

MINUTES

EMERGENCY CALLED SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING April 16, 2020 at 3:15 p.m.

On April 16, 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 proceedings were 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: 1-408-650-3123 Access Code: 165-320-141. Persons were requested to submit questions or comments by email to: 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. Access of the meeting was available through video conference from a computer, tablet or smart phone at: <https://www.gotomeet.me/cityofhondotx> Meeting ID No. 165-320-141

1. Call to order.

Mayor Danner called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m.

2. Quorum check.

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

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

3. Citizens' Comments.

Mr. Chavel Lopez stated that he was running for Place for 4 during this year's election. He stated that he noticed that the City of San Antonio was providing rental assistance and hopes that the city would also do the same. He informed City Council that he did not want to see any residents on the street and maybe it would be possible for the City to have funds to assist the residents. He stated that he supports the City Council to require the community to wear mask. He stated that people may have been tested; however there is still the possibility that we can all contaminate one another. He added that he noted that there was some favoritism within City Staff. Some staff are required to work 30 hours and some are required to work 40 hours. He stated that something had to be done regarding this. Additionally, he commented that he knows that City staff are essential workers and should be provided hazardous pay or compensation.

Mrs. Davis read a citizen's comment from an email received by the City Secretary from Mr. Scott Linebaugh:

I, Scott Linebaugh, protest the Fifth Mayoral Declaration schedule for the 16th of April at 3:30 pm. I work in and live just outside Hondo city limits and pay taxes to the town and school district. I am protesting my disapproval of section 6 and 8 mainly but in general all of the sections and orders 1 - 11 on this proposal! This goes against my constitutional rights and religious freedom and life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Plus it is not a demand by the government, just a recommendation. To force people to wear them is a violation of the 1st, 9th, and 14th Amendments of the constitution also sec. 6, 8, 19, 28, 29 of the Texas constitution! No martial law has been declared and the President Trump and Governor Abbott have not mandated such actions that violate constitution and religious freedoms. I believe the blood of Jesus and GOD'S word and promise protect me and I trust in Jesus And the word GOD. As a town that hold pride on faith in God. Remember GOD is in control and we must keep our faith and trust in Jesus through this tribulation in the wilderness! Thanks to all and Jesus loves you!

GOD bless
Sincerely,
Scott Linebaugh

Mrs. Davis read a citizen's comment from an email received by the City Secretary from Mr. Brad Price:

With the recent movement to begin opening the country and the Governor's recent statements about beginning to Open Texas in response to the leveling off of the coronavirus, has the City began plans or a task force to address the re-opening of Hondo?

Mrs. Davis read a citizen's comment from an email received by the Utility Clerk Supervisor Misty Hernandez from Mr. James Ellis:

Mr. James Ellis called stating he has been watching the Facebook live meetings and has concerns. He stated he agrees with the "Hispanic" gentleman that wanted everyone to have to wear masks when out in public and was disappointed (and felt that was the stupidest question he had ever heard) that the Mayor asked "who's going to enforce it". He stated that is what we have police officers for. He continued to add that the police officers are not enforcing the six feet apart rule or do anything about enforcing any safety precautions to ensure minimal spreading. He has witnessed the police officers not wearing gloves or face masks and feels that is not right as they can be infected and spread the virus quickly. Mr. Elis believes that if the police officers start issuing tickets for \$1,000 or more that the word will spread and people will start staying home and following the rules when they need to go out. He believes that even if when the people have to go to court that the judge should dismiss the ticket or lower the fine, the issuing of the ticket is what will help right now. At the end of the conversation Mr. Ellis stated he knows he does not know everything that is going on and that everyone here is in the position they are in because they know more and

understand things, he just believes more precautions would help keep the virus from spreading so much here in town.

Mrs. Davis read a citizen's comment from Mrs. Linda Hook:

We just wanted to know that we support your decision and we feel it's about time everybody wearing masks including food servers, people who check out and so on and so forth. We think it should have been done a long time ago; especially, people handling our food that's one reason why we have not been going into the fast food restaurants because nobody's wearing masks or gloves like they said. But we support you and appreciate you taking care of us thank you very much.

4. **Discuss and consider Fifth Mayoral Declaration of Local State of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency. (Mayor Danner)**

Mayor Danner stated that the declaration item number 11 is the amended item and presented the two versions:

Order No. 11 [version 1] CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies). Therefore, this Declaration **requires the use** of cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and **must be used** as an additional, voluntary public health measure **whenever a person leaves their home or essential business**. Face masks **must also be used by** restaurant workers as well as employees of all essential businesses that have face to face contact with the public. Such cloth face coverings can be fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost.

Order No. 11 [version 2] CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies). Therefore, this Declaration **requires the use** of cloth face coverings when visiting hospitals, medical and veterinarian clinics. **It is recommended** that face mask be used whenever a person leaves their home or essential business. **It is recommended** that face masks also be used by restaurant workers as well as employees of all essential businesses that have face to face contact with the public. Such cloth face masks can be fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost.

Mayor Danner stated although it was mandatory for hospitals and veterinary clinics, he felt the wearing of masks should be mandatory for restaurant workers as well. Mayor Danner opened the floor for comments. Mayor Pro Tem McAnelly stated that he would agree with the wording in the second version, except for "it is recommended that face masks also be used by restaurant workers". He felt that the declaration should state face masks must require all essential business employees who have face to face contact wear a mask. Mayor Danner stated that the key is

that is mentioned is all other essential with face-to-face contact. This would be the first version of the declaration presented. Councilwoman Long stated that the wording of recommended was preferred. Councilman Villa stated that the only thing that he did not like about this order is that it is “recommended” he felt that the wearing of face masks should be mandatory to be worn by every restaurant employee and possibly recommending the wearing of gloves. Councilman Villa emphasized that he was also in favor of the grocery stores such as Walmart employees wear a mask. He stated that he understands the opinions of other councilmembers that “we are not there yet”; however, he felt that the council does not want to get there [dealing with the pandemic increased cases] and needs to do its best “not to get there” with the presented declarations. Mayor Danner asked if Councilman Villa’s recommendation was that, the council look at the second version or asking council to consider everyone wear masks. Councilman Villa stated that Governor Gregg Abbot gave powers to Mayors of cities to go far and beyond the rules. He mentioned that there were currently fifteen cases and two deaths in Medina County and the issues need to be dealt with now and not when it is too late. Councilman Vela stated that he understood both perspectives and understands gloves are a preventative thing; however, he supported Mayor Pro Tem McAnelly to find a happy medium.

Councilwoman Long motioned to approve the 2nd version presented declaration and amend the version to include restaurants. Motion seconded by Councilman Torres. Councilman Villa asked if this included HEB and Wal-Mart. Mayor Danner stated that it included anyone with face-to-face contact. He added that the Medina County Hospital Administrator expressed that their problem was people going to the hospital and clinics not wearing any masks. Councilman Torres stated that was a great concern for him as well.

Mayor Pro Tem McAnelly moved to amend the motion to require all restaurant workers, including essential businesses and grocery stores to wear face masks. Motion seconded by Councilman Vela. Councilman Villa asked if the amendment included patrons. Mayor Pro Tem McAnelly stated that it did not include patrons.

Roll call vote:

Long- Aye

Torres- Aye

Vela- Aye

McAnelly- Aye

Villa-Nay, because he would like to see patron in the amendment.

Motion carried 4-1.

Mayor Danner called for a vote on the original motion with the amendment to include restaurant workers and essential businesses.

Roll call vote:

Long- Aye

Torres- Aye

Villa- Nay

Vela- Aye

McAnelly- Aye

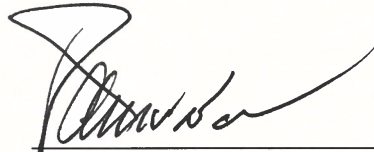
Motion passes 4-1.

Mayor Danner called for a motion to extend the declaration for 30 more days. Councilman Vela moved to extend the declaration for 30 days. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McAnelly. Motion carried 5-0.

5. **Adjourn.**

Councilman Vela moved to adjourn the meeting 4:21 p.m. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McAnelly. Motion carried 5-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 27TH DAY OF April 2020.



JAMES W. DANNER, SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:



Miguel Cantu, City Secretary



