



**CITY OF HUTTO, TEXAS
CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 30, 2020**

A Special Called Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hutto, Texas was held on March 30, 2020 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 W. Live Oak, Hutto, Texas 78634, for which proper notice was given.

1. CALL SESSION TO ORDER

With a quorum of the members present, Mayor Gaul called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members of the City Council present were Mayor Doug Gaul, Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hines, Councilmember Scott Rose, Councilmember Mike Snyder, Councilmember Peter Gordon, Councilmember Patti Martinez, Councilmember Tanner Rose.

Members of staff that were present were Charles W. Daniels, Interim City Manager; Byron Frankland, Assistant City Manager; Michel Sorrell, Assistant City Manager and CFO; Misti Hancock, Finance Manager; Samuel Ray, Director of Public Works; Stacy Schmitt, Assistant to the City Manager, PIO and Appointed City Secretary; Dorothy Palumbo, City Attorney, (by telephone); and Blake Roberts, Financial Advisor (by telephone).

3. INVOCATION. The Invocation was given by Mayor Doug Gaul.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Mayor Gaul opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

5. PROCLAMATIONS. There were none presented.

6. CITY COUNCIL

6A. General Comments from City Council

Williamson County Judge Bill Gravell called into the meeting to speak to Council, thanking them for their leadership during these difficult times. The first case of COVID-19 in the City of Hutto was reported today. Testing kits are being reserved to first responders at this time. The reason for the call is to encourage the Council to postpone the city's May 2 election to November 3, 2020. Elections are not being conducted by the County impart due to county equipment (laptops) used by Elections Division are being utilized across the County for use with the COVID-19 crisis. Health issues and saving lives are a number one priority.

Councilmember Mike Snyder stated that the negative comments made by the public towards the Interim City Manager should not be held against him. The decisions made were not of his doing but by the decisions made by the Council. He complimented Mr. Daniels on his professional manner.

Mayor Doug Gaul plead with citizens to refrain from making threatening remarks towards the Councilmembers when there are disagreements. These threatening remarks will not be tolerated. All should consider these unprecedented times we are living in.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

In light of COVID-19 emergency, in person gatherings of the public should be avoided. Therefore, the Open Meetings requirement was suspended by the Governor and the City instituted that public comments would be submitted by email and would be read aloud during the meeting. The emails were read aloud by Stacy Schmitt.

Rhett Branfield commented on the Mayor's lack of leadership and asked for his resignation.

James and Ida Gail Weaver commented on the status of the forensic audit, layoffs, disaster orders, suspension of council pay. He also commented on Councilmember Snyder's request that the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem should resign.

Jim Smith stated that all contract personnel or temporary workers should be let go and reinstate employees that were laid off. He asked for a non-confidence vote for the interim City Manager.

Diane Navarro commented on wasteful spending and debt by the City and should focus on providing services.

Troy McMillian, as a former Parks Board Chair, he expressed concerns on how the \$50M bond funds were being used for the parks, specifically related to Mager Baseball Field. He also encouraged the conclusion of the forensic audit.

Victoria Pierce commented on recent employee layoffs and consider reinstatement of employees recently laid off. She expressed concerns of the demeanor and conduct during Council meetings.

Kim Hawkins commented on the reduction of services for Animal Control. She spoke about a recent incident regarding her dog that was missing. Fortunately, her pet was returned home. However, she is concerned what this means for citizens pets in the future. She made a plea to reinstate the Animal Control Officers and not rely on the Police Department.

Jimmy Wright, as a long time resident of Hutto, he is concerned with the developments arising throughout the City. He expressed concerns with the leadership abilities of Councilmember Snyder and suggested that he should resign.

Mike Glass asked that all jobs laid off to be reinstated. Employees should continue to receive health benefits and cut spending in other areas.

Diana Solis spoke about a recent cut/bit from her pet. She expressed her opinion that the Animal Control Officers should be reinstated.

Andrew Boss commented on Council receiving compensation.

Laura Wells commented on the layoffs in the Library. Librarians should be reinstated along with Animal Control Officers.

Lauren Rank commented on reinstating the Animal Control Officers.

Barbara McMillian commented on the previous City Manager, Odis Jones, on his leadership and cover up by Councilmembers Peter Gordon and Scott Rose. They need to step down.

Jordi Matthews commented on misappropriations of city funds and over spending, the recent layoffs that he believes is unacceptable. Librarians and Animal Control Officers need to be reinstated.

Tabby Blewett commented on Animal Control Officers should be reinstated.

Amanda Barklett commented on Animal Control Officers should be reinstated.

Britney Delgado commented on the mismanagement of the city budget, layoffs specifically the Librarians. People need to be held accountable.

Ron McKee commented on the layoffs and mismanagement.

Melissa McKee commented on the city's financial hardships and budget, layoff of Animal Control Officers, requested audits for every department, and directed comments specifically to Councilmember Patti Martinez to resign.

Robin Sutton comments were related to the current state of the City. She is against postponing the May 2 election. There needs to be personal accountability.

A.J. Clawson is concerned with the leadership of the Interim City Manager, suggests that Councilmembers Mike Snyder and Scott Rose should resign. Leaking of city information continues and commented on the threatening remarks on Facebook.

Katherine Senn stated that she is against postponement of the May 2 election.

8. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

8.1 Acceptance and filing of the 2018-2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports and Audit as required by law. (*Michel Sorrell*)

A presentation was given by the City's Auditors, Whitley Penn.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Martinez to accept the 2018-2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports and Audit as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Hines seconded the motion.

<u>VOTE:</u>	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Doug Gaul	X			
Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hines	X			
Councilmember Scott Rose	X			
Councilmember Mike Snyder		X		
Councilmember Peter Gordon		X		
Councilmember Patti Martinez	X			
Councilmember Tanner Rose		X		

ACTION: The motion carried by a vote of 4 Ayes to 3 Nays.

9. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. There were none presented for consideration.

10. ORDINANCES. There were none presented for consideration.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1. Consideration and possible action on videoconferencing for City meetings and establishing procedures for Call-in.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Tanner Rose to table the agenda item to Thursday, April 2, 2020 at a regular meeting. Councilmember Snyder seconded the motion.

<u>VOTE:</u>	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Doug Gaul		X		
Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hines		X		
Councilmember Scott Rose		X		
Councilmember Mike Snyder	X			
Councilmember Peter Gordon		X		
Councilmember Patti Martinez		X		
Councilmember Tanner Rose	X			

ACTION: The motion failed by a vote of 2 ayes to 5 nays.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Tanner Rose to take action to adopt a policy for video conferencing and call-ins as presented. Councilmember Gordon seconded the motion.

<u>VOTE:</u>	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Doug Gaul	X			
Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hines	X			
Councilmember Scott Rose	X			
Councilmember Mike Snyder	X			
Councilmember Peter Gordon	X			
Councilmember Patti Martinez	X			
Councilmember Tanner Rose	X			

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 ayes to 0 nays.

A copy of the procedures is attached to these minutes.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Snyder to move agenda item 11.3 before item 11.2. Councilmember Gordon seconded the motion.

<u>VOTE:</u>	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Doug Gaul		X		
Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hines		X		
Councilmember Scott Rose		X		
Councilmember Mike Snyder	X			
Councilmember Peter Gordon	X			
Councilmember Patti Martinez		X		
Councilmember Tanner Rose	X			

ACTION: The motion failed by a vote of 3 ayes to 4 nays.

11.2. Consideration and possible action to postpone the May 2020 Election.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hines to authorize the Mayor to sign Ordinance No. O-2020-003 postponing the May 2, 2020 General Election to November 3, 2020. Councilmember Martinez seconded the motion.

<u>VOTE:</u>	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Doug Gaul	X			
Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hines	X			
Councilmember Scott Rose	X			
Councilmember Mike Snyder		X		

Councilmember Peter Gordon	X	
Councilmember Patti Martinez	X	
Councilmember Tanner Rose		X

ACTION: The motion carried by a vote of 5 ayes and 2 nays.

11.3. Consideration and possible action on City of Hutto operations budget including but not limited to: (a) 2020 Budget; (b) Current Financials; (c) Financing Options from Financial Advisors; (d) Stimulus Package for Furloughed Employees; (e) Suspending City Council Pay for Six Months; and (f) Contracts and/or Agreements Suspension.

There was discussion with the following actions taken:

ORIGINAL MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Gordon to suspend Council pay for 6 months. Councilmember Snyder seconded the motion.

<u>VOTE:</u>	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Doug Gaul	X			
Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hines	X			
Councilmember Scott Rose	X			
Councilmember Mike Snyder	X			
Councilmember Peter Gordon	X			
Councilmember Patti Martinez		X		
Councilmember Tanner Rose		X		

ACTION: The motion carried by a vote of 5 ayes to 2 nays.

Amendment #1: A motion was made by Councilmember Snyder to decrease councilmember pay to \$1 per month going forward. Councilmember Tanner Rose seconded the motion.

<u>VOTE:</u>	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Doug Gaul		X		
Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hines		X		
Councilmember Scott Rose		X		
Councilmember Mike Snyder	X			
Councilmember Peter Gordon		X		
Councilmember Patti Martinez		X		
Councilmember Tanner Rose	X			

ACTION: The motion failed by a vote of 2 ayes to 5 nays

Amendment #2: A motion was made by Councilmember Gordon to permanently reduce councilmember pay by one-half (1/2). Councilmember Snyder seconded the motion.

<u>VOTE:</u>	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Doug Gaul		X		
Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hines		X		
Councilmember Scott Rose		X		
Councilmember Mike Snyder	X			
Councilmember Peter Gordon	X			
Councilmember Patti Martinez		X		
Councilmember Tanner Rose	X			

ACTION: The motion failed by a vote of 3 ayes to 4 nays

A motion was made by Councilmember Martinez to charge \$0 for utility disconnects during the disaster declaration period. Mayor Pro Tem Hines seconded the motion.

<u>VOTE:</u>	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Doug Gaul	X			
Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hines	X			
Councilmember Scott Rose	X			
Councilmember Mike Snyder	X			
Councilmember Peter Gordon	X			
Councilmember Patti Martinez	X			
Councilmember Tanner Rose	X			

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 ayes to 0 nay.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council for the City of Hutto reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above as authorized by the Texas Government Code: *Section 551.071 [Litigation/Consultation with Attorney], Section 551.072 [Deliberations regarding real property], Section 551.073 [Deliberations regarding gifts and donations], Section 551.074 [Deliberations regarding personnel matters], Section 551.076 [Deliberations regarding deployment/implementation of security personnel or devices] and Section 551.087 [Deliberations regarding Economic Development negotiations].*

12.1. Receive legal advice pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 concerning any posted agenda item.

The Open Meeting was recessed at 11:31 p.m. to convene the Executive Session in accordance with the authority granted by Texas Government Code under section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney to discuss items in agenda item 11.3. The Executive Session convened at 11:31 p.m. and adjourned the Executive Session at 11:52 p.m.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

13. ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

13.1. Reconvene in regular session and take any action necessary pursuant to executive session.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Martinez to authorize the City Attorney to review the City's agreements; including purchase orders, to prepare execution letters for the Interim City Manager to send pursuant to the Williamson County orders to stay home, stay safe adopted on March 24, 2020 and by order of the City of Hutto on March 26, 2020 continuing the Mayor's Declaration of Local Disaster and move to authorize the Interim City Manager to notify Garr Broadcasting to suspend the City's involvement in the Fest this year. Councilmember Gordon seconded the motion.

<u>VOTE:</u>	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Doug Gaul	X			
Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hines	X			
Councilmember Scott Rose	X			
Councilmember Mike Snyder	X			
Councilmember Peter Gordon	X			
Councilmember Patti Martinez	X			
Councilmember Tanner Rose	X			

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7 ayes to 0 nays.

14. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, Mayor Gaul adjourned the meeting at 11:54 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Doug Gaul, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/

Stacy Schmitt, Interim City Secretary

These minutes were approved on _____ May 7, 2020.

March 30, 2020 – City Council Meeting Minutes

