

**TOWN OF MANY**  
March 16, 2020  
**Special Called Session**

The Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Many met in special session, Monday, March 16, 2020 at 12:00 Noon at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Ken Freeman and Council Members Gay Corley, Bobbie Jackson, Anita Darwin and Mary Brocato. Absent was Mayor Pro-Tem James Kennedy. Also present were Town Clerk Amie Brown, Officer Carla Nicks, City Manager Mark Oxley, Pleasant Hill Mayor Glenn Arnold and Daniel Jones with the Sabine Index.

Mayor Ken Freeman called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by Alderwoman Corley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Freeman.

Mayor Pro-Tem James Kennedy joined the meeting at 12:10 PM and was brought up to date by Mayor Freeman. David Davis with the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness joined the meeting at 12:20 PM and was brought up to date by Mayor Freeman.

**Open to Public Comments relating to items on agenda:** None

**The purpose of the meeting:**

**1. Pandemic Emergency Plan:** Each council member was provided a copy of the Sabine Parish Government Pandemic Emergency Operation Plan. Mayor Freeman explained that we may be overreacting but prefer to be safe than sorry; as a result, starting this Friday morning the office will be closed, all public meetings will be cancelled, no council meetings, no court, no activities at the Many Community Center and no committee meetings until May 4th due to the Coronavirus. All water payments, taxes, occupational license and ticket fines will continue to be due on the original due date and can be made at the drive-thru drop box by money order or check. Employees will be here to take payments as usual. Payments can also be mailed or paid by phone with a credit card. Late fees will still apply. Alderwoman Darwin asked would there still be a fee to pay by card to which Town Clerk Amie Brown stated yes because we still have to pay it. All city services with the water and street departments will continue work as usual and the office will be open but no one will be allowed to come into the building. Masks, gloves and Clorox wipes to wipe down the steering wheels were bought for all employees working outside. No gatherings of 50 or more in the city limits. City employees will continue to answer the phones for any questions. Starting March 20<sup>th</sup>, City Hall will not disconnect any water meters until May 4<sup>th</sup> so that customers can continue to wash their hands but the public needs to understand if you have not paid your water bill and you are to be cut off from now until May 4<sup>th</sup> any water use will be added to the amount you owe plus any fines or reconnection fees. This will be posted on the town's Facebook page, published in the Index and announced on the radio.

Alderwoman Corley wanted to confirm that there would not be a council meeting tomorrow to which Mayor Freeman said no there will not be another meeting until May and the radio and paper would be notified after this meeting.

Alderwoman Corley asked how this would affect the church that is being held at the theater on Sundays and Mayor Freeman said they would have to cancel. Mayor Freeman asked Officer Nicks why the police department was down there yesterday with lights on and Ms. Nicks said she personally did not know anything about it. Alderwoman Corley asked if that church was getting that service could other churches contract for their protection also because other churches are asking. Alderwoman Corley said supposedly they are paying the officers \$50.00 each. Mayor Freeman reminded Ms. Nicks that they are not to be paid while on duty or in their police cars or have on their uniforms; that it should be an off-duty service. Ms. Nicks once again said she did not know anything about it but would see how much she could find out about it.

Alderwoman Darwin said the curfew needs to be enforced.

Officer Nicks stated the Police Department would lock the doors and she would still be there working and answering the phone. Mary and Jimmy will work from home and help answer calls when she is away.

Mayor Freeman said he wanted to stress that no employee will lose their 40 hours per week whether they work from home or come to the office and work behind closed doors. Everything will remain the same except no face-to-face contact with the public and staff will wear masks and gloves, keep 6' distancing, wash hands and use hand sanitizer regularly.

David Davis stated that an emergency declaration was filed today; copies were made for the mayor and all council members. Mayor Freeman asked for a copy to be put on the town Facebook page. Mr. Davis stated that all measures put in place here are good but that some places are closing all doors but one and also checking for fever. If anyone shows sign of fever, they are not allowed in. He also stated that Sabine Medical Center has two possible cases and those tests have been sent off, and patients are in quarantine until results are back in a couple days. Mr. Davis also stated the hospital has a triage tent set up and checking anybody that has suspicions.

Mayor Freeman asked should the town measures be moved up from Friday, March 20th, to Wednesday the 18th to which the council agreed. Mayor Freeman stated that when we close the doors Wednesday, we will sanitize everything.

Mayor Freeman stated that if you keep your faucets clean and disinfected the water is safe to drink and use. Mr. Davis said it should not affect the water anyway.

Mayor Freeman added that we will be spending close to one-million dollars on road work starting March 24th.

Mr. Davis said he is trying to get sanitation supplies in now and to remember the 6' rule and to wash your hands often. Mayor Freeman asked Mr. Davis if the symptoms were a cough and a fever to which Mr. Davis responded a dry cough. Mayor Freeman said if anyone has the symptoms, they need to call the doctor and self-quarantine. Alderwoman Darwin asked had everyone that contracted the virus died to which Mayor Freeman answered no and that people with the greatest risk are 60 and older, young children, or have other underlying health conditions.

Alderwoman Corley asked how it would affect our restaurants in the future and Mayor Freeman said he would ask the public to use their best judgement because a lot of the new restaurants are struggling and he does not want to push them over the edge.

Mr. Davis reported that schools will continue serving lunch as grab and go sack lunches three days a week. Alderwoman Corley stated that the Nazarene Church was also doing this.

Mr. Davis said they are also working on finding out about the bass tournaments. Alderwoman Brocato reported that she had talked to Linda Curtis-Sparks and that 3-4 tournaments have been cancelled. Alderwoman Corley contacted Mrs. Sparks and she said she will say that the majority of them will probably cancel, and it may change weekly. She is calling some of them that they have contracts with but they do not have the contacts, SRA has the contacts for the tournaments. Mrs. Sparks suggested getting on Mr. Davis's email list. Mr. Davis passed around a list for everyone to write down their email addresses.

Officer Nicks asked what the police officers should do when driving around and sees people gathering around and the Mayor told her they need to be disbanded.

Mayor Freeman said if there are any changes or updates, calls will be made and will also post on town Facebook page.

Motion to give Mayor Freeman authority to put these measures in place was made by Brocato; seconded by Jackson. Vote unanimous.

- 2. Recommendation to hire Kyle Cook as a full-time Patrol Officer at \$19.00 per hour with a starting date of ASAP with the understanding that as soon as the proper paperwork is cleared, he will be moved into the Assistant Chief position:** Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.
- 3. Recommendation to hire Matthew Cook as a full-time Patrol Officer at \$15.00 per hour with a starting date of ASAP:** Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Brocato. Vote unanimous.

Next scheduled Regular Council Meeting is on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 12:50 PM was made by Alderman Kennedy and seconded by Alderwoman Corley. Vote unanimous.

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KENNETH FREEMAN, MAYOR

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AMIE BROWN, TOWN CLERK