

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
April 13, 2020 at 11:15 a.m.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

The City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas met in Special Session on the April 13, 2020, at 11:15 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut St. Mayor Anthony Williams was present and presiding with Mayor Pro-tem Weldon Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Donna Albus and Councilmembers Shane Price, Jack Rentz, Kyle McAlister and Travis Craver. Also present were City Manager Robert Hanna, City Attorney Stanley Smith, and City Secretary Shawna Atkinson, and various members of the City staff.

Councilmember Shane Price delivered the invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and State of Texas Flag.

This meeting was broadcast over a teleconference to allow the public to call in via telephone, since the meeting and City Hall were closed to the public during the current disaster situation.

AGENDA ITEMS

2. **Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Extending the Mayor's Declaration of Local Disaster Issued March 30, 2020.**
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 79-2020]

Robert Hanna, City Manager, presented the item. Adoption of the item would extend the Declaration of Local Disaster and Limited Shelter in Place Order issued on March 30, 2020, until April 30, 2020. There are several additions to the order, including closing tennis courts and golf courses to the extent of the Governor of Texas's order.

Council and staff discussed the order in detail. Councilmember Price asked if there could be a discussion on suspending the Street Maintenance Fee for a few months, as well as shrinking tier levels and rates for residential water customers to help those affected by the pandemic. The consensus of Council is to have staff prepare numbers for both of these requests and bring them before Council at the next regular meeting.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. The following addressed the council via teleconference:

- David Swart – is in favor of this item. Stated that he thinks we need to “keep our foot on the accelerator”, as things could get worse. Gave an example of the Spanish Flu in 1918 and how the first round of it was not bad, but the second round was. He does not want that to happen again. Is also in favor of reducing the Street Maintenance Fee.
- Chelsea Farwell – is in favor of the item, but would like to see it go farther into a complete shutdown. Stated that she went into a local store and only two employees had masks on, which was concerning to her. She also thinks there should be more repercussions for those who violate the order.

With no other speakers coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember McAlister moved to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Price seconded the motion; the motion carried.

AYES (7): Mayor Williams, Mayor Pro-tem Hurt, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAlister and Craver
NAYS (0): None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.



Shawna Atkinson
City Secretary



Anthony Williams
Mayor

Minutes approved on: April 23, 2020

