

CITY OF FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS  
MINUTES OF: SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DATE OF MEETING: MAY 19, 2020  
TIME OF MEETING: 11:00 A.M.  
PLACE OF MEETING: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

ROLL CALL WAS ANSWERED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE: RUBEN FALCON, JAMES WARNOCK, MIKE URETA JR.,  
PAM PALILEO & PAUL CASIAS

VOTED NAY  
VOTED AYE  
SECONDED  
MOVED

MAYOR: JOE CHRIS ALEXANDER  
CITY MANAGER: FRANK RODRIGUEZ III  
CITY SECRETARY: MARINA A. CANTU  
CITY ATTORNEY: PUJA BOINPALLY

**Mayor Alexander** called the Special Meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. after declaring a quorum present.

**Mayor Alexander** gave the Invocation.

**Mayor Alexander** read the Mission Statement:

**“The Mission of the City of Fort Stockton Municipal Government is to Promote & Value Public Confidence and Trust by the Accountable and Responsible Use of Community Resources; to Ensure Public Safety; Improve Public Services; Promote Local Recreation and Entertainment; and Generate Economic Development.”**

**FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

- 1. Discuss/Act upon Ordinance No. 20-107 an Ordinance of the City of Fort Stockton, Texas, Imposing Additional Disaster Restrictions for the City of Fort Stockton, Making Various Findings and Provisions Related to the Subject.**

**Mayor Alexander** explained that he would personally like to stress the recommendation for citizens to wear a mask when going out in the public. There is no restriction mandating people remain indoors. He asked that citizens use common sense and don't take their entire family shopping. He recommended that open businesses provide masks to their employees and ask customers to wear a mask when entering the establishment. Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 their entire household will be asked to self-isolate at home.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta** stated after reviewing the proposed Ordinance he had an issue with Section 3, “Only one person per household will be allowed to enter any open Retail Business or Government Service with the exception of assisting elderly, disabled, and children.” He believes that this contradicts the Governor's Executive Order to reopen businesses. He understands everyone's concern; however, he feels that the city needs to follow the Governor's Executive Order.

**Council Member Palileo** agreed with Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta. However, she advised citizens with compromised immunities to use caution.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta** voiced that he would like to encourage businesses to take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These decisions should be made at the business level and the City should concentrate their efforts

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on enforcing what the Governor Abbott has allowed the City to do. Issues such as the occupancy. He would like to see the City take a different approach.

**Council Member Casias** recommended reaching out to the businesses especially the larger retail stores to assist in limiting unnecessary exposure.

**Council Member Falcon** suggested following Governor Abbott’s Executive Order and proceeding with caution.

**Council Member Palileo** advised everyone that a number of the cases that tested positive in Fort Stockton were asymptomatic. She asked that everyone be cautious.

**Council Member Warnock** asked that the restaurants be mindful to stay within their limited capacity.

**Mayor Alexander** stated that the bars would open on Friday which is concerning.

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

**SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

**2. Discuss/Act upon an Agreement with Hotel Owner(s) to Assist with Quarantine Efforts for First Responders and TDCJ Prison Officials.**

**Mayor Alexander** stated there were a couple of changes that everyone needed to be made aware of.

**Section 2.1 “City being tax exempt”**

**Section 2.2** “The Property Owner shall be paid for each room after the 7- or 14-day quarantine. The Property Owner will submit an invoice to the City of Fort Stockton Finance Department. The invoice should include the following: an invoice number, the dates covered by the invoice, and the number of rooms rented.”

He explained that the City is trying to provide a place for those who test positive and need a place to stay.

The hotel has outdoor access to aid in limiting exposure.

**Council Member Falcon** advised everyone that City Council had been proactive and had this agreement drafted in March. This would allow the City to assist TDCJ

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to participate in public safety; as well as, allowing others to quarantine.

**NUMBERS FOR PECOS COUNTY:**

382 Total Tested  
 297 Tested Negative  
 53 Pending Results  
 23 Confirmed Cases  
 9 Quarantined in El Paso  
 14 Active Cases

**Motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to Approve Agreement with Hotel Owner(s) to Assist with Quarantine Efforts for First Responders and TDCJ Prison Officials.**

**THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

**3. Questions from the Media.**

**Fort Stockton Pioneer Publisher Steve Fountain** inquired if the City would be reimbursed for the cost of the rooms.

**City Manager Rodriguez** advised everyone that the City received a COVID-19 Relief Package from the Governor's Office the city would be able to submit expenses due to COVID-19 for reimbursement.

**Fort Stockton Pioneer Publisher Fountain** inquired if this was a Federal Reimbursement or a State Reimbursement.

**City Manager Rodriguez** responded that this is a State Reimbursement.

**Fort Stockton Pioneer Publisher Fountain** inquired if the City had spoken to TDCJ concerning the Agreement with Hotel Owner(s) to Assist with Quarantine Efforts for First Responders and TDCJ Prison Officials.

**City Manager Rodriguez** responded that he had spoken to Regional Director Martinez who would pass on the information to the Senior Warden.

**Fort Stockton Pioneer Publisher Fountain** reiterated that this is merely a resource to use hotel rooms to isolate, not mandatory. This is solely on a volunteer basis.

	MOVED	SECONDED	VOTED AYE	VOTED NAY
FALCON	X		X	
WARNOCK			X	
URETA			X	
PALILEO	X		X	
CASIAS			X	

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 WARNOCK  
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He also mentioned that the proposed Ordinance conflicts with Governor Abbott's Order as it states, "Any person who knowingly or intentionally violates any provision of this Ordinance commits an offense punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00."

City Attorney Boinpally explained in Accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order a fine up to \$1,000.00 is allowable; however, the confinement was eliminated.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ureta confirmed that the fine up to \$1,000.00 was allowable in accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order.

Fort Stockton Pioneer Publisher Fountain inquired about Section 2, "Section 122.005 of the Health and Safety Code authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals, and ensuring compliance for those who do not comply with the City's rules." What authority does the City have?

City Attorney Boinpally replied that the Health & Safety Code authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus.

Fort Stockton Pioneer Publisher Fountain inquired who placed the Ordinance on the Agenda.

City Attorney Boinpally responded that a question was posed as to what could be done to assist in the spread of the virus. She researched it and came up with the proposed ordinance.

Mayor Alexander reminded everyone that the Ordinance was not passed.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS:

4. Adjourn.

There being no further business, motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adjourn the Special Meeting @ 11:30 a.m.

FALCON  
WARNOCK  
URETA  
PALILEO  
CASIAS

X  
X  
X  
X  
X  
X

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Joe Chris Alexander, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Marina A. Cantu, City Secretary