

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

May 7, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall (via video conferencing)

A Council work session was held via conference call to discuss the following issues: 1) update on the Fourth Amended Declaration and Order regarding COVID-19; 2) Funding in the Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget for fireworks; and 3) potential recreational sports restrictions.

Attending: Mayor Bill McMurray and Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Madison Davis, PJ Kovac, Russell Moore, Brian Meyers, Marty Novak, Kent O'Dell and Gary Roach.

Chris Connally, Interim City Manager/Police Chief; Bryan Carter, City Attorney; Chuck Kempf, Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Director; Amy Cohorst, Human Resources Director; Debra Bradley, Health Director; Andy Clements, Public Works & Transportation Director; Clint Thompson, Planning & Community Development Director; Tom Mahoney, Interim Administrative Services Director; Mary Robertson, Asst. to the City Manager/Communications & Public Relations Manager; and Paula Heyde, City Clerk.

Mayor Bill McMurray called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item #1 - Update on the Fourth Amended Declaration and Order regarding COVID-19.

Mayor McMurray said several people have asked whether bars and taverns can open now using the same guidelines as the restaurants.

The following spoke in support of bars being allowed to re-open: Edison Derr, River Bluff Brewery; Brandon Cobb, ACME Music & Vending; Leonard Tyler, TNT Tavern; Brad Durham, BFIT CrossFit; and Tracie Archer, Biggins Sports Bar & Grill.

Debra Bradley, Health Director, said if the City Council does choose to allow the bars and taverns to open, the same guidelines as restaurants should be followed and if they are not allowed to open, then it shows there is still concern about the numbers and the people that could potentially become ill.

Mayor McMurray said he thinks the bars should be allowed to open; the only question is when. Councilmembers PJ Kovac and Marty Novak said they are in favor of the bars opening if they can practice social distancing. Councilmember Brian Myers supported opening bars with the same guidelines as restaurants. Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Russell Moore and Gary Roach were not in favor of them opening now. Councilmember Madison Davis would like to see guidelines from the Health Department before he would decide on a date for the bars to reopen.

Mayor McMurray proposed that a work session be held next Wednesday, May 13 at 4:00 p.m. to take a look at the COVID-19 numbers and the proposed guidelines from City staff for bars and taverns to follow if they are allowed to reopen. No objections were expressed.

Agenda Item #2 - Funding in the Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget for fireworks. Chris Connally, Interim City Manager/Police Chief, said the County Commission is not willing to commit to partnering with the City on 4th of July fireworks without knowing where they're going to be with sales tax and might consider it at a later date. Former City Manager J. Bruce Woody included the entire amount of

\$15,000.00 in the budget in the Gaming Initiatives Fund in case the County did not agree to contribute the requested \$7,500.00.

Mayor McMurray asked if the Councilmembers objected to including the entire \$15,000.00 in the budget. No objections were expressed.

Agenda Item #3 - Potential recreational sports restrictions. Chuck Kempf, Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Director, said this concerns private organizations that utilize the City's recreational facilities. He recommends suspending organized activities until the end of this declaration and order with the intent of allowing practices and games to begin June 1.

Shawn Kobzej, representing Pony Express Baseball Board, said they don't plan to begin practices until June 1 with games starting in late June. They have some concerns about how to provide for social distancing for some of the players (i.e. catcher, batter and umpire), fans, kids in the dugouts and operating the concession stand.

Mr. Kempf suggested that City staff meet with the recreational leagues and work out some reasonable solutions for those issues.

No objections were expressed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.



Minutes transcribed by Paula Heyde, CMC, City Clerk.