

**MINUTES
CITY OF ALTAMONT
SPECIAL MEETING
February 15, 2021**

REGULAR MEETING The special meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM via ZOOM with Mayor Richard Hayward presiding. The purpose of this special meeting is for the discussion of Southern Star's operational gas flow order and usage charge. Councilmembers present: Craig Carnahan, Ben Cochran, Raymond Coffey, Jeff Garretson and Paul Souders.

GAS EMERGENCY Mayor Hayward put in effect a Disaster Declaration and Proclamation. At 1:00 PM yesterday afternoon the City attended a virtual meeting with Kansas Municipal Gas Agency (KMGA). The gas producers were faced with several problems due to the extreme cold weather, well head freeze offs and a large increase of demand from their customers. The suppliers raised the gas prices 100 times. The City has been using social media and the website for community updates. Mayor Hayward stated our main priority is keeping the gas flowing to our community. The second priority is asking businesses and residents to decrease gas usage as much as possible. The final priority is mitigating the financial impact which the City of Altamont and its residents could incur.

State officials have been contacted and it is being passed on to federal officials. Yesterday, Governor Kelly issued an Emergency Declaration. Charles Morse with the Labette County Emergency Management stated Labette County has issued a County Declaration for 14 days. Mr. Morse stated the County will stand behind the City through this emergency.

Mayor Hayward stated the City is working on a contingency plan in case there is an interruption in the gas supply. During one of the meetings, the City was informed as long as there are no pipeline issues, there is a reduced chance of a gas interruption through Southern Star. Mayor Hayward informed the public everyone still needs to prepare. The City has talked to other communities about the possibility of a shelter if necessary. Mayor Hayward encouraged the public to make arrangements to stay with family for a short period of time if the City loses gas supply. Campsites will be available for free in the event of a gas interruption. Transportation is set up to assist residents to get to a shelter if needed. Labette County Emergency Management has a 15 -20 family mobile unit. It would take the Red Cross 12-18 hours to get the mobile unit set up if needed.

Audree Aguilera stated the City will give a public update tomorrow at 6:30 PM. Michael Shields stated the City has reached out to the local new medias and Altamont's Information Channel 3 with press releases pertaining to the gas and electric issues. Labette County 911 and USD 506 were able to send out messages through their communication systems. Brad Myers has been monitoring our gas pressure a minimum of three times a day.

City Hall will be closed until Friday. The employees will be there if the residents need something. Library is closed until Friday. Trash pickup has been cancelled for this week.

Councilmember Cochran commended Mayor Hayward and the City Staff for everything they are doing in this situation.

Councilmember Garretson asked about the citizens who are on oxygen, bed ridden or have COVID. Mayor Hayward stated oxygen is portable and could go to a shelter. The shelters would be social distanced. Audree wanted to note the City would work directly with the Red Cross and Labette County Emergency Management. Mr. Morse stated if there were active COVID patients, they would go to a separate shelter or a separate room isolated from the others.

Audree encouraged non-essential businesses to temporarily close to conserve gas or electric. Brad went to each business to let them know what was going on. There were some electrical outages today in other communities. At 9:00 AM tomorrow there may be more outages. Citizens were encouraged to let City Hall know if they were on oxygen. Brad reminded the public if they have any water issues to call the City's emergency phone number. Audree requested Jake LaTurner's office to contact the President for an emergency declaration.

Mayor Hayward commended the City employees for the time they have put in to this emergency.

ADJOURNMENT Councilmember Garretson moved and Souders seconded to adjourn the special meeting at 7:26 PM. Motion carried by roll call.

DATE

LeaAnn Myers, City Clerk