

THE LEVELLAND CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, THE 18TH OF MAY 2020 AT LEVELLAND CITY HALL, R. O. DENNIS COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1709 AVENUE H, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Barbra Pinner	Honorable Mayor	Present
Jim Myatt	Councilmember	Present
Max Ledesma	Mayor Pro-Tem	Present
Breann Buxkemper	Councilmember	Present
Joe Bill Vardeman	Councilmember	Present
Matt Wade	City Attorney	Present
Erik Rejino	City Manager	Present
Andrea Corley	Executive Assistant	Present

The Pledge was led by Mayor Barbra Pinner and the Invocation was given by Police Chief Albert Garcia.

Statements by Citizens:

One citizen spoke about the downtown sidewalk project.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2020 regular meeting, the April 30, 2020 special meeting, and the May 7, 2020 emergency meeting.

Motion by Joe Bill Vardeman

Seconded by Breann Buxkemper

To approve minutes of the April 20, 2020 regular meeting, the April 30, 2020 special meeting, and the May 7, 2020 emergency meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action to administer the Oath of Office to Councilmember District C

Councilwoman Breann Buxkemper was sworn in as Councilmember District C.

No Council Action Required.

THIRD ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Discuss and consider procedures, processes, timelines, and priorities regarding lifting restrictions and regulations implemented during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Motion by Joe Bill Vardeman

Seconded by Breann Buxkemper

To approve Resolution 2020-21: Safely Opening Levelland- Business and Activity Expansion

Motion carried unanimously.

FOURTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Resolution No. 2020-17 approving an agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the closing of two blocks of state highway for the Early Settlers Day event.

Each year the City works with the Chamber of Commerce to close off some streets for the annual Early Settlers Day. City streets we close include one block of Avenue G on the east side of the square and two blocks of Austin Street on the South side of the square. We have also been closing Houston Street on the north side of the square and Avenue H on the west side of the square. These two streets are State highways so in order to close them the State requires certain documentation and assurances. These include:

- Description and purpose of the Event
- Traffic control, signing, and enforcement plan
- Letter from Police Chief on traffic control
- Certificate of Insurance
- Agreement for Temporary Closure of State Right of Way

- Resolution of City of Levelland

The Chamber of Commerce is working to get all of these requirements fulfilled and the documentation in place.

Motion by Breann Buxkemper

Seconded by Jim Myatt

To approve Resolution 2020-17 approving an agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the closing of two blocks of state highway for the Early Settlers Day event.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIFTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Resolution No. 2020-18 authorizing the submission of a grant application with the Texas Division of Emergency Management for the Coronavirus Relief Fund Program.

Within the last week there have been a couple of new funding sources that have become available to cities and counties to help cities respond to COVID-19 and to help offset the impacts to communities as a result of the virus. One of the funding sources that was announced by Governor Abbot just this week is that of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) which is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Securities Act (CARES Act). The CARES Act established the Coronavirus Relief Fund and appropriated \$150 billion to the fund of which Texas received \$11.24 billion.

The CARES Act provides that payments from the CRF may only be used to cover costs as follows:

- Necessary due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19
- Not accounted for in our most recent budget
- Incurred between March 1 and December 30

Permissible uses of the funds include the following:

- Medical expenses
- Public health expenses
- Payroll expenses for employees “substantially dedicated” to mitigating/responding to COVID
- Expenses to facilitate compliance with COVID public health measures
- Expenses for provision of economic support in connection with COVID
- Any other COVID-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government

Seventy-five percent (75%) of the funds must go towards the first three items above while the remaining 25% can go towards the last three items

Of the \$11.24 billion received by the State of Texas, \$3.2 billion has been allocated for smaller cities and counties. Each City in this category, which includes Levelland, is eligible for a specific allocation designated by the Governor based on population. Levelland’s share of the CRF is \$755,260.

Motion by Breann Buxkemper

Seconded by Jim Myatt

To approve Resolution 2020-18 authorizing the submission of a grant application with the Texas Division of Emergency Management for the Coronavirus Relief Fund Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

SIXTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Resolution No. 2020-19 authorizing the submission of a grant application with the Office of the Governor for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program.

Last week we were made aware of another funding source coming to the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) region from the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division in the form of direct regional allocations. Each region in Texas will be receiving a direct allocation for smaller cities and counties and it is up to the region to

determine how it is to be allocated. The funding source is called the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program.

The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee of SPAG made a recommendation to the SPAG Board of Directors on how to allocate the funds. The recommendation was approved by the SPAG Board earlier this week. The total allocation for Hockley County is \$115,000. The direct allocation available to Levelland is \$75,000. SPAG is encouraging Counties and cities to work together and develop a joint application for the entire county if possible. We are in discussions with other cities in the county and the county and are in the process of identifying needs that fit the program.

Funds must be utilized to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. Allowable projects and purchases include, but are not limited to, overtime, equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment), hiring, supplies (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer), training, travel expenses (particularly related to the distribution of resources to the most impacted areas), and addressing the medical needs of inmates in local and tribal jails and detention centers.

Staff has been working to track COVID-19 related expenses that might be eligible for this particular funding program in addition to the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). While we continue to work with the county and other cities in the county to determine how to best proceed, with the short time frame on this particular program we are asking Council to authorize us to submit an application.

Motion by Joe Bill Vardeman

Seconded by Max Ledesma

To approve Resolution 2020-19 authorizing the submission of a grant application with the Office of the Governor for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

SEVENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Resolution No. 2020-20 authorizing the acceptance of a grant application with the Texas Department of Transportation for a Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act grant for the Levelland Municipal Airport.

Several weeks ago we were made aware of funding available from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the Levelland Municipal Airport in the amount of \$30,000 through the Federal Aviation Division (FAA). The funding from FAA has been requested by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Aviation Division on our behalf. The TxDOT Commission will be meeting later this month to approve the funding.

Airports will have two (2) grant options to choose from:

1. Using the relief funding for only operating expenses.
2. Using the relief funding to serve as a local match to a project, for a new development project, or a combination of operating expenses and development.

TxDOT is expected to hold a conference call next week to provide more information on the funding source. I will work with TxDOT Aviation and our Airport Planner and Manager to determine the best use of the funds for the airport. It looks like though that the best eligible use will be to offset lost operating revenues or use this to help offset the match for the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) project which we are moving forward with.

Motion by Joe Bill Vardeman

Seconded by Breann Buxkemper

To approve Resolution 2020-20 authorizing the acceptance of a grant application with the Texas Department of Transportation for a Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security Act grant for the Levelland Municipal Airport.

Motion carried unanimously.

EIGHTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

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

Last month Council amended the bylaws to allow some flexibility in how Main Street Board meetings were held during the pandemic. As you know, 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.

Last month this requirement was temporarily removed to allow some flexibility in holding meetings remotely during the pandemic without having to meet all of the requirements of the open meetings act. At this time as the economy continues to reopen we are ready to change the bylaws and add the open meetings provision back.

Motion by Joe Bill Vardeman

Seconded by Breann Buxkemper

To amend the Levelland Main Street Bylaws

Motion carried unanimously.

NINTH AND TENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Convene into executive session in accordance with Tex. Gov't Code §551.071 to seek the advice about pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers or on matters in which duty of the attorney under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas conflicts with Tex. Gov't Code Ch. 551 (Speedcrete Inc.).

Convene into executive session in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.074 to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee: City Manager.

Mayor Pinner declared Council to be in Executive Session at 7:47p.m. She returned Council to regular session at 9:32 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:33p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Corley, Deputy City Secretary