretary Miguel Cantu

**Staff:** *Located inside:* Police Chief Brian Valenzuela Economic Development Corporation Administrative Assistant Valeria Lopez, *Located either on teleconference or outside of the Council Chambers:* Economic Development Director Genevieve Flores, Public Works Director Michael Schmidt, Director of Aviation Ryan Elder, Chief Finance Officer Dee Willman, Police Lieutenant Rick Garza, Assistant Public Works Director William “Buddy” Stewart, IT Network Administrator Josh Rodriguez, Computer Technician/Library Aide Edward Cardenas, Police Officer Aaron Greathouse

**3. Citizens’ Comments.**

No comments made.

**4. Discuss and consider amending the City of Hondo Mayoral Declaration of Local State of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency.**

Mayor Danner informed the public that this would be the fourth declaration provided to the public. He said, Governor Gregg Abbot’s new declaration brought about a soft stay in place. Mayor Danner stated that the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) had a list of essential employees and businesses. Anyone with questions regarding their business or a business should visit the TDEM website at [www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices](http://www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices). Mayor Danner added that because playgrounds could not be sanitized, parks would have to be closed with the exception of the hiking trails, running tracks, and green areas. He recommended that people remain six feet away from one another when running or jogging to abide by the six-foot distancing order. Mayor Danner asked the Chief to provide feedback about what the Hondo Police Department

discovered to address with businesses. Chief Valenzuela stated that the Police Department made some evaluations and that the most affected are the pawn shops, nails and cosmetology, auto sales, thrift stores, boutiques, gyms, and flower shops to name a few. He noted that there are two dealerships in the city that include automobiles sales and ATV sales. Businesses sales would be affected but not their service departments. Sales would be restricted to online only and repair /service could continue as normal. Mrs. Davis stated that the City would be placing the Governor's Orders, City Council's Order and information from the US Department of Homeland Security as to what is considered essential businesses on the website. Mrs. Davis also added that information would be on the City's website for reference regarding small business administration loans and other valuable resources for businesses who are struggling during this time. She also encouraged those impacted by the disaster to take advantage of those services whether as a business owner or an employee who may have questions. Councilman Villa asked how the City would be getting the information to the businesses and the citizens. Mrs. Davis responded that the city was using Facebook and media, and but the Police Department has been actively making contacts with the community. Mayor Danner reminded the public that the curfew orders are still in affect and asked Chief Valenzuela for an update. Chief Valenzuela stated that the public expressed some concerns regarding jailing for violation of the curfew. He emphasized that the time in jail was only a possible penalty but he would really appreciate the public's voluntary compliance. Councilman Villa stated that instead of jail time, enforcement of fines may be more appropriate. Councilman Vela asked if day cares were being addressed for compliance. Chief Valenzuela said that day cares are essential, and the Police Department is currently working with day cares to make sure they remain in compliance. Mrs. Davis stated that she was contacted by HEB's Public Information Officer stating that they would be taking an extra step at the gas pumps reminding people to sanitize. Councilman Torres informed the public that Walmart was providing curbside service to senior citizens. Councilman Villa stated that there were not a lot of people that know about the City Council Meetings and hopes that people understand and realize that the City Council is only doing this for the betterment of the community. He added that the quicker City Council gets things done and people do as they are asked the sooner this situation would be over. Mrs. Davis stated that currently there were 143 people watching live on Facebook and 48 people participating via phone. Chief Valenzuela emphasized to City Council that there are many scenarios regarding contact with family and other community members. Each situation would be taken as a case by case with good consideration. Councilman Villa asked how the Police Department would address the family gatherings with 15 people or more. Chief Valenzuela stated that the Police Department would speak to the property owner to please get into compliance and cease the gathering. The most important element was education and voluntary compliance Councilman Vela moved to approve the City of Hondo Mayoral Declaration of Local State of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McAnelly. Motion carried 5-0.

**5. Update on how the City of Hondo is taking measures to address the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.**

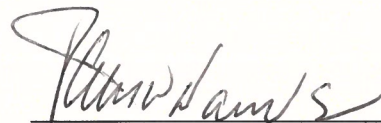
Mrs. Davis stated that the City has launched a program on social media that is not unique to the City of Hondo but is something that staff thought would be a good idea to encourage adopting a good neighborhood program. This program allows a community to identify senior citizens or those with health concerns. The idea is based on a book titled *Going on a Bear Hunt* and is great way to engage some younger children to become active since they are inside their homes. In addition, the airport staff has been mandated through an executive order to track the incoming and outgoing traffic from various locations. Airport

Director Ryan Elder will collaborate with the current tenants at the airport to help identify and track traffic at the airport. Mrs. Davis also reminded the public that the Easter Egg Hunt has been canceled and hoped to find a solution for Easter but none of the options felt safe. Mrs. Davis also called upon those on social media listening who can make masks to please make some for Emergency Services to include city police officers, county police officers, firemen/firewomen, and EMS services. Currently, the library, parks and recreation facilities are closed. The City also understands that citizens are struggling at this time and has put out a notice that late fees or penalties on bill would not be assessed. There have already been some calls that some residents have been laid off or have been placed on furlough because of COVID-19. Mrs. Davis stated that overall operationally she believes that the biggest hurdle so far is dealing with change and changes are never embraced fully especially in a stressful time as we are in. The City is abiding by the new FMLA regulations and allowing an additional two weeks of sick leave if they have to perform childcare duties. Mrs. Davis thanked the community members who made barbeque for City Staff to recognize their hard work. The City sincerely appreciated the gesture from the community. In addition, for those who do not have internet, the library does have Wi-Fi that reaches its perimeter. On another note, Mrs. Davis stated that the intent to stop Hondo ISD's Teacher's Parade was not a decision that was taken or made lightly, and the Police Department took quite a bit of backlash for the decision. Mrs. Davis stated that the City understands that it is very hard for the kids and teachers to spend time away from one another but the Police Department is working very hard to get voluntary compliance. The City is working very hard to stay away from a shelter in place situation and hopes that the message does not only reach Hondo but other cities throughout Texas.

**6. Adjourn.**

Councilman Villa moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:53 p.m. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McAnelly. Motion carried 5-0.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF April 2020.**



**JAMES W. DANNER, SR., MAYOR**

ATTEST:



**Miguel Cantu, City Secretary**



