

City of Greeley, Colorado
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
March 31, 2020

1. Call to Order

Mayor John Gates called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. This was a remote meeting conducted via Zoom Meetings and live streamed to the public via YouTube.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gates led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. Roll Call

Jerry Harvey, Assistant City Clerk, called the roll. Those present were Mayor John Gates and Councilmembers Tommy Butler, Ed Clark, Michael Fitzsimmons, Dale Hall, Brett Payton and Kristin Zasada.

4. COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic Update

Dan Frazen, Greeley's Emergency Manager, briefly described the current situation of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. He continued by explaining that the City is currently working on a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) master plan, and he described what the City and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) are doing to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Mr. Frazen continued by discussing topics related to the homeless shelter/cold weather shelter operations. He explained that the City has provided the Island Grove Exhibition Building to act as the homeless shelter until April 18th, adding that it is being staffed by the Catholic Charities and United Way. He concluded by noting that there are roughly 65-80 guests a night, they are providing their own security, social distancing has been a bit of a challenge, and there is currently a need for volunteers and food donations.

In response to a questions from Councilmember Zasada, Mr. Frazen explained that when the contract expires on April 18th the shelter will move back to its original facility in Evans.

Roy Otto, City Manager, highlighted issues with the current wording of the City's Code as it relates to the enforcement of Emergency Ordinances. He then introduced Doug Marek, City Attorney, to discuss potential options.

Mr. Marek highlighted the three options before Council as it relates to changing the Code for enforcement of Emergency Orders along with their consequences and actions necessary. The following are the three options:

1. Change nothing with regard to the current enforcement of Emergency Orders
2. Enact an Ordinance
3. Enact an Emergency Ordinance

Councilmember Payton expressed his concern about any potential changes and added that he would need much more information about why it was necessary before considering it.

Councilmember Hall noted that he was not persuaded as to why the City needs to change anything at this point.

Councilmembers Fitzsimmons and Clark noted their agreement with Councilmembers Payton and Hall.

Mayor Gates expressed that he also favors changing nothing at this time noting that Consensus was therefore reached for staff to move forward with Option 1 as presented by Mr. Marek – no changes to the current enforcement of Emergency Orders.

Mr. Marek clarified that staff did not have a particular recommendation but just wanted to update Council on potential options for the future. He continued by discussing the enforcement of the stay-at-home order; briefly highlighted the parts of the order itself; and explained that the Police Department can enforce the order and must observe the violation before it can be enforced. He concluded by noting that the Police Department is not currently actively looking for violations.

Benjamin Snow, Economic Health and Housing Director, discussed community recovery strategies related to the COVID-19 outbreak. He provided an overview of the economic impacts of COVID-19, legislation passed by Congress to help, and lessons learned from the last recession. He continued by explaining the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Recovery (CARES) Act recently passed by Congress to help the economy and explained specifically where the money from that will be going. He then provided an overview of what the State and City are doing. Mr. Snow explained that the City has teamed up with local partners; conducted a survey of affected local businesses noting that the City will remain in touch with businesses and partners; and highlighted the result of the local business survey. He concluded by highlighting proposals for ways the City could provide relief until the CARES Act can be implemented. They include: centralized resources lines/helplines, repurposing redevelopment funds, creating a Greeley Business Recovery Fund, and partnering with local partners like the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

In response to a questions from Councilmember Hall, Mr. Snow explained that he cannot quantify the need at this time. He added that the City has begun asking what concerns local businesses have, but the City does not yet know what/how much the needs are.

Councilmember Clark thanked staff for a job well done, and he added that he liked the idea of there being a Committee to determine the approval of relief applications suggesting that a member of Council serve on that committee.

In response to questions from Councilmember Payton, Mr. Snow explained that the City has spoken to local partners as it relates to fund matching for these relief efforts noting that no specific numbers have been agreed to yet. Mr. Snow added that the City has not spoken with partners outside of Greeley yet.

Councilmember Clark added to this by suggesting a potential regional approach to relief instead of just a City approach.

Councilmember Butler expressed that he fully supports the proposed plans.

In response to a question from Councilmember Zasada relating to the potential recovery funds being limited to payroll at longstanding businesses, Mr. Snow explained that the restrictions are currently just conceptual. He added that the idea behind the restrictions is to help build in some resilience and to help

businesses that, without COVID-19, would have been completely fine. He also reiterated that the City's relief efforts are meant to be bridge funds until the CARES Act can be fully implemented.

Councilmember Fitzsimmons expressed his support for the proposed plans.

Councilmember Payton inquired whether any City staff would be provided to support businesses going through the application process. Becky Safarik, Assistant City Manager, explained that there are staff members that have experience with this sort of work, but added that the Committee would do most of the work on the front end with the City taking over after an application was approved.

Councilmember Hall expressed his concerns about planning to repurpose funds when the City does not yet know what the need truly is. He also expressed his preference that the City add business rent assistance and that the City's assistance only be bridge funds until the CARES Act is fully implemented.

In response to a questions from Mayor Gates, Ms. Safarik confirmed that the funds that have been targeted for use in the City's relief package could be converted to the City's General Fund if not used for relief purposes.

There was consensus from Council for staff to continue with their efforts in creating relief plans for local businesses in response to COVID-19.

Sharon McCabe, Human Resources Director, provided an overview of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and its impacts; described Emergency Paid Leave and Emergency FMLA provided for in this Act; and discussed the temporary layoff of employees in seasonal and temporary positions.

In response to a question from Mayor Gates, Ms. McCabe explained that in order for an employee to receive the Emergency Paid Leave or Emergency FMLA benefits their absence must be directly related to COVID-19.

Ms. Safarik discussed an amendment to the development agreement with the Downtown DoubleTree Hotel. She explained that the hotel ownership contacted the City asking that their required payments for this year be delayed. The City is recommending that this year's payment be broken up over the rest of the life of the repayment schedule. This action will be brought to Council at the April 7, 2020, meeting. The DDA will also be required to approve this action.

Mr. Otto briefly discussed the issues related to opening the City's municipal golf courses during the Governor's stay-at-home order.

Andy McRoberts, Culture, Parks and Recreation Director, described what other municipalities along the Front Range are doing with their golf course operations.

In response to a question from Councilmember Clark, Mr. McRoberts explained the pro-shops are not currently set up to accept online payments so they would need to be staffed.

Councilmember Zasada inquired whether it would be possible for golfers to pay with a credit card number over the phone. Mr. McRoberts explained that he would have to look into new protocols for that adding that they may not be able to do it immediately.

In response to a question from Councilmember Butler, Mr. McRoberts explained that there are some golf maintenance workers that have been temporarily laid off, but most golf course employees are contractual employees and not City employees.

Councilmembers Hall, Payton, Zasada, Fitzsimmons, and Clark all expressed that they are in favor to re-opening the City's municipal golf courses with the social distancing provisions that were in place before the stay-at-home order was enacted.

Councilmember Butler expressed his deep concerns about re-opening the City's municipal golf courses and explained why he does not support the action noting that there are other, more important things to be considering at this time besides golf.

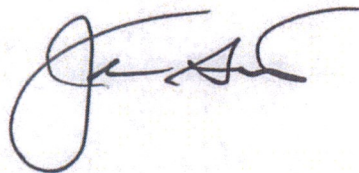
Mayor Gates expressed his support of re-opening the golf courses with the social distancing provisions that are already in place adding that he likes the idea of going to credit card only payments.

Consensus was reached by Council to re-open the City's municipal golf courses with the parameters/restriction that were in place before the Governor's stay-at-home order was enacted with the addition of no longer accepting cash payments at courses. Council also requested that staff report back to Council as soon as possible with an update on how the courses are getting back up and running.

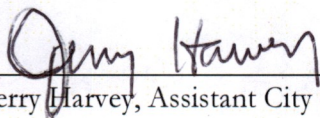
Mayor Gates thanked all City staff for everything they are doing to keep the City running during this difficult time.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.



John Gates, Mayor



Jerry Harvey, Assistant City Clerk