

MINUTES OF MENDOTA SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Special Meeting

May 5, 2020

Meeting called to order by Mayor Castro at 10:01 a.m.

Roll Call

Council Members Present: Mayor Rolando Castro, Mayor Pro Tem Victor Martinez, Councilors Jesus Mendoza, Joseph Riofrio, and Oscar Rosales

Council Members Absent: None

Flag salute led by Councilor Rosales

FINALIZE THE AGENDA

1. Adjustments to Agenda.
2. Adoption of final Agenda.

City Manager Gonzalez requested that a section be added after the Business section in order to provide a City Manager's report.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosales to adopt the modified agenda as requested by staff, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

CITIZENS ORAL AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS

None offered.

BUSINESS

1. Discussion and direction to staff concerning potential relaxation of certain emergency measures, conditioned upon implementation of protective measures, for outdoor storefront transactions, personal grooming, and/or farmer's markets.

Mayor Castro introduced the item and City Attorney Kinsey reported on jurisdictions throughout the state and country that are beginning to cautiously open non-essential businesses; inquiries that staff has received regarding when certain business will be permitted to reopen; the Governor potentially proceeding to Stage 2 later in the week; the options that the City Council has with respect of opening certain non-essential businesses; should the Council be inclined to open certain non-essential businesses during this time, it doing so under certain conditions, such as only permitting curbside ordering and pickup be permitted; ensuring that this is done in a manner that is most protective of public health; inquiries that staff has received regarding when the farmers' market may reopen; other counties and municipalities permitting farmers' markets to open; the conditions in which farmers' markets in the City may be able to open; and stated that staff is requesting direction from the Council regarding the potential relaxation of certain emergency measures, and provided the staff's recommendation regarding this potential action.

Discussion was held on was the Governor's proposal to move forward with the implementation of Stage 2 from the framework to allow the state to gradually reopen; the types of businesses that may be permitted to reopen under Stage 2 and the conditions that they must meet to be able to do so; the statistics relating to COVID-19; the impacts that the virus has had on the community; how to regulate the relaxation of the City's emergency measures; the enforcement of the various emergency measures; the various aspects of the four-stage framework to allow the state to gradually reopen; and the types of permits that are required for bounce house rental businesses.

Gildardo Ramirez – stated that he is long-time resident and is currently employed by a local flower shop; that he has not received any support from his employer; and requested permission to sell flowers from his home.

Discussion was held on issuing orders that address larger general portions of the City; the types of businesses that will be permitted to reopen under Stage 2; the conditions in which these businesses will be able to reopen; the various types of businesses that may not reopen under Stage 2; what "curbside" ordering and pick-up constitutes (at 10:53 a.m. Councilor Rosales left the Council Chambers); whether the City could move forward with implementing other stages of the Governor's framework without facing any legal consequences; and the provisions and conditions in which counties may more quickly implement the framework (at 10:58 a.m. Councilor Rosales returned to the Council Chambers).

Gildardo Ramirez – stated that he would like to acquire the necessary permits to start his own business in the future.

Ofelia Ochoa – stated that she believes that all businesses are essential; that individuals are frustrated due to the inability to work; that there is a need for supplies throughout the community; and commented on an event that will be held in the community.

Jay (Gradience Barbershop) - stated that he supports the Governor's order; stated that non-essential businesses, including salons and barbershops, should be allowed to open under certain conditions; and described the training that barbers and cosmetologists have in terms of client safety.

Francisco Valencia – stated that he is currently in barber school and is apprentice at Gradience Barbershop; and requested that salons and barbershops be allowed to open under certain conditions.

Discussion was held on the training that cosmetologists and barbers have in terms of cleanliness and client safety; the possibility of Gradience Barbershop formulating guidelines for the soft opening of salons and barbershops; when the non-essential businesses that fall under Stage 2 will be permitted to open; and discussing the possibility of permitting other non-essential businesses to open at a future Council meeting.

Albert Escobedo – stated that the City should take its time to allow non-essential businesses to open; commended the Governor for his work regarding the development and implementation of the framework to allow the state to gradually reopen; that the City should follow the actions of the Governor; the potential consequences that the City may face if relaxes the provisions of emergency measures to early; and commended the Council for their work.

Dino Perez – stated that Westside Youth, Inc's. rainy day fund is running low; requested that their farmers' market be permitted to open; and explained the negative financial impact that the organization has had as a result of COVID-19.

Lucy – stated that she was calling on behalf of Leticia Zarate of D'Ocasiones; and inquired as to when certain non-essential businesses will be permitted to open.

At 11:25 a.m. Mayor Pro Tem Martinez left the Council Chambers and returned at 11:27 a.m.

Discussion was held on the types of businesses that may be able to open under the Governor's Stage 2 recommendation; the conditions under which these businesses will be able to open; and the penalties that individuals and businesses will face if they do not comply with the proposed order.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosales to direct staff to create an emergency order that aligns with the Governor's Stage 2 recommendations, and to place an item at a future Council meeting agenda to discuss the implementation of additional stages, seconded by Councilor Riofrio; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS


1. City Manager

City Manager Gonzalez distributed a list that describes the eligible Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Coronavirus activities; stated that the City may select two activities on the list; that the local fire department requested that the City elect to allocate funding toward fire protection equipment; and the different combinations that the Council may elect.

Council consensus was reached to direct staff to move forward with allocating CDBG funding to broadband/internet connectivity and fire protection equipment activities.

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to be brought before the Council, a motion for adjournment was made at 11:46 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez, seconded by Councilor Rosales; unanimously approved (5 ayes).



Rolando Castro, Mayor

ATTEST:



Celeste Cabrera-Garcia, City Clerk

