Minutes
Special Emergency City Council Meeting
5:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2020
City Council Chambers
City Hall, 101 Main Street, Forney, Texas 75126

Emergency Statement: With the COVID-19 Disaster Declaration in the State of Texas and the Governors’ Executive Order GA 28, an unforeseeable situation has been created that requires immediate action by the City of Forney in order to consider specific disaster regulations and other considerations. (Tex. Gov’t Code §551.045). Recommendations of the CDC regarding social distancing will be practiced during the course of the public meeting.

The general public can view the meeting live on our video stream at https://forneytx.gov/803/Watch-Meetings. If you wish to address the Council on any subject at this meeting, you are required to email dbrooks@forneytx.gov no later than Wednesday, July 1, 2020, by 4:30 p.m. You must provide your name and telephone number and state which item(s) you wish to speak on. You will be provided a telephone number and meeting ID that you must dial into 15 minutes prior to the scheduled meeting start time. Due to technical restrictions, those who fail to dial into the meeting at the prescribed time may forfeit their opportunity to speak at said meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Penn called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Present were Mayor Mary Penn, Mayor Pro Tem Shaun Myers and Council Members Mike Thomas, Robbie Powers, Kevin Moon, Derald Cooper and David Johnson. Also present was City Manager Tony Carson.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Discuss and consider action related to upcoming City events and other outdoor gatherings in excess of 100 people, and all related issues under the authority of Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code and pursuant to Executive Order GA-28.

Mayor Penn announced that David Watts had requested to speak.

   David Watts – Mr. Watts stated that he believes that the July 4th should be approved.

   Mayor Penn then asked each Council Member for their input.

   Mayor Pro Tem Myers stated that we should keep the event as is. Everyone should wear a mask. He stated that Lowe’s will be providing masks at the event for those who do not have one.

   Council Member Moon stated that he is nervous about this. He wanted to know if we could still have the fireworks and nothing else.

   Council Member Powers stated that she is on the fence about this event. She still wants to err on the side of caution. It is her first chance to go to the celebration. Our objective is to not put people in the beds. Right now, people are having to wait on ICU beds. It is bad and it is very scary. She stated she would go along with the Council on this decision.
Council Member Cooper stated that there is plenty of parking and the park is big — plenty of room to social distance. Come and enjoy the event.

Council Member Johnson stated that it is one of those decisions where we are damned if we do and damned if we don't. The groups that were out during Memorial Day — young (and old) did not take precautions and now there is a boom in the number of cases.

Council Member Thomas stated that he is in favor of holding the event.

Mayor Penn stated that the fireworks are ok, just not the rest of the events. She stated we need to be proactive for the community and is in favor of a modified version.

Mayor Penn called for a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Myers made a motion to go forward with the event and Council Member Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5 ayes and 2 nays [Penn and Moon].

Mayor Penn then called for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Powers made the motion to adjourn at 5:26 p.m. and Council Member Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORNEY, TEXAS, this 24th day of July, 2020.

ATTEST:

Mary Penn, Mayor

Dorothy Brooks, City Secretary