

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

BE IT KNOWN that the City Council of the City of Lake Jackson met on Monday, May 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Regular Session at 25 Oak Drive, Lake Jackson, Texas, in the Council Chambers at the Lake Jackson City Hall with the following in attendance:

Bob Sipple, Mayor	William P. Yenne, City Manager
Jon J.B. Baker, Council member	Modesto Mundo, Asst. City Manager
Matt Broaddus, Council member	Alice Rodgers, City Secretary
Gerald Roznovsky, Council member	Sherri Russell, City Attorney
Buster Buell, Council member	Sabrina England, Public Works Director
Vinay Singhanian, Council member	Paul Kibodeaux, Police Chief
	Sal Aguirre, City Engineer
	Athelstan Sanchez, Asst. City Engineer
	Debra Webb, Asst. Public Works Director
	Jeremy Bubnick, Parks & Rec Director

Staff remained in their offices ready to answer questions if needed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council member Broaddus led the pledge of allegiance.

INVOCATION

Mayor Sipple led the invocation.

VISITORS

There were no visitors to speak on a non-agenda item.

COMMENDATIONS

There were no commendations.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Yenne announced the city received the GFOA Budget Award for the 28th year.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2020

On motion by Council member Singhanian second by Council member Buell the consent agenda was approved as follows:

A. Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2020

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CANCELLING OR RESCHEDULING THE JULY 4, 2020 FIREWORKS DISPLAY DUE TO COVID-19

Jeremy Bubnick stated that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the inability to host large public gatherings at this time, staff has provided three options for Council's consideration regarding the July 4, 2020 Fireworks.

- 1. Cancel display:** Lose 35% of the down payment contract (\$8,470) - Savings \$15,730
- 2. Postpone display up to 180 Days after July 4th, 2020:** Pay the remaining 50% of the contract price \$12,100. Total cost \$24,200.
- 3. Maintain display:** Pay 100% of contract in anticipation that large public gathering restrictions are lifted by July 4th. Total cost \$24,200.

Mr. Yenne stated by cancelling the display it would save the city money. The display would need to be cancelled at least 30 days prior. At this point it is hard to know what will happen with COVID 19. He recommended cancelling the display.

Council member Buell moved to cancel the fireworks display for 2020, second by Council member Singhania.

Council members Buell, Baker, Broaddus and Mayor Sipple has not issue in cancelling the display.

Council member Roznovsky stated he had not issue delaying the display.

Council member Singhania stated he felt the citizens needed something good and positive and had changed his opinion and felt the fireworks display should be held this July 4, 2020.

With 5 members voting "aye" and Council member Singhania voting "nay" the 2020 fireworks display was cancelled.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CANCELLING OR RESCHEDULING THE 2020 AND 2021 CONCERT SERIES ON THE PLAZA

Jeremy Bubnick stated that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic staff initially postponed the Spring Outdoor Concert Series to the fall and cancelled the July 4th concert. The budget for the outdoor concert series was \$40,000 (\$30,000 from the Special Events Fund and \$10,000 donation from the Olin Corporation). The donation was initially earmarked for the expansion of the series and would have allowed us to bring in a wider variety of performers this spring.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the subsequent budget shortfall along with the uncertainty of being able to host large group events during the foreseeable future, he stated he was recommending to cut the \$30,000 of funding from the Special Events Fund this year and cancel any concerts in the fall.

When large gatherings are again allowed, the city could host up to three concerts with the \$10,000 donation from Olin.

On motion by Council member Roznovsky second by Council member Broaddus with all members present voting "aye" the Outdoor Concert Series were cancelled and the \$10,000 donation from Olin was to be used in the fall if the issue with COVID 19 allowed it.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CANCELLING OR RESCHEDULING THE EMPLOYEE AWARDS

PICNIC

Mr. Yenne stated that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic staff is considering rescheduling or modifying the Employee Awards Picnic scheduled for Saturday, June 13th. Possibilities include:

1. Reschedule to the Fall
2. Cater picnic at separate job sites during the week: Police Department; Recreation Center; Service Center; and City Hall.

On motion by Council member Buell second by Council member Singhania with all members present voting "aye" the June 13th Employee Picnic is cancelled with a BBQ lunch being provided to individual departments and employees recognized during the lunch.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CLOSING THE LJ OUTDOOR POOL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR

Jeremy Bubnick stated that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic staff will be making several adjustments to operations including cancelling events/programs that cannot be offered with the proper social distancing safety and precautions. In addition, staff will need to adjust how the Recreation Center and Civic Center are managed during the foreseeable future. These changes will likely include limiting group sizes, requiring social distancing, adjusting operating hours and limiting or closing access to some areas within the Recreation Center.

Mr. Bubnick stated he is recommending not opening the Outdoor Pool this summer. He is anticipating a significant reduction in the number aquatic programs that can be safely offer this summer. Staff can accommodate all the aquatic programs at the Natatorium. He also anticipates a reduced pool of lifeguards this summer. Consolidating the staff to one facility will help.

In addition, due to shortfalls in revenues we must reduce expenditures. Keeping the Outdoor Pool closed this season will save at least \$30,000.

On motion by Council member Buell second by Council member Roznovsky the outdoor pool will remain closed for the rest of the year.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CANCELLING THE 2020 FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Mr. Yenne stated that staff is seeking guidance on whether or not to cancel the Festival of Lights. Many of the arrangements have to be made by late July for the Festival to move forward. He stated staff will still put up the Christmas Lights.

Mr. Mundo stated the city spends \$45,000 and recover about \$15,000.

With the unknown of COVID 19 Council asked to discuss this event during the budget process and decide then if the Festival of Lights will be cancelled.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL BUSINESSES DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY DISASTER

Council member Roznovsky stated he reached out to other communities to see how they helped small businesses. They assembled a small business task force to help lessen the impact of COVID 19 on these businesses. They issued grants to help with rent, inventory, mortgage and employee salaries. The funding is not large amounts of monies usually \$1,000-\$5,000. They limit the grants to someone who is not a franchisee or a business with multiple businesses.

He gave examples of the cities of Buda and Boerne who have set up special grant programs.

He stated however, these cities depend on property tax for revenue where Lake Jackson depends on sales tax. With Lake Jackson being hit with less sales tax there are no monies to have these types of programs.

Modesto Mundo stated that the city could through Discover Lake Jackson work with businesses on marketing with monies that have been set aside in the Hotel Motel Fund.

Mayor Sipple stated that the base water bill was waived for these businesses.

Fred Ortiz stated he filed for a PPE and received it. His loan was filed in 30 minutes. He felt the last thing the businesses needed right now was more government in their business. The city is already looking to cut projects from the budget. He did not feel this was necessary.

On motion by Council member Singhania second by Council member Buell with all members present voting "aye" to redirect marketing monies set aside for Discover LJ to help market the small businesses in the city.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mr. Yenne stated that Lake Jackson had another case today of a male over the age of 80. Lake Jackson has had a total of 14 cases with 8 recovered and 6 active cases. This is the first time the number of active exceeds the number of recovered. The county now has 7 fatalities.

Mr. Yenne stated he is bringing the sanitation employees back to full schedule. Large trash and recycling will resume.

He stated that Lake Jackson has been asked to host COVID 19 testing at the Recreation Center on this coming Saturday. You have to preregister to be tested.

Council member Roznovsky stated there will be a mobile testing site at the college Tuesday-Friday. The site will be hosted by the community health network and they will continue as long as they have funding. You do have to preregister to be tested.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Council member Broaddus asked if there was a list somewhere to find out what is open like the Library. Mr. Yenne stated the County website could tell you if the Library was opened. They are doing curbside.

Fred Ortiz stated that May 7th is National Day of Prayer. They will have only 10 people present and will meet at 5:30 p.m. There will be cameras for live feed.

Fred Ortiz stated that this Saturday the Lake Jackson Farmers Market will be held at Bodegas.

Mayor Sipple stated that he received a call regarding the homeless at the Alden Museum. There is a lot of trash at the site. This item will be on the next agenda.

Mayor Sipple stated there was a lot of litter in front of Best Cleaners.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

These minutes read and approved this _____ day of _____ 2020.

Bob Sipple, Mayor

Alice A. Rodgers, City Secretary