

Julie Masters, Mayor
Charles Suderman, Mayor Pro Tem
Sean Skipworth
Walter Wilson

MINUTES
City of Dickinson
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

Wally Deats
Louis Decker
William H. King III
Chris Heard, City Administrator

August 3, 2020

The Dickinson City Council met in a duly called and announced **SPECIAL MEETING** on **Monday, August 3, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.** In accordance with order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16, 2020, the City Council of the City of Dickinson, Texas conducted the meeting by telephone and video conference in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called “social distancing”) to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The meeting was held for the purpose of considering the following items:

ITEM 1.) CALL TO ORDER AND CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Mayor Masters called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. City Secretary Alun Thomas called roll and certified a quorum. Council Members present were as follows: Mayor Julie Masters, Mayor Pro-Tem Charles Suderman, and Council Members Sean Skipworth, Walter Wilson, Wally Deats, Louis Decker, and William H. King, III. Also present were City Attorney David Olson, City Administrator Chris Heard, and Emergency Medical Services Director/Co-Emergency Management Coordinator Derek Hunt.

ITEM 2.) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING: Resolution Number XXX-2020 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DICKINSON, TEXAS, ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FROM HUITT-ZOLLARS, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVING THE CITY’S ROAD AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM FOR OAK DRIVE BETWEEN PIN OAK DRIVE AND SUNSET DRIVE; AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE AN AGREEMENT FOR SUCH SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF PREAMBLE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Masters said that this item was included on the agenda in error. Therefore, the item was not discussed.

ITEM 3.) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING: Ordinance Number 959-2020 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DICKINSON, TEXAS, EXTENDING THE DECLARATION OF DISASTER ISSUED BY MAYORAL PROCLAMATION ON JUNE 28, 2020 AND EXTENDED BY CITY COUNCIL THROUGH ORDINANCE 958-2020 ON JULY 2, 2020 IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19.

Council Member Wilson made a motion to approve the Ordinance on its first and only reading, and Council Member Decker seconded the motion. Mayor

Masters informed those present that the Ordinance would extend the declaration of disaster for seventy days.

Council discussed the mask order in great detail, with discussion centered on whether the City should provide local businesses with signs informing their customers of the mask order, the penalties associated with violation of the mask order, and how the City's order relates to the Governor's order on the same issue. Council Member Deats sought clarification on the two COVID-19 related orders that Mayor Masters issued on June 28, 2020, remarking that the two appeared to be contradictory. City Attorney David Olson explained that the face mask order (which is four pages long) was issued immediately after the disaster declaration (which is two pages long). He further explained that the Governor's order supersedes the City's order anyway, and that the City is able to enforce the Governor's order too.

Council Member Deats said that he is opposed to the fine included in the mask order for those who violate it. He recounted a conversation that he recently had with Police Chief Ron Morales, who said that he was not aware of any warnings, citations, or fines being issued as a result of the existing order. Council Members Suderman, King, Skipworth, and Wilson disagreed, noting that in the United States of America alone, over 150,000 people have died from Coronavirus (COVID-19), and that already many people do not take the mask order seriously. Mayor Masters noted that the disaster declaration also allows the City to apply for funding to help offset the costs of responding to the pandemic.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

5 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Decker, King)

1 NAY (Deats)

MOTION PASSED

ITEM 4.) EXECUTIVE SESSION: The City Council will now hold a closed executive meeting pursuant to the provision of Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes annotated, in accordance with the authority contained in:

A. Section 551.074 – Personnel Matter – Discussion to Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline or Dismissal of the City Administrator.

Mayor Masters recessed the regular meeting at 7:42 p.m.

ITEM 5.) RECONVENE

Mayor Masters reconvened the regular meeting at 9:03 p.m.

ITEM 6.) CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING: Matters Discussed in Executive Session.

None.

ITEM 7.) ADJOURN

Council Member Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m., and Council Member Skipworth seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

VOTE:

6 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker, King)

0 NAYS

MOTION PASSED

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this the 11th day of August, 2020.

ATTEST:


Alun W. Thomas, City Secretary




Julie Masters, Mayor