

THE LEVELLAND CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, THE 6TH OF APRIL 2020 AT LEVELLAND CITY HALL, R. O. DENNIS COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1709 AVENUE H, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Barbra Pinner	Honorable Mayor	Via Video Conferencing
Jim Myatt	Councilmember	Via Video Conferencing
Max Ledesma	Mayor Pro-Tem	Via Video Conferencing
Breann Buxkemper	Councilmember	Via Video Conferencing
Joe Bill Vardeman	Councilmember	Via Video Conferencing
Matt Wade	City Attorney	Via Video Conferencing
Erik Rejino	City Manager	Present
Beth A. Walls	City Secretary	Present

In accordance with order of the Office of Governor issued March 16, 2020, the City Council of the City of Levelland conducted this meeting in the R.O. Dennis City Council Chambers, located at 1709 Avenue H, Levelland, Texas by video/telephone conference in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called “social distancing”) to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The members of the City Council participated in this meeting remotely through video conference providing for two-way video and audio communication for each member of the City Council.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation was given by Mayor Pinner and Joe Bill Vardeman.

Statements by Citizens:

The meeting was conducted via zoom and live streamed via Facebook. The public was permitted to offer public comments during this portion of the meeting telephonically and via comments on the Facebook Live stream.

One comment was received regarding the importance of following the stay at home order.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2020 emergency meeting and the March 30, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion by Joe Bill Vardeman

Seconded by Max Ledesma

To approve minutes of the March 26, 2020 emergency meeting and the March 30, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Discuss, consider and take necessary action on Resolution 2020-14 implementing additional restrictions and regulations regarding the Public Health Emergency to contain and prevent the continued spread of COVID-19.

Motion by Joe Bill Vardeman

Seconded by Breann Buxkemper

To approve Resolution 2020-14 implementing additional restrictions and regulations regarding the Public Health Emergency to contain and prevent the continued spread of COVID-19.

Motion carried unanimously.

THIRD ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Resolution 2020-12 postponing and moving the general municipal election scheduled for May 2, 2020 and calling and setting the date for the general municipal election for November 3, 2020.

On March 18, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation suspending various state statutes in order to allow political subdivisions of the State of Texas who would otherwise be required to hold elections on May 2, 2020 to move their general and special elections to the next uniform election date which occurs on November 3, 2020.

For the 2020 General election, we had two Council seats up for election; District A and District C. We had 3 citizens that applied for a place on the ballot in District A which means we were not able to cancel the election.

In order to slow the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding bringing people together such as voters, election officials and election volunteers, it is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare to postpone the general municipal election for District A.

Council Member Jim Myatt will remain in his position until the postponed election has been held.

Motion by Joe Bill Vardeman

Seconded by Max Ledesma

To approve Resolution 2020-12 postponing and moving the general municipal election scheduled for May 2, 2020 and calling and setting the date for the general municipal election for November 3, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

FOURTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Resolution 2020-13 declaring unopposed candidate elected to office and cancelling the 2020 general city officer's election for Council District Seat C.

For the 2020 General Election, we have two seats up for election; District A and District C. District C has only one unopposed candidate; Breann Buxkemper. As a result, we are able to cancel the election and declare the winner in district C. Council Member Buxkemper's current term expires in May and we will swear her in at the first meeting in May.

Since we called the Election by resolution, we must cancel it by resolution. In addition, the Secretary of State requires the City Secretary certify the unopposed status of the candidates and an Order of Cancellation must be signed by the Mayor and City Secretary and placed at the polling place during the General Election period.

Motion by Jim Myatt

Seconded by Max Ledesma

To approve Resolution 2020-13 declaring Breann Buxkemper elected to office and cancelling the 2020 general city officer's election for Council District C.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIFTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action to amend the Levelland Main Street Bylaws

In the midst of the pandemic we are doing our best to continue day to day operations as close to normal as possible while taking all necessary precautionary measures. At this time, we are needing to bring the Main Street Board together to discuss some Main Street related business. While we have been able to successfully hold our Council meetings remotely, setting up for the public comment and other features has been time intensive and takes additional personnel to do so with the current technology we have. The open meetings act is very specific on how remote meetings need to be held as a municipality.

In the open meetings act, advisory boards are not required to abide by the open meetings act. While the Main Street Board is an advisory board and is not required to abide by the open meetings act in the bylaws set by the City Council that is a requirement set by the City Council. We feel this has been a good practice as it encourages transparency which is likely the largest reason this is currently in the bylaws.

At this time, I am asking Council to consider waiving the requirement for the Main Street Board to abide by the open meetings act. The most time intensive part of setting up the remote meetings is making sure all board members are able to get on remotely. There are 10 Main Street board members, 3 ex-officio board members, and staff. There will be much to

coordinate with a group this size. In addition, the Main Street meetings historically have not received very many if any public comments like we do for City Council meetings.

By temporarily amending the bylaws and removing the open meetings act requirement that will allow us a little more flexibility in how we hold the meeting. If approved by Council our intention is to hold the meeting remotely for most if not all of the board members. In addition, we will ensure the media is invited so they can report the meeting to the public.

Motion by Joe Bill Vardeman
Seconded by Breann Buxkemper
To amend the Levelland Main Street Bylaws.
Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:41p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth A Walls, TRMC, IPMA-SCP, CPM, City Secretary