

Teleconference

Tue, Mar 24, 2020 5:30 PM

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All present on teleconference listed above to discuss the city's response to COVID-19. Council President Currington stated this was an educational meeting only.

Mayor Hogeland stated all depts shut down except police and fire. We have a call in protocol that is being followed by all.

Allen Jerkins asked if about grass cutting in the city. Mayor stated this is not essential at this point and no one would be called in until the initial closure phase is over on April 6 until we see how risky it is for employees as you have multiple people in a truck.

Adam Berendt stated it is pretty simple civic and senior center is closed. Have been to a few stores and public seem to be keeping their distance as best they can. It sounds like Birmingham is going to issue a shelter in place, do you see the county doing this? Mayor said Birmingham did a resolution today, haven't digested it yet but it doesn't appear to be a whole lot different than what we are doing per Jefferson County Health Dept (JCHD.) I think our message should stay align with JCDH. Mayor has heard from drive throughs and restaurants that have asked not to be shut down until it is a last resort. We may want to do something official in the future but right now following Dr. Wilson's order.

Alvin Currington stated regarding the nonessential businesses are we doing anything proactive. Mayor stated absolutely, the police is monitoring and telling these businesses to close per the JCHD order, such as vape shop and thrift store. Hibbit's has stated they were not going to close, but as of last night they were closed. The term non-essential is very vague. Mechanics can work, certain service companies can work. Councilor Currington stated this is uncharted territory telling companies to close, but most are cooperating. Merle Norman has doors locked to public, but people can place orders and pay, and she is placing them outside the door for pickup, so people are being creative.

Mayor Hogeland asked what the city's thoughts are about passing something similar to Birmingham's. Councilor Currington stated if it is significantly different than JCHD. Bill Casaday stated it looks pretty extensive. Mayor asked if he is seeing anything different than how we are operating. He stated it does not. They have instituted a curfew until April 3. Councilor Currington aid in his opinion he has been sheltered in place since last week and has only got out to go to grocery, pharmacy, and work reporting

once a week to me that is shelter in place. My reluctance is doing something that is unnecessary and overreaching at first thought. Bill Casaday stated there is a page and a half of exceptions to Birmingham's. Councilor Currington stated would like to have our citizen's follow their common sense instead of a reaction to those who will not comply anyways. Mayor asked everyone to read the Birmingham's ordinance closely. The biggest message is to not get out unless we have to. I know we are stretching that, doing landscaping work and going to the home improvement stores. Councilor Currington stated the only way to stop that is to close everything. It's everyone's own call, they are busy and drive throughs are busy. Councilor Currington said it sounds like it would be hard to enforce, won't keep 100% of people at home.

Greg Colvert said don't know how to control home improvement stores as long as people practice social distancing and health department doesn't have an issue with it. Don't have anything else.

Will Hardman why we are aren't allowing people around the tennis courts. Mayor stated meetings of JCHD is handling balls and gatherings and to reduce as many people around each other as possible. We can get a handle on this in 2-3 weeks or 2-3 months. Councilor Currington said can't close on municipal park without closing others. Will asks what Gardendale has in place, Mayor stated that most retail closed, encourage everyone to shelter in place. There are many grey areas, but we are following the Health Department's order issued by Dr. Wilson.

Bill Cassady said Birmingham said it only allows recreation that doesn't allow physical contact with people or objects. Councilor Currington says this is consistent with our message. It allows people to walk, hike, and individual activities.

Mayor wants to commend Melissa and Bill for covering calls to the city, they are making sure these messages get relayed.

Councilor Currington said that the only ordinance we have in place is the no gathering of 25 people. The police can enforce the JCHD statements. Councilor Currington said one of the grey areas is private property rights and as long as public contact was limited don't see how they can be shut down.

We are having some problems with echoing on the call that is contributable to internet bandwidth.

Mayor Hogeland read a public statement he put out about how to limit the spread of COVID as prepared by the JCHD.

We do have a scheduled work session April 30 at City Hall. Meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.