

City of Greeley, Colorado
COUNCIL BRIEFING
April 24, 2020

The Council Briefing began at 4:00 p.m. via a remote Zoom Meeting between City Staff and the City Council. It was live-streamed on the City of Greeley's YouTube Channel.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gates called the Zoom Meeting to Order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL

Cheryl Aragon, Interim City Clerk, called the roll. Those virtually 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

Pandemic Response Activities

Dan Frazen, Emergency Manager, provided an update on current cases and fatalities in Colorado and noted that Weld County numbers had not yet come in for the day. He also spoke of those hospitalized and on ventilators in Greeley hospitals, North Colorado Medical Center and University of Colorado Health.

He stated that City employees continue to work remotely and when in the office are wearing cloth masks and following all State Orders.

Relative to the alternative care facility, he pointed out that it still has a completion date of approximately April 26th.

Mr. Frazen went on to advise that City staff visited the personal isolation facility at Bonell, and work and inspections are being scheduled, with a completion target of one week.

He spoke of the community testing site at Island Grove Park and a doctor-approved site at Aims Community College and that JBS had reopened with safety precautions in place.

With regard to occupancy numbers brought up at the last Council Meeting, Brad Mueller, Community Development Director, reported that the City has had a policy of an individual plus 1, and it varies by zone district. He pointed out that Code Compliance functions are suspended right now, and that a quick survey of what other municipalities are doing was conducted, and staff did not find anything of note. He stated that this issue was identified in the Housing Plan as an area that needs to be reviewed, and it will be brought back to Council in 6-9 months.

Becky Safarik, Assistant City Manager, discussed the blend of indicators being monitored to make sure we are making data-driven decisions. She noted that all should be framed around what the State has offered and that staff is looking at indicators like protocols for offices to open up and under what conditions businesses can open. She stressed that the City is open and operating doing essential functions only, just without public contact. She noted the importance of staying the course at this point.

In response to a question from Councilmember Clark, Ms. Safarik confirmed that staff is in constant contact with all health and hospital representatives.

Greeley Area Recovery Fund

Ben Snow, Economic Health and Housing Director, reported that just today, a Congressional Bill was signed by the President that will be aimed at enhancing paycheck protection programs and an economic injury disaster loan fund. He noted that the staff of the Economic Health and Housing Department will continue to serve as a navigator to those resources.

He reviewed the Greeley Area Recovery Fund donations and applications to date noting that nearly \$575,000 is available. He stated that funds should be distributed to businesses as soon as the week of April 27th.

Councilmember Payton reported that the Committee is working hard to review applications and that more information will be available soon about the average amount of grants. He noted that the average will not be the maximum amount.

Mayor Gates stated that this is a very impressive fundraising effort on a grass-roots level and corporate level and thanked all who have contributed and all who are working to review applications.

City of Greeley Press Release

Roy Otto, City Manager, stated that there has been quite a bit of confusion in the last 24 hours about opening for business in light of Weld County's Safer-at-Work Guidelines.

Kelli Johnson, Communications & Engagement Director, noted that Council had received the draft press release that will be going out from the City and welcomed feedback about it.

Councilmember Butler expressed that this is a strong rebuke of the pure confusion that the Weld County Commissioners created and noted that he has fielded a lot of calls ever since.

Mayor Gates stated that the press release appears to be satisfactory to him and the Council.

Mr. Otto indicated that he would be sharing an email received from a local businessman imploring Council to follow the State's Safer-at-Home guidelines.

The Council Briefing adjourned at 4:32 p.m.



Cheryl Aragon, Interim City Clerk