

**Minutes
Hurst City Council
Work Session
Tuesday, May 12, 2020**

On the 12th day of May 2020, at 5:38 p.m., the City Council of the City of Hurst, Texas, convened in Work Session at City Hall, 1505 Precinct Line Road, Hurst, Texas, by telephone conference to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) with the following members present:

Henry Wilson)	Mayor
Larry Kitchens)	Mayor Pro Tem
David Booe)	
Cathy Thompson)	
Bill McLendon)	
Jon McKenzie)	
Cindy Shepard)	
Clay Caruthers)	City Manager
Matthew Boyle)	Assistant City Attorney
Rita Frick)	City Secretary
Sunny Patel)	Director of Information Technology
Clayton Fulton)	Assistant City Manager
Steve Bowden)	Executive Director of Economic Development
David Palla)	Fire Chief

With the following Councilmembers absent: none, constituting a quorum, at which time, the following business was transacted:

I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m.

II. Informational Items

- **Update and Discussion of upcoming Calendar Items** – City Manager Caruthers stated he would review the City facilities reopening plan during the next discussion item.
- **Update and Discussion of State and Local reopening plans due to COVID-19** – City Manager Caruthers reviewed the following tentative dates for the reopening of City facilities: Library, curbside only, May 18, City Hall June 1, and other facilities including the Recreation Center and Tennis Center mid-June. He stated a date has not been established for opening the Senior Center noting the medical profession, Governor, and federal agencies all continue to warn that the 65+ population is the most vulnerable. He stressed the City is following the Governor’s order and trying to delay two to four weeks beyond the private sector, to learn from their openings. He stated if and when City Hall opens, staff is planning to continue the telephonic City Council meetings until the second meeting in June, depending if Council has any concerns. Mayor Wilson reviewed plans to provide adequate spacing in the Council Chamber, possibly requiring temperature checks to provide a safe environment. He also stated that if any Councilmember feels uncomfortable staff can look at alternatives. City Attorney

Matthew Boyle stated the Governor extended the ability to conduct the telephone meetings for an additional thirty days. City Manager Caruthers stated staff will plan to continue to hold telephone meetings until the second meeting in June.

City Manager Caruthers stated the City is doing everything possible to honor the Governor's plan, and continue to provide messaging to be safe. He stated Executive Director of Economic Development Steve Bowden has done a good job of contacting and helping businesses comply with the Governor's Orders, advising of leniency of sign regulations and providing information to assist businesses. Executive Director of Economic Development Steve Bowden provided an overview of the COVID-19 impact on Hurst businesses noting the huge swings in the economy caused by the pandemic. He reviewed job losses, business closures, businesses overburdened such as grocery stores, and the operational changes made by businesses to address a new set of operating rules. Mr. Bowden noted the City's efforts to help businesses and citizens by creating a dining guide and restaurant map. He noted the financial impact of closing a regional mall, the continued decline in sales tax, and the reopening of the mall at 25% occupancy. Mr. Bowden also reviewed non-mall business operations and noted how well they have adapted. He reiterated staff's efforts to help the businesses operate safely through education, promoting available financial aid and safety tips. Mr. Bowden noted the City's webpage includes dining options and a restaurant interactive guide and the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Chamber is helping businesses with Chamber Facebook live training sessions, contests, and business awards. He also noted the City's Business Award and that staff plans to introduce a social media program this year and allow citizens to vote on their favorite business. He advised there are still real-estate opportunities, the construction business is still active as it is considered essential, including several new businesses and remodels. In response to Council questions, Mr. Bowden stated it appears the Thrift for Good is operating similar to mission central and other non-profits. He stated he would encourage the Chamber to host a webinar on the psychological effect of COVID-19 and the reluctance of people to go to the businesses. City Manager Caruthers stated, related to the psychological aspects, staff is not expecting a quick economic recovery and is planning a conservative approach to economic activities.

- **Update and Discussion of FY 2020-2021 Proposed Budget Calendar and possible current and future budget impacts due to COVID-19** – City Manager Clay Caruthers reviewed the options for the budget calendar that provides for Council to call an election related to the tax rate. He stated staff prepared the calendar to allow Council all options available. He stated a rollback election, in November 2020, would be a tough sell, but will establish the calendar to accommodate all options for Council consideration. Mr. Caruthers stated it will be necessary to continue developing budget calendars that will always provide for the option to call an election. He stated the plan is to bring forward a budget that does not require an election this year and on August 1, Council will have a truth in taxation discussion and the discussion will include the revenue loss due to the COVID-19 impact. He stated staff is currently planning a proposed budget utilizing 5 percent reserves and 5 percent expenditure reductions. He stated staff received information today the City could be eligible for expense reimbursement of \$55 per capita from the County, and additional information is forthcoming. He stated this will be a challenging budget year for the City and the citizens. Mr. Caruthers also stated one piece of legislation that staff is watching closely is that going into the 2019 budget year

there would typically be a 3.5 percent growth cap but there is a disaster piece of legislation that allows 8 percent, which both TML and the City Attorney agree is an option. However, other parties have asked the Attorney General and Governor to confirm, and they have not done so at this time. He stated tonight's discussion is to save the August 1 date and provide Council the proposed budget calendar. In response to Council questions, Mr. Caruthers stated the City only has approximately 60 employees out of work, and staff noted approximately 1,300 claims in the 76053 and 76054 zip codes for unemployment. Mr. Caruthers also noted the tax rolls indicate approximately 42 percent of homesteads account for senior eligible, which you could assume are retired, even though many people are working past 65.

III. Discussion of Agenda Item(s)

Consider Resolution 1770 Supporting the Application for COVID-19 Assistance Grant to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division (CJD). City Manager Caruthers stated the proposed Resolution is authority to apply for a grant for personal protective equipment (PPE) for the police department.

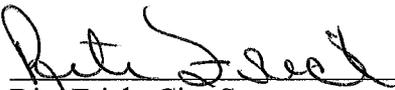
EXECUTIVE SESSION in Compliance with the Provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Law, authorized by Government Code, Section 551.071, Consultation with City Attorney to seek advice regarding Pending or Contemplated Litigation or Settlement Offers (Dakota Place Apartments) and to reconvene in Open Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Mayor Wilson did not recess to Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

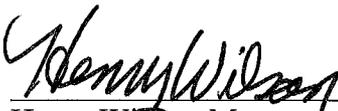
APPROVED this the 26th day of May 2020.

ATTEST:



Rita Frick, City Secretary

APPROVED:



Henry Wilson, Mayor