

WESTFIR CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

Thursday, April 9, 2020

Audio/Video Teleconference, 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

RECONVENE APRIL 6, 2020, COUNCIL MEETING:

At 5:00 p.m. Mayor Matt Meske reconvened the April 6, 2020, City Council meeting. Councilors D'Lynn Williams, Edward Johnstone, Thalia Lerin and Randy Stark were present.

ADJOURN APRIL 6, 2020, COUNCIL MEETING:

Mayor Meske moved to adjourn the April 6, 2020, meeting. Councilor Edward Johnstone seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

AYES: Meske, Williams, Johnstone, Lerin, Stark **NAYS:** 0 **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

CALL SPECIAL SESSION TO ORDER:

Mayor Matt Meske called the special session to order at 5:01 p.m. Councilors D'Lynn Williams, Edward Johnston, Thalia Lerin and Randy Stark were present.

APRIL 2020 EXPENDITURES:

Mayor Meske suggested that the Council fund expenditures for both April and May, so the City could continue to pay its bills if Council was unable to meet at the regularly scheduled time. Councilor D'Lynn moved that the Council approve April and May expenditures in the amount of \$60,000.00. Councilor Thalia Lerin seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

AYES: Meske, Williams, Johnstone, Lerin, Stark **NAYS:** 0 **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

City Recorder Nicole Tritten expressed doubt that the first budget committee meeting scheduled for April 20 could go forward while still conforming to budget law. She expressed two concerns. Her first concern was that the requirement to accept public participation in real time left the process open to abuse by disruptive parties such as the Council experienced in the first remote City Council meeting. Her second concern was that the City was not able to provide a way for the public to participate in the Council Chamber because it lacked computers with microphones. Nicole requested that the budget meeting be postponed in the expectation of relief from a special legislative session that might loosen some of the public meeting requirements during the state of emergency.

Mayor Meske stated that it was preferable to go ahead with the meeting as scheduled and the Council agreed. Councilor D'Lynn Williams offered to be present with her computer in the Council Chamber to take public questions or comments and convey them to the remote meeting. Mayor Matt Meske stated that public questions and comments would be limited to five minutes per budget fund, and City Relief Recorder Sharon would monitor and remove any disruptive persons from the online platform.

Nicole asked the Council to confirm that regardless of the 90-day moratorium on water shutoffs for non-payment, that the City would continue to send late notices by postcard and door hanger. Mayor Meske stated that late payment notices should continue, mentioning the moratorium but also stating that late fees would continue to accrue. The Council agreed.

TOPICS OF CONCERN TO COUNCILORS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

Councilor D'Lynn Williams stated that she wanted to discuss the letter from resident Tim Bailey about illegal camping on the mill site near Hemlock. Councilor Lerin provided an update of the situation. She said that the police went to the campsite while the people were absent, packed up their belongings and cleaned up the area, and that the campers had gone. Councilor Williams replied that there was still a shelter on the site the day before. Councilor Lerin suggested that Nicole write to the owner of the property, Ralph Christensen, and make him aware of the situation. Councilor Randy Stark asked Nicole to contact Mr. Bailey and update him on the matter.

Councilor Randy Stark asked whether "The Bus Fair" would return the \$1,000.00 grant from the City since the event was cancelled. Nicole stated that she received an e-mail from the organizer, Brock Butterfield, asking the City whether they wanted the money returned or carried over to next year. Councilor Lerin stated that she preferred that the money be returned. Councilor Stark said that he wanted to allow for the fact that the organizer acted in good faith and may have already paid expenses with the funds. The Council decided to leave the return of the grant money to the discretion of the organizer.

ADJOURN MEETING:

Councilor Stark made a motion to adjourn the special session. Councilor Williams seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

AYES: Meske, Williams, Johnstone, Lerin, Stark **NAYS:** 0 **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

Respectfully submitted,



Matt Meske, Mayor



ATTEST:
Nicole Tritten, City Recorder

5/6/20
DATE: