

CITY OF DENTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
April 6, 2020

After determining that a quorum was present, the City Council of the City of Denton, Texas convened in an Emergency Special Meeting on Monday, April 6, 2020, at 3:09 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 Keely Briggs, Jesse Davis, John Ryan, Deb Armintor, and Paul Meltzer

ABSENT: None

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

Note: Mayor Chris Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Gerard Hudspeth, and Council Members Keely Briggs, Jesse Davis, John Ryan, Deb Armintor and Paul Meltzer participated in closed meeting, work session, and special called meeting via teleconference under the provisions allowed by the Texas Government Code Section 551.127.

The posted agenda noted the registration process for public participation at this virtual meeting. While citizen commentary received via the online registration process is not read, each member of the City Council received each registration as it was submitted.

WORK SESSION

1. Work Session Reports

- A. ID 20-811 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding an update on the City of Denton's COVID-19 response.

The item was presented and discussion followed.

Following partial discussion, City Council to consider funding amounts/limits to the United Way of Denton County Barriers Fund, utility assistance funding, and increase to the COVID-19 emergency responses and essential functions not already budgeted under Individual Consideration Item 1.A (ID 20-812) to be considered during the Special Called Emergency Meeting set to follow this work session. Staff to research options available to provide assistance to small business and continue with updating online information/resources available to the public.

The Work Session was recessed for a short break at 4:58 p.m. and reconvened at 5:09 p.m.

The presentation and discussion continued.

The Work Session ended at 5:20 p.m.

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 Monday, April 6, 2020, at 5:20 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 Keely Briggs, Jesse Davis, John Ryan, Deb Armintor, and Paul Meltzer

ABSENT: None

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

Note: Mayor Chris Watts, Mayor Pro Tem Gerard Hudspeth, and Council Members Keely Briggs, Jesse Davis, John Ryan, Deb Armintor and Paul Meltzer participated in closed meeting, work session, and special called meeting via teleconference under the provisions allowed by the Texas Government Code Section 551.127.

The posted agenda noted the registration process for public participation at this virtual meeting. While citizen commentary received via the online registration process is not read, each member of the City Council received each registration as it was submitted.

2. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- A. ID 20-812 Consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton, a Texas home-rule municipal corporation, superseding and replacing the Order of Council of the City Of Denton issued March 20, 2020 approved by Ordinance 20-740; confirming and authorizing the expenditure of funds; providing a repealer clause; and providing an effective date.

ASSIGNED ORDINANCE NO. 20-812

The item was presented and corresponded with Work Session Item 1.1 (ID 20-811) presented and discussed earlier in the day.

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.

Mayor Watts announced the summary of public commentary/registrations. See Exhibit A for details.

- 11 online comments: 8 in Support and 3 in Opposition
- 3 call-ins: 3 in Support and 0 in Opposition

With no other callers in the queue and the public comment period closed, the meeting was recessed for a short break at 6:33 p.m. and reconvened at 6:48 p.m.

Discussion continued.

Council Member Davis moved to adopt the item to include/change the proposed item as noted on the redraft provided via email at 6:49 p.m. which detailed changes requested during the Work Session held earlier in the day as follows:

- Additional \$50,000 to utility assistance funds;
- Release balance to Barriers Fund for UWDC;
- Additional \$50,000 added to COVID-19 assistance fund;
- Additional \$200,000 to expenditures to City Manager for use in addressing emergency responses and essential functions; and
- Allow renters to make late payments if their benefits have been delayed.

Motion seconded by Council Member Ryan.

Following discussion, Council Member Meltzer moved a friendly amendment to include, within the Order, a request to Governor Abbott to schedule a Special Legislative Session to address special needs resulting from COVID-19.

Following discussion, the friendly amendment was withdrawn as City Council consensus was for staff to present a resolution to this effect under an Emergency Meeting the next day (April 7th) to be held prior to the start of the scheduled Regular Meeting.


Mayor Watts called the vote on Council Member Davis' motion to amend the item as noted earlier and 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

Staff to obtain additional data on total funds spent to date on utility assistance and how many have been assisted as well as send out a press release on rental assistance resources.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



CHRIS WATTS
MAYOR
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS



ROSA RIOS
CITY SECRETARY
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

MINUTES APPROVED ON: April 21, 2020

April 6, 2020 City Council Emergency Meeting - EXHIBIT A

**Speaker Commentaries/Registrations
Online, Email, Phone**

Name	Last	Address	Address Line 2	City	Agenda Item	Position	Method	Comments
Naomi	Autry	1301 Fannin St.		Denton	ID 20-812	For	Online	Comment Not Provided
Karen	Baack	1626 Nightingale Ln.		Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Resident; doesn't want \$1 Million; wants Council to stop quarantine at the end of April and let everyone return to work; family members are now out of work; social distancing is working; relook at the numbers; people want to work.
Andrew	Bennett	1713 Carlson St.		Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Works with Aid Network Denton; had two jobs and making just enough to pay rent/buy groceries; now only one job and forced to choose what he will pay; fortunate to have a job but situation is precarious for him and others; need at minimum a suspension of all utility charges and extension for eviction through May and \$1 Million funding assistance at minimum.
Lauren	Bordignon	2118 Service St.	No. 6	Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Unemployment process takes time to approve; citizens need assistance now and large amount of evictions being faced in the future if not now; City should provide \$1 Million in rent and utility assistance; severity of COVID-19 is unknown.
Audrey	Bryant	6001 Thistle Hill		Denton	ID 20-812	For	Online	I am FOR increasing emergency assistance aid here in Denton.
Tyler	DeLaCorda	1100 Ector St.		Denton	ID 20-812	Against	Online	At a minimum the Ordinance should have an automatic expiration date no longer than 15 days from passing forcing the council to actively evaluate the situation and extend or dissolve the ordinance as needed. Ultimately the stay at home order is a violation of my civil rights. The overreaction to this virus is creating more harm than good to the city, count, state, and country. It should be left up to individuals and not government to encourage safe social distancing practices.
Not Provided	Duplanty	1010 N Locust St.		Denton	ID 20-812	For	Online	Comment Not Provided
George	Ferne	2932 Stockton St.		Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Upset because did not know this meeting was happening; not enough preparation time to allow public input; upset City continues to let non-profits bare the burden to assist; appreciates hotline established for those facing eviction; need hotline for those seeking resources, asking for \$1 million in rental funding
Pamela	Forbus	220 E. Sherman Dr.		Denton	ID 20-812	For	Online	Comment Not Provided
Kristen	Fox	1713 Carlson St.		Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Works as a teacher and has fielded many requests for rental assistance; should not be on them; Denton County has funding resources to assist; City should assist and not be worried about getting sued; utility assistance also needed.
Kelsey	Fryman	701 Ft. Worth Dr.		Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Need more assistance for people; imperative during crisis that "people" be assisted; furloughed right now and can't assist; people's livelihood more important than police building issues.
Joe	Hargis	2210 Westwood Dr.		Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Lost work due to COVID-19 and related income; with rental/mortgage continues to be charged will create large debt that someone is going to be responsible for; need to start thinking about taking care of tenants; rent/mortgage payments should be funded or suspended.
Olivia	Hernandez-Frias	2428 Longmeadow St.		Denton	ID 20-812	For	Online	
Dena	Johnson	5128 Mountain View Dr.	Apt #102	Krum	ID 20-812	For	Online	
Jennifer	Lane	1526 Willowood St.		Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	One of 8 others calling; tenants and landlords to not benefit; need 60-day moratorium to allow people to get finances in line; societal need exists to not have people move around that eviction brings; postpone non-essential/non-pandemic meetings, public hearings and work session; people cannot attend.
Morgan	Larson	2210 Westwood		Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Teacher and coach; need to have at least \$1 Million in assistance as current funding is inadequate; resource information is not covering everyone equally within the County; gaps are being filled by non-5013c organizations; city needs to open funding to more agencies; eviction will come around and individuals cannot fully understand impact
Sara	Marotto	1812 Buena Vista Dr.		Denton	ID 20-812	For	Online	Comment Not Provided
Dewey	Marshall	1700 Willowood St.		Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Works for North Texas Housing Center; asking Council for \$1 million for rental/homeless/utility assistance; assistance is slow while eviction is fast; landlord can refuse to accept late rental payment
Emily	Nickles	500 Coronado Dr.		Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Need to extend the stay-at-home order for a couple more weeks at two-week intervals as people are not taking it seriously
Claudio	Salinas	1607 W Oak St.		Denton	ID 20-812	For	Online	The golf courses with proper precautions should be reopened. They serve as a great outdoors activity that people can do individually and therefore not be around other people. It is the same as going for a run or biking and should therefore be allowed.
Ray	Soller	211 Bryan St.		Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Lost income; eviction orders need to be addressed; City needs better marketing and \$75,000 is not enough; over 25,000 people are in a crisis in Denton at this time; do what can be done to assist the citizens.
Nick	Strider	1606 E. McKinney St.	Unit 602	Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Should dedicate funds to things that are more important than trees in a police facility; with the number of people applying for unemployment and landlords ready to evict once the Order expires, City needs to allocate \$1 Million for rental and utility assistance.
Russell	Swan	3321 Mustang Dr.		Denton	ID 20-812	Against	Online	I believe we can maintain social distancing and use our heads to determine whether or not we feel OK I need to be outside of our home.
Elenta	Swan	3321 Mustang Dr.	Apt 3120B	Denton	ID 20-812	Against	Online	I feel we need to lift the stay at home order with safety measures in place and allow businesses to be back in operation along with following proper social distancing guidelines and utilizing appropriate sanitizing techniques. I am concerned that if we continue to impose stay at home orders and fail to allow business back in operation then we will crush our already weakened economy here in Denton Co.
Ren	Thygesen	411 Panhandle	Unit D	Denton	ID 20-812		Telephone	Urges community be helped especially the most vulnerable; thanked Council for what's been done so far but still not enough; also lost her income and applied for unemployment/confirmed; has received aid Council has talked about; public input being silenced.

NOTE: Comments for those citizens addressing the City Council are an abbreviated summary.

