

CITY OF DENTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 20, 2020

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551, V.T.C.A., Government Code, the City Council convened in an Emergency Special Meeting on Friday, March 20, 2020, at 1:04 p.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Mayor Chris Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Gerard Hudspeth, and Council Members Jesse Davis and Paul Meltzer

ABSENT: None

NOTE: Council Members Keely Briggs, John Ryan, and Deb Armintor participated in the work session/meeting via teleconference and under the provisions allowed under Texas Government Code Section 551.127.

Also present were City Manager Todd Hileman and City Attorney Aaron Leal

WORK SESSION

1. **Work Session Reports**

- A. ID 20-739 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding an update to the City of Denton's COVID-19 response.

The presentation was made and discussion followed.

During discussion, staff was asked to enhance resource information available online. There was no direction provided as the item was for informational purposes only. Future updates to be scheduled.

SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING

After determining that a quorum was present, the City Council of the City of Denton, Texas convened in a Special Emergency Meeting on Friday, March 20, 2020, at 1:56 p.m. in the Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Mayor Chris Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Gerard Hudspeth, and Council Members Jesse Davis and Paul Meltzer

ABSENT: None

NOTE: Council Members Keely Briggs, John Ryan, and Deb Armintor participated in the work session/meeting via teleconference and under the provisions allowed under Texas Government Code Section 551.127.

Also present were City Manager Todd Hileman and City Attorney Aaron Leal

1. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- A. ID 20-740 Consider an ordinance of the City of Denton, a Texas home-rule municipal corporation, amending Ordinance No. 20-721 regarding the declaration of emergency; amending the Order of Council of the City of Denton issued March 17, 2020 approved by Ordinance No. 20-721; authorizing the expenditure of funds; and providing an effective date.
ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 20-740

Mayor Watts announced commentary received through the City's electronic messaging program for the item would be read to the extent they could be identified and made a part of the record.

The presentation was made and discussion followed with needed changes identified.

Citizen comments received are noted in Exhibit A. All members of the City Council received the comments as submitted and had the opportunity to review all submissions prior to the start of the meeting and consider such comments when voting on the item.

Discussion continued with the following identified as needed changes to the proposed Ordinance, Declaration and Order and to incorporate state and county directives by reference and modify as follows:

- Prohibit community gatherings of 50 or more people;
- Prohibit social gatherings of more than 10 people;
- Urges businesses to enforce social distancing of six feet or more in line or queue areas and clean self-service check-out machines between each customer;
- Add a definition for "Social Gathering";
- Add Section 6 requiring that bars, lounges, taverns, motion picture and stage theaters, clubs, and gyms shall also close;
- Include authorization for the City Manager to approve individual purchases up to \$500,000; and
- Include in the provisions provided by the City to carry requirements to the date indicated in the adopted Order in the event Governor Abbott and/or Denton County do not extend their Orders.

The meeting was recessed at 2:25 p.m. to allow staff time to reconnect with Council Member Armintor as telephone connectivity had been lost and reconvened at 2:37 p.m.

City Attorney Leal reported the City was working on an electronic comment system to allow citizens to provide input on agenda items that would follow established procedures.

Following discussion, by consensus of the City Council, staff was directed to amend the Ordinance, Declaration and Order to incorporate state and county directives by reference and modify as noted during earlier discussion. Staff was asked to follow up on the definition of massage parlors.

The meeting was recessed for a short break at 3:42 p.m. and reconvened at 3:50 p.m.

By consensus of the City Council, the City Manager was given the discretion to utilize city funds to feed city employees working extended hours to provide city services.

The meeting was recessed at 5:02 p.m. to allow changes to the proposed order and reconvened at 5:20 p.m. As a result, the item was held to later in the meeting to allow the City Attorney's Office to make the proposed changes to the Order.

Later in the meeting, the item returned for review, discussion and consideration.

Council Member Davis moved to adopt the ordinance and amended Order as earlier noted. Motion seconded by Council Member Meltzer. Motion carried.

AYES (5): Mayor Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth and Council Members Davis, Ryan, and Meltzer

NAYS (2): Council Members Briggs and Armintor

- B. ID 20-745 Consider a resolution of the City of Denton approving the Greater Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Task Force Agreement for the formation of a regional law enforcement mutual aid task force with other area law enforcement agencies for the purposes of providing and receiving law enforcement assistance; authorizing the city manager to execute the appropriate documents; and providing an effective date.

ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 20-745

The item was presented and discussion followed.

Council Member Meltzer moved to approve the item as presented. Motion seconded by Council Member Davis. Motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth, and Council Members Briggs, Davis, Ryan, and Meltzer

NAYS (1): Council Member Armintor

- C. ID 20-741 Consider adoption of an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 20-264 ordering an election to be held in the City of Denton, Texas, on May 2, 2020 and, if a runoff election is required, on June 13, 2020, for the purpose of electing Council Members to Places 5 and 6 and electing a Mayor to Place 7 of the City Council of the City of Denton, to change the date of the election; confirming candidate filings; providing dates for voter registration, applications for a ballot by mail, and early voting; authorizing the City Manager and City Secretary to coordinate with the elections administrator of Denton County as necessary; providing a savings clause; providing an open meetings clause; and providing an effective date.

ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 20-741

Items 1.C (ID 20-741) and 1.D (ID 20-742) were collectively read into the record and presented, with each item voted on individually.

Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth moved to not hold the May 2, 2020 elections and ask Governor Abbott to authorize a special election date for August 8, 2020 and give Denton County notice no elections would be held May 2nd. Council Member Ryan seconded the motion.

Discussion followed.

Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth amended his motion to “move the May 2, 2020 elections to November 3, 2020 and join other municipalities seeking an August 8th special election date.” Council Member Ryan, having seconded the original motion, accepted the amendment.

Council Member Ryan moved a friendly amendment to include “or other date other than November 3rd.” Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth accepted the friendly amendment.

Mayor Watts moved a friendly amendment to “*postpone* the May 2nd elections” rather than “move” the elections. The friendly amendment was accepted by Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth and Council Member Ryan.

Council Member Davis moved a friendly amendment to add a “May 31 deadline for city action on submitting the request to Governor Abbott.” The friendly amendment was accepted by Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth and Council Member Ryan.

Council Member Davis moved to table items 1.C. (File ID 20-741) and 1.D. (File ID 20-742) to later in the meeting to allow the City Attorney's Office to make the requested changes. Motion seconded by Council Member Ryan. Motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth, and Council Members Briggs, Davis, Ryan, and Meltzer

NAYS (1): Council Member Armintor

The meeting was recessed for a short break at 6:27 p.m. and reconvened at 6:34 p.m.

Later in the meeting, the item returned for review, discussion, and consideration.

Council Member Davis moved to untable items 1.C. (File ID 20-741) and 1.D. (File ID 20-742). Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth.

AYES (7): Mayor Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth, and Council Members Briggs, Davis, Ryan, Armintor, and Meltzer

NAYS (0): None

Mayor Watts moved a friendly amendment to change Section 6 of the ordinances to state “*The City Manager is authorized to join, on behalf of the City, a petition approved by the City Council with other Texas municipalities requesting an election date prior to November 3, 2020. The City reserves the right to further amend to Ordinance 20-264 and this Ordinance with a different date, except that if no further amendment is made by May 31, 2020, the City will cease petitioning for a different date.*” The friendly amendment was accepted by Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth and Council Member Ryan.

Mayor Watts called the vote on Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth's amended motion, seconded by Council Member Ryan as follows:

- Change Section 2 to add "*postpone the May 2 elections to November 3*";
- Change Section 6 to state "*The City Manager is authorized to join a petition approved by the City Council with other Texas municipalities requesting an election date prior to November 3.*"; and
- Change Section 6 to state "*The City reserves the right to further amend Ordinance 20-264 and this Ordinance with a different date, except that if no further amendment is made by May 31, 2020, the City will cease petitioning for a different date.*"

Motion carried.

AYES (4): Mayor Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth, and Council Members Davis and Ryan
NAYS (3): Council Members Briggs, Armintor, and Meltzer

- D. ID 20-742 Consider adoption of an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 20-265 ordering a special election to be held in the City of Denton, Texas, on May 2, 2020 and, if a runoff election is required, on June 13, 2020, to fill a vacancy in Districts 1 and 2 for the unexpired term ending in May, 2021, to change the date of the election; confirming candidate filings; providing dates for voter registration, applications for a ballot by mail, and early voting; authorizing the City Manager and City Secretary to coordinate with the elections administrator of Denton County as necessary; providing a savings clause; providing an open meetings clause; and providing an effective date.

ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 20-742

Items 1.C (ID 20-741) and 1.D (ID 20-742) were collectively read into the record and presented, with each item voted on individually.

Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth moved to not hold the May 2, 2020 elections and ask Governor Abbott to authorize a special election date for August 8, 2020 and give Denton County notice no elections would be held May 2nd. Council Member Ryan seconded the motion.

Discussion followed.

Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth amended his motion to "move the May 2, 2020 elections to November 3, 2020 and join other municipalities seeking an August 8th special election date." Council Member Ryan, having seconded the original motion, accepted the amendment.

Council Member Ryan moved a friendly amendment to include "or other date other than November 3rd." Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth accepted the friendly amendment.

Mayor Watts moved a friendly amendment to "*postpone the May 2nd elections*" rather than "move" the elections. The friendly amendment was accepted by Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth and Council Member Ryan.

Council Member Davis moved a friendly amendment to add a “May 31 deadline for city action on submitting the request to Governor Abbott.” The friendly amendment was accepted by Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth and Council Member Ryan.

Council Member Davis moved to table items 1.C. (File ID 20-741) and 1.D. (File ID 20-742) to later in the meeting to allow the City Attorney's Office to make the requested changes. Motion seconded by Council Member Ryan. Motion carried.

AYES (6): Mayor Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth, and Council Members Briggs, Davis, Ryan, and Meltzer

NAYS (1): Council Member Armintor

The meeting was recessed for a short break at 6:27 p.m. and reconvened at 6:34 p.m.

Later in the meeting, the item returned for review, discussion, and consideration.

Council Member Davis moved to untable items 1.C. (File ID 20-741) and 1.D. (File ID 20-742). Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth.

AYES (7): Mayor Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth, and Council Members Briggs, Davis, Ryan, Armintor, and Meltzer

NAYS (0): None

Mayor Watts moved a friendly amendment to change Section 6 of the ordinances to state “*The City Manager is authorized to join, on behalf of the City, a petition approved by the City Council with other Texas municipalities requesting an election date prior to November 3, 2020. The City reserves the right to further amend to Ordinance 20-264 and this Ordinance with a different date, except that if no further amendment is made by May 31, 2020, the City will cease petitioning for a different date.*” The friendly amendment was accepted by Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth and Council Member Ryan.

Mayor Watts called the vote on Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth’s amended motion, seconded by Council Member Ryan as follows:

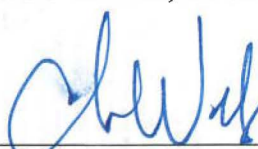
- Change Section 2 to add “*postpone the May 2 elections to November 3*”;
- Change Section 6 to state “*The City Manager is authorized to join a petition approved by the City Council with other Texas municipalities requesting an election date prior to November 3.*”; and
- Change Section 6 to state “*The City reserves the right to further amend Ordinance 20-265 and this Ordinance with a different date, except that if no further amendment is made by May 31, 2020, the City will cease petitioning for a different date.*”

Motion carried.

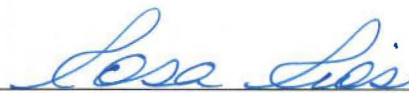
AYES (4): Mayor Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Hudspeth, and Council Members Davis and Ryan

NAYS (3): Council Members Briggs, Armintor, and Meltzer

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



CHRIS WATTS
MAYOR
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS



ROSA RIOS
CITY SECRETARY
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

MINUTES APPROVED ON:

April 21, 2020

March 20, 2020 Emergency City Council Meeting - EXHIBIT A

Speaker Commentaries/Registrations
Online, Email, Phone

Name	Last	Address Line 2	City	Agenda Item	Position	Comments
Brian	Beck		Denton	ID 20-740	For	Please amend disaster declarations to reflect Federal and Regional recommendations of 10 individuals for 2 weeks and 50 individuals until the crisis abates (as described in the Background). Recommend you follow Cm Meltzer's advice to build in flexibility to follow CDC/Whitehouse guidelines as needed regarding gathering numbers so you don't have to revisit this. Please remove carve outs for non-medical and non-food-distribution organizations.
Morgan	Brack		Denton	ID 20-740	For	I don't know what the above agendas are as there is no description but, WE NEED YOU GUYS TO SHUT SALONS AND BARBER SHOPS DOWN, it's absurd you have left this community so confused and unprotected. We can not work with in the guidelines. Salons and barber shops NEED to be closed to slow the spread and for the safety of our community!! Please help us. Thank you!
Brian	Beck		Denton	ID 20-741	For	If feasible/legally allowable, please add language promoting/supporting/authorizing the use of mail-in-balling by all registered voters.
Christiana	Harris		Denton	ID 20-741	For	I am for moving the elections to November. Public safety and health is most important and elections could put that at risk.
Pamela	Paul		Denton	ID 20-741	Against	I am ABSOLUTELY against postponing the local elections to November. We should be able to VOTE BY MAIL.
Eric	Pruett		Denton	ID 20-741	Against	This is one of those situations where I bemoan the fact that I must indicate whether I'm forced to choose 'for' or 'against'. I'm against delaying until November. I'm also against holding an in-person election from April 20 to May 2. Please find a better way.
Brian	Beck		Denton	ID 20-742	For	If feasible/legally allowable, please add language promoting/supporting/authorizing the use of mail-in-balling by all registered voters.
Jennifer	Lane		Denton	ID 20-742	Against	Thank you Mayor for reading my statement of reasons for postponement of the election. Please read this comment in full as well (perhaps not so quickly as the last one). I wrote to you and all of Council last night as to why it should be postponed to November. We don't know when this emergency declaration will end. All elections involve in-person voting (as well as mail-in for 65+, disabled, active military and those out of county for the entirety of early voting and election day) not presently for all voters in Texas). In-person voting will be unsafe to voters and election workers, particularly poll workers.
Jennifer	Lane		Denton	ID 20-742	Against	Please read my entire short statement sent earlier and copied here regarding the reasons for postponement of the election to November or I will file a complaint with the Texas Freedom of Info Foundation. I sent this message last night via the city's contact portal but have received no response from anyone so am sending it again via my personal email. I am writing to let you know that I concur with postponing the election until November. It is far too risky for the poll workers to hold an election this spring. There is an effort underway to persuade the state to allow all to vote by mail. The timeline to make this change is a bit short, however, and the Legislature has not yet voted on it. I hope it will pass but best in the short run is probably to postpone. Since writing to you last night, UNT has made the difficult decision to cancel the last of its planned activities for the semester and May 7th Commencement Exercises. This further highlights the need to postpone the municipal election, because many Denton voters may not even be here in April and May and, if they are, may be unable to go out except for essential business to sustain life. Without universal access to voting by mail, we cannot effectively hold an election this Spring.
Jennifer	Lane		Denton	ID 20-742	For	Since this form doesn't allow one to click all the buttons, I am writing to say I am FOR Items A and B regarding the City's Coronavirus (Covid-19) response. I am AGAINST Items C and D regarding holding the City elections in May. The City Election needs to be moved to November. It is unsafe to hold it prior to then. Both turnout and poll worker safety cannot be protected unless postponed to the next regular election.
Emily	Meisner		Denton	ID 20-742	Against	I want to hear discussion about voting by mail for ALL. Let's start this process asap. Mail in ballots for May local elections and/or November.
Jennifer	Lane	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	I am writing to let you know that I concur with postponing the election until November. It is far too risky for the poll workers. There is an effort underway to persuade the state to allow all to vote by mail. The timeline to make this change is a bit short, however, and the Legislature has not yet voted on it. I hope it will pass but best in the short run is probably to postpone.
Dewey	Marshall	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	We know that tenants in Denton live paycheck to paycheck, and most hourly positions have been severely cut or eliminated within only a few days. While closing nonessential businesses was a necessary measure, it is new territory for us all. This unprecedented crisis calls for unprecedented action, which is why I am asking the City Council for \$500,000 in emergency relief to be made available for rent and utility assistance in Denton. This rent and utility assistance should be made available to people who work as independent contractors, such as Uber and Lyft drivers. This relief would prevent a sizable amount of people from experiencing housing crises. As someone who has worked with clients experiencing homelessness in Denton, I can tell you that the community has rallied behind helping the homeless but is disconnected from the reality of people at risk of homelessness. If a tenant loses their income and receives an eviction from a Justice of the Peace, they are likely to enter a cycle of homelessness. That person can't apply for public housing assistance programs, and there are very few landlords that rent to people with eviction records. Some landlords in Denton will likely work with tenants for a payment plan if a tenant has lost their income. However, we don't know when life as usual will resume. If a tenant were already stretched thin financially, a payment plan for back rent puts them at even higher risk of housing crises. Without this rent assistance, a massive amount of Denton residents will be on the cusp of financial crises for several months. This week Mr. Todd Hillman explained that the city relies on sales tax for funding. When hundreds of Dentonites are budgeting to pay off back rent, the currency flow in Denton will be heavily stifled. Thus, spending more money on emergency rental assistance now can substantially mitigate the City's loss of revenue from sales tax in 2020. I have seen City Council pass enormous subsidies for private companies to develop within the city, and I understand the economic benefit of investing in the community. I hope that we remember that we are in this together and investing in tenants is an investment for the city.
Aaron	Walters	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Rent and utility payments need to be frozen. I have been furloughed through June and cannot afford any of this.
Emily	Thygesen	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	I am writing today to demand that the city actually help those who are struggling right now. I am one of these individuals who has lost employment, who is actually sick right now, and who was already severely financially struggling before the pandemic made itself obvious to average Americans. I stand with my fellow constituent on the following message: We know that tenants in Denton live paycheck to paycheck, and most hourly positions have been severely cut or eliminated within only a few days. While closing nonessential businesses was a necessary measure, it is new territory for us all. This unprecedented crisis calls for unprecedented action, which is why I am asking the City Council for \$500,000 in emergency relief to be made available for rent and utility assistance in Denton. This rent and utility assistance should be made available to people who work as independent contractors, such as Uber and Lyft drivers. This relief would prevent a sizable amount of people from experiencing housing crises. As someone who has worked with clients experiencing homelessness in Denton, I can tell you that the community has rallied behind helping the homeless but is disconnected from the reality of people at risk of homelessness. If a tenant loses their income and receives an eviction from a Justice of the Peace, they are likely to enter a cycle of homelessness. That person can't apply for public housing assistance programs, and there are very few landlords that rent to people with eviction records. Some landlords in Denton will likely work with tenants for a payment plan if a tenant has lost their income. However, we don't know when life as usual will resume. If a tenant were already stretched thin financially, a payment plan for back rent puts them at even higher risk of housing crises. Without this rent assistance, a massive amount of Denton residents will be on the cusp of financial crises for several months. This week Mr. Todd Hillman explained that the city relies on sales tax for funding. When hundreds of Dentonites are budgeting to pay off back rent, the currency flow in Denton will be heavily stifled. Thus, spending more money on emergency rental assistance now can substantially mitigate the City's loss of revenue from sales tax in 2020. I have seen City Council pass enormous subsidies for private companies to develop within the city, and I understand the economic benefit of investing in the community.
Bev	Mageto	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	I've seen your halting cutting of utilities and honor that. I would suggest you take greater action for the majority of students in denton, and actually help us. If workers are being forced to take unpaid leave, we need a rent freeze. Not enough to halt evictions if after it lifts, we will be facing eviction. We need a rent freeze. Full-time students cannot collect unemployment. Most of us are working to pay our rent and are being laid off (for example, me) or getting our hours cut significantly. Those who are unemployed (like myself) are having a much harder time with job searches since we have the recession incoming and fears of the pandemic. It's scary and we need someone to look out for us. Students are what make Denton. Workers are what make Denton. Please tell us you are doing more.
Aran	L.	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Hello, I am asking that the city of Denton take measures to prevent the housing crisis worsening throughout and after the COVID-19 outbreak. I support Dewey's proposal for a \$500,000 rental assistance subsidy without means-testing. I believe anyone who has had their income cut and needs assistance to remain housed should qualify. The suspension of eviction will amount to enormous back payment after the quarantine and suppression methods are lifted and will stifle the economy and result in thousands of workers being put under even worse financial burden unable to support the businesses reopening after months of closure. As an alternative, many countries and cities around the globe have also been suspending rent, mortgage, utility, and even car payments under penalty of law. I believe a rent, mortgage, and utility payment suspension could also be an option to consider. As well, I request that the city of Denton end cash bail and decriminalize rough sleeping for homeless people. Financial standing, especially during this crisis where many are out of work and income, should not dictate whether someone must stay in jail in unsafe conditions. Homeless people should also be able to sleep where they feel safe and warm even if that is not at a shelter. Unoccupied houses should be opened for homeless people to be able to quarantine themselves during this emergency. The conditions at Monsignor King, our homeless shelter, are dire and we fear the virus will be particularly dangerous and fatal amongst the vulnerable populations that reside there. If unoccupied homes are not opened, I believe the city of Denton must take measures to offer immense support to our homeless population via providing quarantine & sanitation supplies to shelters and kitchens such as N95 masks for infected persons, paper masks for all, soap, and bottled water. I also believe monetary support is necessary for these organizations to maintain the health of our community.

Name	Last	Address Line 2	City	Agenda Item	Position	Comments
Cheyenne	Parish	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	I would like to request a rent / bill freeze for the city of Denton.
Shae	Kiely	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Please push for a rent freeze. Denton is made up of many many college students who live month to month trying to support themselves financially while juggling full time classes, and a job. With this outbreak we are left without a job, but remain with rent to pay that will push us even further into debt.
Kayla	Lipinski	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	We need a rent freeze! Many of us, including myself, are low income college students that are paying our own way through school and also having to pay our own living expenses. This was hard enough before this pandemic caused my job to majorly reduce my hours. Most of my paycheck goes to my rent and since I won't be getting much of a paycheck, I am terrified of what that will mean and I know there are lots of others like me that are in the same situation. Thank you.
Christian	Barrera	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Work has been impacted by this whole virus, no doubt. Whether it's self quarantined or government mandated the only people profiting from this are online retailers. Either I'm forced to work at a chance at catching the virus just so I can make enough to pay my rent. My and my 2 roommates need a rent freeze because I WILL NOT make enough to cover, depending how long this goes on.
Kendal	Ballard	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	As more and more businesses are closing to help prevent the spread of this virus, please heavily consider a relief option for those who are out of work. Rent payments are right around the corner and most Denton residents are either already temporarily out of a job or soon to be.
Shawn	Close	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	How do I renew my CDL with the DMV closed.. I can not renew it online. My company will not allow me to continue to work beyond the 29th. Without it..
Martha	Larkin	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Why are the day cares being allowed to stay open, in Denton,Tx? My grandson and daughter live with me and I am 60 years old, my husband has asthma. My daughter receives state assistance for day care and is worried about him staying home as the state will count him as absent. She is worried that she will no longer receive that assistance if he stays home. I don't understand the reasoning about allowing day care's open, isn't the rate of contamination the same as it is for schools? I have contacted the governors office and then was told to contact the county and then the city and now back to the county! Where can I get a straight answer?
Bethany	Johnson	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	The majority of college students living in Denton have been laid off, had our hours cut, or are losing business. We reside in Denton to be close to school, most of us do not have our degrees yet and are therefore working service industry jobs. Sure, the grocery stores are hiring, but as someone with an autoimmune disorder I am not going to put myself in danger/at risk by applying. We need a rent freeze so we can continue to practice social distancing and stay home and not worry about where money is going to magically appear from to avoid eviction. College students in the service industry shouldn't be expected to have rainy day funds, especially with all of the outrageous fees and rising tuition rates from both TWU and UNT. Service industry workers are some of the lowest paid members of the workforce so why are we expected to even have savings accounts? Homelessness is already a major issue in Denton that continues to go unnoticed and uncare for. If a halt on evictions isn't placed, you will see homelessness in this city increase. Many people will have to drop out of school and move back with their parents after all of this.
Matt	Solomon	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	We need a rent strike to address the housing crisis, in Denton. The jobs crisis that this town has feeds this crisis, because most of these jobs don't pay well, nor do they offer benefits. Most of the jobs we have are service jobs and retail jobs, when most of the people here need office jobs with salaries and benefits, given the massive pool of talent generated by our universities. Too many of us are having to pool our resources together and cram into housing units so that we can work more for less. This is wrong. And the fact that we are gradually being crushed into serfs under your watch, while we're told to work harder, to make sure we pay too much money to landlords that don't care about us as we are made to suffer in substandard living conditions due to air and noise pollution (alone) from the trains that run directly next to our homes, is morally and ethically abhorrent. Things need to get better for us. Most of us are poor. Most of us can't afford to shop and eat on The Square, even though most of us work on or near there. Our lack of access to the capital and resources necessary for us to thrive has pushed many of us to the streets, into severe depression, into diseases of despair, into an afterthought. It's worse for those of us whom are Black and suffer from chronic mental illness. This town has practiced a great deal of social distancing from Black folks economically, socially, and politically. To the point of hyper normalized and outright alienation. Most of the poor and unhoused in this town, whom I've encountered, are Black people. Once you cross the tracks, headed East, the defacto racial and economic segregation that this city engages in becomes clearer and clearer. A drive down McKinney is an education in how this city has and continues to fail us. The only growth this city consistently sees lies in the ranks of the underclass. And maintaining that kind of bipartisan cruelty takes work and conviction. Like I said, morally abhorrent. 4 years ago, I became acquainted with a young man who worked a construction job and was going to writing workshops that I ran, and going to comedy open mics to tell jokes, and was coming out of his shell until he lost his construction job. He became homeless and couch surfed when he wasn't sleeping outside. Then he turned up dead over by the homeless outreach center. His name was Zach Winrow and that had no business happening to him, in this city, or at all! He was a good kid who died in his early 20s, because there was no safety net for him. He just died because there was nothing in place to prevent it from happening. I was devastated when I heard about his passing. All of us were. And because all of our resources were so limited, there was little to nothing that we could do to keep our friend from dying, on your watch. There was a homeless woman, before him, named Star, who slept on the steps of the bank building. Then, one Winter, she died of exposure, because she couldn't get a bed in a shelter. She had gout and was always on crutches. And I distinctly remember her telling me that she slept on the street most nights, because our shelters were always at capacity. And one frigid night, the shelters were at capacity, and she froze to death in her sleep. And had the infrastructure been in place, she wouldn't have had to. My roommates are overworked to the point that it is causing them to get sick, fall into depression and despair, and search for better to no avail. This is heartbreaking to watch in real time. And there is nothing that I can do, because I lost my job in July of last year. I've had several interviews, and several positions get cancelled. Because of how traumatizing it is to work in Denton's call centers (Integrated Alliance, Statewide Appeal, etc.) my post-traumatic stress is exacerbated to the point where I can barely stand being watched or seen at all, let alone when I work. Which limits my options when it comes to finding work that best suits me. The stress from having to survive drains me, and if it weren't for my roommate's generosity, I would be yet another invisible person living on the street. And now that most are in a vulnerable position, job-wise, it has been made clear how we all have been failed, systemically, at national, state, and local levels. Our needs are not met, and they won't be, because that's not how we do things here. I have friends working in grocery stores that are overworked and overwhelmed. There are folks volunteering to bring people food and supplies, because so many are quarantined in their homes. There are too many people living in the streets, when we could have then safely in our libraries and the civic center. If we're all in this together, most of us needn't be deprived of so much. We need all the help we can get. Please freeze rent collections, utility payments, and all other billing obligations for at least 90 days, so that people don't have to compound the stress of survival with the overwhelming stress of figuring out how bills are going to get paid. Too many of us don't have enough, as it is. The least you all can do is get this boot off of our necks for a while, just so we can breath before having to go back to work. The people of Denton are stretched too thin and have been for far too long. Raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour and inject capital into small businesses to help them meet that standard. Reform standard working conditions county-wide by mandating 1 hour of break time per 8 hours worked, no "making up hours," and mandate a human resources apparatus in every workplace and employees be allowed to form a union.
Reonna	Boydston	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Many people are out of work, or at least have drastic hours cut due to this pandemic. My landlord emailed my whole apartment complex simply asking all the residents (yes, ALL residents) to go to churches for relief funds. Churches are going to be quickly depleted if everyone has this point of view. The end of the month is quickly approaching and the federal government is acting too slow. The people in Denton are suffering & are left with no option but to beg for a rent freeze for at least one or two months, while we regain our footing as a community during these trying times.
Sydney	Parks	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Hello. I am currently being tested for COVID-19 and have not worked in over a week. I demand a rent freeze and no evictions during this period. As well as no payments of utilities like water and electricity as many of us aren't working. thank you and I hope you consider the needs of the people
Kasi	Flores	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Please give us a rent freeze! I don't know how long I'll be unemployed :(
Austin	Grubbs	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	If every other business is shut down, and more than 18% of Americans are out of a job and/or have lowered hours, why should the mortgages and rent continue to stay the same? I demand you freeze rent with no late fees for the sake of your city during these hard times.
Patrice	Del Toro	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	I have not seen anything whatsoever to reflect actions taken to safeguard the Denton homeless population. I have seen, however, that one homeless woman tested positive for Covid 19. How are THEY supposed to shelter in place?? What provisions have been made for them?? Please post your answer on the City website.
Emily	Moralez	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Rent freeze would be a pivotal issue in Denton during this time of hardship. I know many people who are struggling to pay rent at the moment because their jobs are closed the the moment. With everything in our daily routines changing, the stress of continuing to pay rent without having a flow of income is greater than anyone would like. It would make a huge difference in this difficult and odd time.
Paguel	Dufeu	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Rent should be free for April 1st

Name	Last	Address Line 2	City	Agenda Item	Position	Comments
Aran	L.	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	COVID-19 has reinforced the importance of social solidarity. We ask that the City of Denton take steps to provide healthy food and medical supplies to individuals who are unable to acquire them because of health reasons, inadequate transportation, or financial hardship from lost wages and jobs. The city should develop a system for immediately distributing food and essential health products from restaurants, food distributors, and other businesses to households in need. City should make it incumbent for businesses to make unused food available for distribution. In order to facilitate the distribution of these essential goods, the city should evaluate its police, first responders, and other city staff resources to assist with the delivery of food and other essential healthcare items to households. Denton should have better food distribution infrastructure, especially in a time of crisis. We have an opportunity to come together as a city to create immediate solutions that strengthen our community and lead to long-term resiliency. As well, the city should provide free and fair testing and treatment for COVID-19 for all.
Tiana	Eleanora	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Please consider freezing rent, I go to UNT and stay in an off campus apartment but I know of other students who come from unhappy homes and would just like to stay in their apartments while finishing the semester online.
Kurt	Van Zandt	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Hello City Council. Considering the unprecedented amounts of lost jobs and wages, will the city issue a rent freeze for this month, so that the money of our citizens can go to keeping themselves safe, healthy and fed?
Miranda	Downer	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Because of closures and restrictions, a large portion of us aren't going to be able to afford bills, food and rent. We need protection from eviction, not just the promise to freeze it for those already in trouble. We all can't afford to lose our homes over the virus.
Ethan	Chann	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Please put a freeze on rent and utilities for the foreseeable future. Every day you do not do so endangers public health. Put our safety above landlord's profits.
Charlie	DeBolt	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Considering the unprecedented amounts of lost jobs and wages, will the city issue a rent freeze for this month, so that the money of our citizens can go to keeping themselves safe, healthy and fed?
Arlynn	Hoslietier	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	My house hold is three college students and two out of the three including myself are in the hospitality industry and our businesses have closed for an indefinite amount of time. I know SO many stories like this of my peers in denton, while we are legally not allowed to work it is OUTRAGEOUS rent is legally allowed to be collected. We DEMAND rent freeze! Protect your people from financial ruin!
Alison	Maguire-Powell	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	In light of Governor Abbott's recent decision to allow cities to postpone local elections, I would like to ask you to vote to take that offer and reschedule our May 2nd local elections for November 3rd, 2020. In addition to rescheduling our local general and special elections, please put pressure on the Secretary of State's office to provide a mail-in ballot for every registered Texan voter. No Texan or Dentonite should be forced to choose between protecting the health of their community and exercising their right to vote. Please do everything you can to ensure we can vote.
Andrew	Kee	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Money should be made available for disaffected tenants in these trying times.
Cristina	Sagahon	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Considering there have been rapid changes lately, many Denton residents are very community oriented and our community is hurting. Many students, like myself cannot make ends meet. Our education has undergone a dramatic change as we are financially and mentally attempting to adapt to these changes. A rent freeze would allow many people to adjust and frankly, survive these hard times.
Valentina	Palomino Uribe	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Please consider a rent freeze. My roommates have essential jobs (restaurants) that are not giving them time off and still asking that they come in so they are unable to make money elsewhere. Because of slow business and social distancing they are making 1/4 of their normal earnings and are unable to meet rent. My best friend got laid off and has no idea how she will be paying rent. This is the reality for many citizens of denton county. This is a very unstable time. Please protect and look after your community as we figure out our financial situations moving forward
Abigail	Wulff	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	This week, nearly everyone I know has lost their income including myself. We do not know when this pandemic will end but it is likely that we will be affected for at least 3 months. People should not be evicted, as that will contribute to this public health crisis. People need to be sheltered during this time. Further, people should not be punished with late fees because of circumstances that are out of their control. The economy will be greatly affected by this crisis and late fees on rent will hinder the recovery of the working class and as a result it will hinder the recovery of the economy. For these reasons, we are asking for a rent freeze and an end to evictions in Denton. Cities and counties across the country are taking action to protect tenants and Denton should follow suit.
Karli	Ragsdale	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	We need a rent freeze immediately. I like many others can not work from home and have no additional income. We can't pay rent if we're not making money.
Zane	Mollagh	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	please freeze rent!
Adem	Turkmen	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	I didn't work since march 8th. I didn't earn a penny since then how would I pay rent, utilities, car payment and car insurance if any kind of bill and freezing those accounts. We the people need your politicians help to survive with out work and without going out of the house.
Kristen	Fox	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	I am a teacher who works with Aid Network of Denton, a recently assembled group of volunteers delivering care packages and groceries during the COVID-19 crisis. As of today, our organization has filled 80 requests for aid. It's heartbreaking to go through the list of requests and see person after person use the comment area to write about recently losing their job. We have also received many requests for rental assistance, a service that we are unable to provide with our current funds. It should not be left up to citizens to bail out themselves while our leaders in congress dump trillions into the market. Denton workers with reduced hours and recently unemployed workers need a bail out too. I believe this should come in the form of an absolute rent freeze given that housing security is crucial to our overcoming this crisis. I realize, however, that this demand may be unrealistic. At minimum, we need a longer-term evictions moratorium going forward as well as \$500,000 in emergency relief to be made available for rent and utility assistance. This crisis is unprecedented, and we need to be doing everything possible to keep people in their homes. Denton citizens should not have to face housing insecurity in addition to unemployment in the middle of a pandemic.
Brika	Vaughn	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	We need a rent freeze, and subsidies for service industry workers who are now getting less than 15 hours a week due to only having to go tips as their cash flow.
Kaylyn	Bell	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	I lost my job as a Chiropractic Assistant because our patients didn't feel comfortable leaving home due to COVID-19. I don't know how I can pay rent. I need a rent freeze. Even with evictions halted, there is no way that I will be able to pay more than one month's rent at a time. Please consider freezing rent in Denton. I will be on the streets if my rent is demanded.
Sandra	Flores	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	I am a concerned parent. My daughter is a student at the University of North Texas. She lives in an apartment, and her lease is up in May. If she chooses to come home. Can the landlord refuse her from breaking the lease. Even in a time of crisis like the coronavirus. An unexpected emergency that affects us all. Please, advise me what I can do to help my daughter or give her reassurance.
Braedyn	Immon	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Freeze rent and halt the eviction and foreclosure processes for the city if Denton
Noah	Curbo	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	I support a rent freeze due to Covid-19.
Rina	Gallegos	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	At a time of uncertainty and mass lay offs, the only logical response is to have a freeze on rent and utilities. Your constituents are scared and worried. Don't make a global pandemic when more stressful on people who aren't sure when they will get another paycheck.
Hannah	Meagley	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	We need rent freeze immediately! if we dont have jobs, we can't pay rent. please dont punish your poor and working class citizens for not having enough savings, most of us are living paycheck to paycheck!! rent freeze for public safety, now!
josh	reed	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	with a lot of us college students living away from home in denton we work in the service / hospitality industry and as of right now we are all out of work and cannot make our rent on time. Please take this into consideration today.
Zoe	K	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	As a member of the North Texas IWW, I would like to echo the demands of my branch to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus and allow Denton County residents to maintain their livelihoods despite business and school closures. 1) Freeze rent and ban evictions, repossessions, and utility shut-offs. A populace that has bills to pay without consistent income cannot self-quarantine. 2) Ensure free, fair, and speedy testing for residents showing COVID-19 symptoms. We cannot measure or slow the spread of the disease if testing is financially inaccessible. 3) Create and enact a plan to ensure equitable distribution of necessities such as food and water. We cannot avoid contact if we rely on grocery stores for our needs. 4) All full and part time workers MUST have paid medical leave. If I may add my own addendum: full and part time workers with children must also receive paid family leave when their kid's daycares and schools close. 5) Ban penalties against workers for missing work during this pandemic. We cannot self-quarantine if doing so costs us our jobs. 6) End bail for jails, free any and all ICE detainees, and stop all sweeps of homeless camps. Any detention center will become a death trap for those incarcerated there and those working there. 7) Open up unoccupied homes for homeless people to self-quarantine in. Being out in the open or incarcerated will increase their risk of spreading and catching the virus.
Samantha	Streeter	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	With the impact this crisis is having on Denton workers, it is imperative that the city attempt to implement a rent freeze and a moratorium on evictions. No one should have to go without or worry about going without housing in times like these. I hope that city council will take into account the workers of this city who are unable to provide for their families at this time.
Brett	Westbrook	Not Available	Not Available	Not Indicated	Not Indicated	Please enact a rent freeze. This is a college town where most people are servers and bar tenders at restaurants. My girlfriend just got laid off and has no income although she is job searching. She's a server so she doesn't have much savings to begin with. Times are hard and we should do everything we can to ensure the wellbeing of our citizens and limit the economic impact of this crisis so that when things are under control, they can pick back up and contribute to society. Overhead such as rent only forces people to continue to go outside and work and the CDC has said that we have to do everything we can to flatten the curve of this virus spreading. People can't do that if they're working or being forced to seek new employment. It's a public health risk. Please enact a rent freeze immediately.