

**REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS
APRIL 13, 2020
5:00 PM
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Mark Denman, Mayor Pro Tem Don Matter, Councilmembers Ashley Graves, John Mahon, Bob Wartens, and Matt Prior, and Councilmember- Elect Phil Johnson (all members via teleconference)

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Attorney Dick Gregg Jr., City Manager Jason Reynolds, City Secretary Sandra Ham, Assistant City Manager Mary Chambers, Finance Director Csilla Ludanyi, Emergency Management Coordinator Dena Mahon, Human Resource Manager Fire Chief Tom George, and Planning Commission Chairman Roscoe Lee (all members via teleconference)

PRESIDING: Mayor Mark Denman

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Mayor Mark Denman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and announced a quorum of Council was present with all elected officials in attendance.

CITIZENS' REQUEST FOR HEARING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Mark Denman announced a Public Hearing for citizens to address Council regarding any issues or concerns.

The Public Hearing was opened at 5:01 p.m.

Jim Stoa, 18315 Hereford Lane, commented on the City's boating community and voiced concern regarding the safety of the waterways. With the increased number of boaters who visit Nassau Bay, he is recommending additional markers in the water to make the Nassau Bay lagoon safer.

There were no other public comments and the Public Hearing was closed at 5:03 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS/REPORTS

Councilmember Bryce Klug thanked all that participated in a drive-by birthday parade for his son.

Councilmember Ashley Graves expressed her appreciation to all in the City for the extra efforts during the pandemic. Additionally, she thanked the Special Events Committee for their work in the Stay-At-Home challenge which worked to raise the spirits of the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Don Matter complimented the City for a job well done during the pandemic.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mayor Mark Denman expressed his appreciation to the Special Events Committee and Stacey Amdur for their work for the community during the pandemic. He specifically complimented the Committee's work on the Easter celebration, which was featured on KPRC. He continued by thanking the residents for their participation in the Restaurant Challenge. Lastly, he ended by thanking Mediterraneo Market and Café for hosting a week of entertainment at their restaurant in celebration of the City's 50th Anniversary.

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS & COMMITTEES

City Manager

City Manager Jason Reynolds began his comments by expressing his appreciation to staff and the volunteers of the Special Events Committee for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the Easter holiday, the Special Events Committee visited 35 families with the "Easter bunny" in an effort to spread the holiday spirit in the community.

Mr. Reynolds continued by remarking on the recent CenterPoint power outages. He noted residents can go to the City's website to access CenterPoint's power outage map and to report streetlight outages. Additionally, the City's website contains tree trimming information and tree planting guides.

City Manager Reynolds continued by describing the financial status of the City during the COVID pandemic. As there have been financial difficulties seen in other cities, specifically as related to reduced sales tax revenue, Mr. Reynolds indicated that Nassau Bay was not in that position. With the City's superb Finance Department, Nassau Bay maintains adequate funding for normal operations. The City has proper reserves to endure the pandemic. As most cities are sales tax dependent, Nassau Bay only receives 9.4% of its General Fund funding from sales tax. Additionally, it was noted that Nassau Bay's sales tax revenue has already been largely over the projected budget, so any shortfalls would not drastically affect the bottom line.

Police Department

Chief Tim Cromie provided the Police Department report and remarked on the recent promotion of Sergeant Jerel Crowder. As it was a virtual meeting, he hoped to bring Sergeant Crowder to be formally introduced at the next in-person City Council meeting. Additionally, he announced Officer Perry Henderson has completed the Field Training Program.

Chief Cromie continued by providing the Police Department monthly report. For March, the Department responded to 290 calls, made 99 traffic stops, and issued 40 citations. The Department has been handling a majority of the reports, when appropriate, by telephone. Major calls are still processed in person. Officers have been asked to use their best discretion when it come to violations in order to minimize the economic hardships of those during the COVID economic downturn.

Chief Cromie continued by noting that from March 15th to April 10th, there has been a large reduction in calls for service. He thanked the citizens for doing their part during the Stay-At-Home order.

Fire Department

Fire Department President Matt Roper presented the Fire Department's March status report. Mr. Roper stated the Department responded to 15 calls and logged approximately 430 man hours. Similar to the Police Department, calls for service are down. Current membership should increase, with the Department anticipating a positive vote of four new members. There are still applications in queue to be reviewed. The Department is still responding to calls but is working to minimize any unnecessary exposure.

Public Works

Public Works Director Paul Lopez began by describing current operations for the Department. He stated the Department is currently working in split shifts and employees are taking daily temperature checks. As the Director, he continues to work full-time. He noted that other surrounding cities have implemented similar schedules. The WWTP operators are on separated shift as well in order to maintain continuous service. The Department continues to work on general maintenance.

Overall, the City is utilizing an average of 700,000 gallons of water a day. The Department continues to focus on the parks and disinfecting equipment. Public Works employee Raul Lozoya is on medical leave, and Robert Villanueva is the current acting Parks Supervisor. The animal shelter has seven dogs and nine cats and is not currently accepting donations or volunteers.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Coordinator Dena Mahan provided further details on COVID related information. She indicated the reasoning for case counts to differ depended on the data source. Case counts are updated at different times daily, so the source may not have the latest information. Typically, Harris and Galveston counties update counts on their websites at 5:00pm, with other area counties possibly at different times. The Texas Department of State Health Services updates their counts at 1:00pm daily, so their information can be as much as a day behind.

Continuing, she provided clarifying information on the language used surrounding cases. She noted "confirmed" and "active" cases are not synonymous. Confirmed cases include active, recovered, and deaths. The case counts that are shown by jurisdiction are only the confirmed cases. The City does not know if they are active, recovered, or deceased. The confirmed case counts only include those that have tested positive by a health agency or lab. Ms. Mahan also remarked that testing is limited and results often take days to weeks to be completed. Additionally, she stated the media will sometimes report on the suspected number of cases based on models or studies conducted by academics or epidemiologists.

Emergency Management Coordinator Mahan concluded her comments by indicating there was anticipating federal funding to reimburse the City for COVID-19 response expenditures.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on March 9, 2020

Approval of second and final reading Ordinance 2020-795 of the City Council of the City of Nassau Bay, Texas, to amend Municipal Code Chapter 4 – buildings and construction, Article IX. – bulkheads, Section 4-197. – permit required, Section 4-198. – Definitions and Section 4-201. – bulkheads required to be maintained in safe condition

The caption of the ordinance reads as follows (second and final reading):

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS, TO AMEND MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 4 – BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION, ARTICLE IX. – BULKHEADS, SECTION 4-197. – PERMIT REQUIRED, SECTION 4-198. - DEFINITIONS AND SECTION 4-201. – BULKHEADS REQUIRED TO BE MAINTAINED IN SAFE CONDITION.

(Said Ordinance is of record in Ordinance Book No. 13 of the City of Nassau Bay, Texas, being Ordinance No. O2020-795.)

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Don Matter, seconded by Councilmember Bob Wartens, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Update and discussion on the status of the City of Nassau Bay and the COVID-19 pandemic

City Manager Jason Reynolds began discussion by opening up the agenda item to City Council for questions on City operations during the pandemic. The inconsistencies in data seems to be the largest questions received by the City. Nassau Bay has five confirmed cases of COVID-19. Data by city was recently made available. This information was largely disseminated after a push by local Mayors, including Mayor Denman, to provide this information to each City.

Councilmember John Mahon inquired whether the five cases were Nassau Bay residents, or cases at Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital. Mr. Reynolds indicated they were Nassau Bay residents. Councilmember Ashley Graves inquired on the information flow regarding new cases, with City Manager Reynolds noting the updates were daily at 5:00pm. City Manager Reynolds indicated the information that the City provides is data or information from the Harris County Public Health District.

Mayor Mark Denman indicated the regional Mayors also applied pressure to provide first responders with COVID information when servicing a call. As of now, there is a warning provided to the responder in advance of entering a household.

Councilmember-Elect Phil Johnson inquired if the City was in communication with Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital, should here be an increase of cases. City Manager Reynolds indicated the hospital is very involved in the regional coronavirus response and is prepared to be at full capacity if needed.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

Approval of first of two readings of an Ordinance amending code by adopting an updated Drought Contingency Plan and updated Water Conservation Plan

The caption of the ordinance reads as follows (first of two readings):

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AT CHAPTER 20, UTILITIES AND SERVICES, ARTICLE I, SEC. 20-5. DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN, BY ADOPTING AN UPDATED DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN AND A NEW WATER CONSERVATION PLAN TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE USE OF WATER AND ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR THE INITIATION AND TERMINATION OF DROUGHT RESPONSE STAGES INCLUDING RESTRICTIONS; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREOF; AND PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Said Ordinance is of record in Ordinance Book No. 13 of the City of Nassau Bay, Texas, being Ordinance No. O2020-799.)

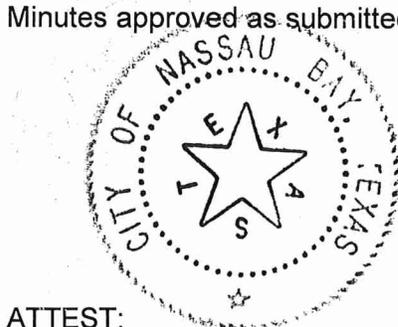
It was moved by Councilmember Bryce Klug, seconded by Councilmember Ashley Graves, to approve the first of two readings an ordinance amending code by adopting an updated Drought Contingency Plan and updated Water Conservation Plan.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted and/or amended this 8th day of June A.D. 2020.



ATTEST:

Sandra V. Ham
City Secretary

CITY OF NASSAU BAY, TEXAS

Mark A. Denman
Mayor