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Minutes
Special Emergency City Council Meeting
3:00 p.m. Monday, March 23, 2020
City Council Chambers
City Hall, 101 Main Street, Forney, Texas 75126

Mayor Penn read the following statement:

Emergency Statement: With the COVID-19 Disaster Declaration in the State of Texas and proclamation of waiver of the provisions of the Texas Elections Code, an unforeseeable situation has been created that requires immediate action by the City of Forney in order to consider specific disaster regulations. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.045). Recommendations of the CDC regarding social distancing will be practiced during the course of the public meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Penn called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Present were Mayor Mary Penn, Mayor Pro Tem Shaun Myers and Council Member Mike Thomas, Derald Cooper and David Johnson. Council Members Robbie Powers and Kevin Moon were absent. Also present was City Manager Tony Carson.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. **Discuss and consider action on the extension of a Declaration of Disaster and Public Health Emergency issued by Mayor Penn on March 20, 2020 and issuing a Shelter in Place Order under the authority of Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code.**

Mayor Penn asked Police Chief Mica Lunt for a briefing on Covid-19. Lunt stated we are trying to take a proactive approach. Dallas has the highest number of cases and while we are growing, we are still a small community and many of our residents work in Dallas. The main thing we need to do is social distancing. It does not close down all businesses, there are some businesses that are considered essential businesses. This is NOT MARTIAL LAW! It is designed to protect the public and halt the spread of disease.

We will be issuing a Press Release and will put it on Facebook and our website. Kaufman County will be meeting tomorrow and we have asked them to also issue a "shelter in place" declaration.

Council Member Johnson stated that this a serious war with a strong virus.

Mayor Penn opened the floor to anyone in the audience who wished to comment on this item. The following persons addressed the Council:

James Watts
1669 Deerpath Drive
Forney, Texas 75126

49 Brandie Jones
50 Cooper's Cottage Childcare
51 100 Fredonia Drive
52 Forney, Texas 75126

53
54 Marie Decator, Manager
55 Guest & Gray Law Firm
56 112 S. Bois D'Arc
57 Forney, Texas 75126

58
59 Mark Kuban
60 612 Carl C. Senter
61 Forney, Texas 75126

62
63 Lacy Janca
64 12629 FM 2932
65 Forney, Texas 75126

66
67 City Manager Carson stated that City offices will be locked, however, Staff will still be working.
68 We will be limiting public interaction. There are no limitations on construction. This order
69 adheres to all of the guidelines set forth by the CDC. We are trying to be compassionate but
70 are encouraging people to shelter in place. We are not cutting off businesses.

71
72 Mayor Penn called for a motion on the extension of a Declaration of Disaster and Public Health
73 Emergency issued by Mayor Penn on March 20, 2020 and issuing a Shelter in Place Order.
74 Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the Order and Mayor Pro Tem Myers
75 seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5 ayes and 2 absent [Powers and Moon].

76
77 Mayor Penn read the following:

78
79 Friends and Citizens of Forney,

80
81 In the City of Forney, we believe it is important to be proactive in supporting public health
82 restrictions while finding ways to keep essential services and businesses operating. We
83 continue to try to balance the competing interests of this public health crisis and the economical
84 and other consequences of imposing restrictions.

85
86 We are extremely sympathetic to our small business owners and everyone depending upon
87 their jobs to pay bills and put food on their family's tables. This why we have made the
88 restrictions of our order as broad as possible and are allowing businesses to apply for a waiver.

89
90 The City of Forney is very close to the Dallas-Kaufman County line. Many members of our
91 community frequently travel into Dallas County. Dallas County has the greatest concentration of
92 known cases in Texas. In all likelihood, there are probably people who are infected in Forney
93 but have not been tested. This order is the next, logical proactive step to protect the citizens and
94 public servants of the City of Forney.

95

96
97 We appreciate all Forney citizens, business owners, and workers for doing their part to beat
98 COVID-19. We will get through this together. City Staff will be very responsive to questions and
99 requests for waivers submitted to covid19@forneytx.gov or called in to one of the City's
100 information lines.

101
102 The entire declaration from today's City Council meeting can be found on the City's website,
103 along with the most up to date information concerning COVID-19 (Coronavirus). For more
104 information visit www.forneytx.gov/covid19.

105
106 Sincerely,
107 Mayor Mary Penn

108
109
110 Mayor Penn called for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Thomas made a motion to adjourn
111 the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and Mayor Pro Tem Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed
112 by a vote of 5 ayes and 2 absent [Powers and Moon].

113
114 **PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORNEY,**
115 **TEXAS, this _____ day of _____, 2020.**

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119 **ATTEST:** **Mary Penn, Mayor**

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121
122
123 **Dorothy Brooks, City Secretary**