

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
June 1, 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 a Special Session on June 1, 2020 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut St. Mayor Anthony Williams was present and presiding with Mayor Pro-tem Weldon Hurt, Deputy Mayor Donna Albus and Councilmembers Shane Price, Jack Rentz, Kyle McAllister and Travis Craver. Also present were Deputy City Manager Mindy Patterson, City Attorney Stanley Smith, 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.

PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mayor Williams spoke on the current race issues going on in America and how the City of Abilene is handling the situation here locally.

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 May 15, 2020.
[ASSIGNED RESOLUTION NO. 103-2020]

Stanley Smith, City Attorney, presented the item. Adoption of the item would extend the Declaration of Local Disaster issued on May 15, 2020, and mirror Texas Governor Abbott's Executive Orders. Council and staff talked through the various parts of the declaration, which includes removing the stipulation about Board & Commission meetings being temporarily suspended.

Councilmember Hurt shared his concerns that this situation has not been as bad as it was predicted to be and he wants to open everything back up as quickly as possible.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. The following addressed the Council:

- David Swart – stated that he understands that we need to do this to get funding but he thinks that shutting down small businesses has really hurt those businesses, and that they need to be open. Also spoke about the racial protests in America and stated that looting is not appropriate.
 - Roseanna Deprang – questioned why Council is not wearing masks. Stated that her family all work in the healthcare industry and she thinks that by not wearing a mask you are hurting others, not yourself.
- Council addressed Ms. Deprang's concerns and gave reasoning why they are not wearing masks.

- Cynthia Alvidrez – addressed Mayor Williams and stated that she felt it was inappropriate that he did not attend the protest the previous Saturday regarding the racial issues in America. She stated her opinion on Mayor Williams and that even though he is a minority, she does not think he represents anyone but himself and has an agenda for personal gain only.

Councilmember Price addressed Ms. Alvidrez's statements and defended the Mayor.

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

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

AYES (6): Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Albus and Councilmembers Price, Rentz, McAllister and Craver
NAYS (1): Mayor Pro-tem Hurt

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.


Shawna Atkinson
City Secretary


Anthony Williams
Mayor

Minutes approved on: June 11, 2020

