

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH, TEXAS  
HELD IN CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3805 ADAM GRUBB  
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020**

**SPECIAL MEETING: 2:00 PM**

**A. CALL TO ORDER.**

Mayor Walter Bowen called the Council meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**A.1 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Council member Stuard gave the invocation. Attendees recited the pledge of allegiance.

**A.2 ROLL CALL.**

|          |                  |   |
|----------|------------------|---|
| Present: | Walter Bowen     | Mayor                                   |
|          | Jim Smith        | Mayor Pro Tem, Council, Place 1         |
|          | Geoffrey White   | Council, Place 2                        |
|          | Sue Wenger       | Council, Place 3                        |
|          | Ronny Parsley    | Council, Place 4                        |
|          | Pat O. Hill      | Council, Place 5                        |
|          | Gary Stuard      | Council, Place 6                        |
|          | Clint Narmore    | Council, Place 7                        |
| Staff:   | Stacey Almond    | City Manager                            |
|          | Debbie Whitley   | Assistant City Manager/Finance Director |
|          | Monica Solko     | City Secretary                          |
|          | Mike Christenson | Fire Chief                              |
|          | JT Manoushagian  | Chief of Police                         |
|          | Ryan Arthur      | Division Chief / Fire Operations        |
| Absent:  | Drew Larkin      | City Attorney                           |

**A.3 CITIZEN PRESENTATION / VISITOR COMMENTS**

There were no requests to speak from the public.

**B. GENERAL ITEMS**

**B.1 DISCUSS AND CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05, CITY OF LAKE WORTH COVID-19 DISASTER DECLARATION AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING THE CITY'S PLAN IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19.**

**APPROVED**

City Manager Stacey Almond presented the item. Cases of COVID-19 are identified in the State of Texas including the surrounding communities in close proximity to the City of Lake Worth. The Fire Department and City Manager's office are taking definitive steps to ensure accurate and timely information is communicated to our city leaders, community and workforce. Administration, Police and Fire Departments gave a brief overview of the steps already taken and plan to continue to help provide appropriate response efforts, effective communication with internal and external stakeholders, and coordination with local, state, and federal health departments.

On March 18, 2020, Mayor Bowen signed a Declaration of Local Disaster for public health emergency to minimize the potential impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in the community. The declaration enables the City of Lake Worth to become eligible to seek emergency assistance if needed in response to impact of the global outbreak of COVID-19. The declaration will last for seven (7) days unless otherwise extended by City Council. Staff is requesting the City Council approve Resolution No. 2020-05, amending the Declaration of Local Disaster and extending it for not more than 60 days. The amended restrictions will follow the Tarrant County restrictions and provisions that limit the size of gatherings. The closure of bars, lounges, or taverns; amusement and entertainment venues or uses; theaters; gyms and private clubs. City facilities will remain closed to the public, but city services remain available online and by phone. Police and Fire Departments will continue service without interruption.

Fire Chief Christenson gave a brief update on measures the Fire Department is doing to educate and ensure the Lake Worth businesses are aware of the new restrictions and help in any way possible. He also briefed the Council on supplies of personal protective equipment, manpower, mutual aid assistance, joint EOC with Fort Worth and Medstar. At this time, there are not positive cases in the city. The department is working closely with Medstar and the Fort Worth EOC for testing of our first responders as they continue to respond to calls. Medstar and several cities in Tarrant County (including us) are screening calls with questions regarding traveling, flu-like symptoms, fever, cough and respiratory issues so that protective measures can be taken when arriving. This has increased arrival time by a minute to gear up. Drive-thru testing will be coming soon once the kits begin to arrive. The department continues to strive for safety by protecting our people and stocking personal protective equipment (PPE). Assistant Chief Arthur is updating the city's website daily with current information on COVID-19.

Police Chief Manoushagian updated Council on the measures the Police Department is taking to combat COVID-19 and continue serving the community. Their priority is to keep peace in order as citizens and visitors utilize the city's retail and restaurants. The police will increase their presence at the retail centers. The City Hall lobby, although closed to the public, is equipped with a phone that can be used to contact staff in the police department or customer service by dialing a number on the listed directory. Since police

vehicles are shared with other officers, disinfecting and sanitizing is being done. Minimal contact with citizen is also being conducted by verify insurance instead of asking for it.

Ms. Almond added that mailers would be mailed out to residents regarding the business restrictions and city closures. The city is also requesting all employees not travel in the next 60 days and limiting training unless for a specific license (expiration). All events at the city have been cancelled including Multi-Purpose Facility rentals. With the new restrictions limiting gatherings, Ms. Almond asked Council about upcoming boards and commission meetings. If they would consider postponing, cancelling or limiting items to only required by law action items. Council discussed alternatives for meeting such as video conferencing. At this time, the conference room is not equipped for live streaming, but staff would research it. Council consensus was to continue with the mid-year workshop on April 3rd at 8:00 a.m. but limit it to Council, City Manager and Finance Director.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM SMITH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER WENGER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05 AS PRESENTED.**

**MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED 7-0.**

**C. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No items for this category.

**D. EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS – CITY COUNCIL MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION LISTED ON THE AGENDA.**

No items for this category.

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Walter Bowen adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

**APPROVED**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Walter Bowen, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Solko, City Secretary