

**CITY OF PURCELL
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 24, 2020
5:00 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS COMMUNITY ROOM
CITY HALL
230 W. MAIN STREET**

MINUTE NOTES

1. Call to order and declaration of a quorum present.

Mayor Cox called the meeting to order and declared a quorum to be present at 5:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

Roll call was conducted by City Clerk, Dorothy Kennedy, with the following results:

Councilmen present: Danny Jacobs, Theda Engert, Jay Tate, Ted Cox, Graham Fishburn
attended via remote Zoom Meeting

Councilman absent: None

Staff present: Dale Bunn, Victor Lohn, Dorothy Kennedy

Counsel: Ted Haxel

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Cox led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Mayor Danny Jacobs offered the invocation.

4. Welcome.

Mayor Cox welcomed those present.

5. Discussion of agenda items.

Mayor Cox stated some of the discussion items have already been superseded by the Governor Still, however, they will still be discussed.

6. Discussion and possible action concerning Resolution 20-C06 a resolution rescheduling the City of Purcell General Election from April 7, 2020 to June 30, 2020 in response to a Declaration of Election Emergency 2020-01 issued from the Oklahoma State Election Board and in avoiding gatherings in groups of more than ten persons due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Cox advised the State Election Board needs to postpone the April 7th Election, due to Covid-19. Mayor Cox advised he had discussed this issue with Mr. Haxel and this specific situation is not addressed in the City Charter. However, the Charter does state that the person who currently holds office will remain in office until another is duly elected or appointed. This being stated according to the City Charter, Councilman Fishburn will remain in office until an election can be held and a winner be determined.

Councilman Jacobs made a motion second by Councilwoman Engert to approve Resolution 20-C06 as written.

Yes: Jacobs, Engert, Tate, Fishburn, Cox No: None Absent: None

7. Discussion and possible action concerning confirmation of the Mayors Emergency Declaration and Proclamation regarding COVID – 19, also know as CORONAVIRUS.

Mayor Cox advised the proclamation in place that was signed by himself and the City Clerk is still in effect but has been superseded by Governor Stitt's Declaration.

Mr. Haxel advised this is something that the Mayor had the authority to do without Council confirmation or meeting. The purpose of the agenda item was to allow the Council to concur or take other action. The Proclamation in place expires April 10, 2020. Governor Stitt's Declaration expires April 19, 2020.

Councilman Jacobs made a motion second by Councilman Tate to approve agenda item 7 as written.

Yes: Jacobs, Tate, Engert, Fishburn, Cox No: None Absent: None

8. Discussion and possible action on municipal plans, guidelines, and procedures for the COVID – 19 emergency.

Mayor Cox advised there is nothing that prohibits the Council from being more restrictive than the Governor has set in place. The Governor’s order is effective until April 19th but will be re-evaluated at that time.

Mayor Cox asked Mr. Haxel “Are utility payments, non-payments and cut-offs a management decisions or Council decisions? Mr. Haxel advised the Council set policy, but execution falls under management.

Councilman Jacobs stated our budget is critically affected by utilities. Without necessary funding services for police, fire, other employees will be impacted. Staff deal with nonpayment of utility bills even with or without a virus existing.

Mayor Cox advised the utility bills were due prior to the Coronavirus. The City must continue to purchase the power, maintain services and pay existing bills. He stated the City will receive a substantial hit in reduced sales tax as well.

Councilman Tate stated that they may not have a job now or loses their jobs.

Other discussion was concerning unemployment and federal stimulus assistance possibilities. Mayor Cox advised he would like to see assistance through private funds who are willing to help. Mayor Cox advised the City is putting in place a plan to waive the online service fees.

Mr. Bunn advised what we are asking customers who cannot pay to fill out a deferral request to avoid being cut off. He advised it would be evaluated again in 20-30 days and there would need to be a payment plan in place. He advised this is very similar to what OG&E is doing.

Councilman Fishburn advised he agrees with what the City Manager said and work with people.

Councilwoman Engert was contacted by a lady who lost her job and received a deferral. The deferral gave her to the end of the month in order to pay.

Councilman Tate made a motion to approve a 60-day moratorium on utility cut-offs. The motion died for lack of a second.

9. Adjourn.

Mayor Cox declared the meeting to be adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2020

Attest:

Ted Cox, Mayor

Dorothy Kennedy, City Clerk