

TOWN OF MANY
April 7, 2020
Special Called Session

The Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Many met in special session via teleconference due to the COVID-19 outbreak, on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 2:30 PM which was conducted from Town Hall. Present were Mayor Ken Freeman and Deputy Clerk Janice Randow. Present by teleconference was Mayor Pro-Tem James Kennedy, council members Bobbie Jackson, Gay Corley and Anita Darwin. Absent was council member Mary Brocato.

Mayor Ken Freeman called the meeting to order.

Open to Public Comments relating to items on agenda: No one from the public was available

The purpose of the meeting:

- 1. Limiting the number of customers in stores:** Mayor Freeman asked council did they want to limit the number of customers in the stores and the council agreed they did. Mayor Freeman stated that he understands it should be 5 people per 1,000 square feet of space and to set up aisles as one-way. Passed with a motion by Kennedy; seconded by Jackson. Vote was unanimous as each council member was called on one by one to vote.
- 2. Protective Shields for Checkers:** Mayor Freeman asked council what they thought about it and stated that several businesses are already doing this and it would be protection between the customer and checker. The council agreed that it was a good idea. Passed with a motion by Corley; seconded by Jackson. Vote was unanimous as each council member was called on one by one to vote.
- 3. Cross Contamination:** Mayor Freeman reported that it was brought to his attention by Alderwoman Darwin that even though checkers are wearing gloves to protect themselves they are touching money then everything they touch afterwards becomes contaminated and passed on to the customers. Mayor Freeman stated that at Brookshire's they are not wearing gloves but instead spraying disinfectant after every customer and asked the council members what they wanted to do. Alderwoman Darwin suggested talking to the merchants. Mayor Freeman said he would have staff call the merchants and talk to them about cross contamination and ask them to not let their employees wear gloves and to sanitize after every customer instead. Passed with a motion by Darwin; seconded by Jackson. Vote was unanimous as each council member was called on one by one to vote.
- 4. Closing City Hall until May 1st, 2020:** Mayor Freeman stated that the employees are starting to get uncomfortable so he is sending all city employees home after this week until May 1st. He will have phone calls forwarded to their homes and if there are any problems or needs they will make a phone call and a crew will be sent out to take care of it. Alderman Kennedy asked would they sign up for unemployment to which Mayor Freeman stated they don't have to because under the two-trillion dollar act they can get two weeks of paid sick leave and the office is closed this Friday for Good Friday anyway and it would be about two weeks after that anyway until May 1st. Mayor Freeman also stated that city services will continue but they have to call in and he is also going to suspend all payments (water, fines, fees, any kind of payment to the city) until May 1st with no late charge. Starting on Monday, April 13th all calls coming into City Hall will be forwarded to the employee's homes then they will call Supervisor Mark Oxley and he will call who he needs to solve the problem and get them sent out. Alderman Kennedy asked if garbage pickup would stay to which Mayor Freeman said yes employees with the garbage pickup, water plant and sewer plant will continue to work as normal as they do not come in contact with the public and the police will continue to patrol. Mayor Freeman stated that Supervisor Mark Oxley suggested he would come in to work anyway since he lives out on the lake and he will answer calls in the office.

Other Discussion: Alderman Kennedy asked that the Leon James Park be closed due to kids up there playing basketball together and he is afraid they may end up getting the virus. Mayor Freeman stated that all parks are to be closed anyway for the past month and Alderman Kennedy said no they have been up there playing in the evening time. Mayor Freeman called Supervisor Mark Oxley into the meeting and asked Mark to put locks on the park and Mark said we had already put locks on it but this morning there was no locks on it and the gate was wide open so he guess they cut the locks off but he locked it back up this morning. Mayor Freeman asked Supervisor Mark Oxley to drive by there every day and keep an eye on it and to contact the police department and tell them to drive by there and if anyone is there to run them off.

Other Discussion: Mayor Freeman stated that Walgreens has not been complying with the curfew of closing at 8:00 PM. They have been closing at 9:00 PM instead. The mayor has advised the police department to go by there every day and give them a ticket and charge them \$500.00 for every hour they stay open after the 8:00 PM curfew.

Other Discussion: Alderwoman Corley asked if the Sheriff's Office is willing to assist us in patrol if we need them to which Mayor Freeman stated that he talked to the Sherriff the day before yesterday and told him that we have an officer that has been tested for the Coronavirus and we are waiting for the results to come back because if he has been tested positive we have to call everyone that he gave a ticket to and tell them they may have potentially been exposed then he wants all of the police department to go be tested and be quarantined until the results come back and the Sheriff said he will step in and patrol the city for those five days.

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

Motion to adjourn meeting at 2:46 PM was made by Alderwoman Corley and seconded by Alderman Kennedy. Vote unanimous.

KENNETH FREEMAN, MAYOR

JANICE RANDOW, DEPUTY CLERK