

**CITY OF GONZALES, TEXAS
EMERGENCY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES –MARCH 20, 2020**

The Emergency Meeting of the City Council was held on **March 20, 2020** at 2:00 p.m. via teleconference pursuant to **Section 551.045 of the Texas Government Code and in accordance with the March 16, 2020 order by the Governor of the State of Texas.**

An urgent public necessity exists requiring immediate action of the City Council due to an imminent threat to public health and safety arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting notice, agenda and agenda packet were posted online at www.gonzales.texas.gov.

The public was offered a toll-free dial in number to participate in the telephone conference hosted through FreeConferenceCall.com.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Kacir called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and certified a quorum.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Connie L. Kacir	Mayor	Present via phone
Gary Schroeder	Council Member, District 1	Present via phone
Tommy Schurig	Council Member, District 2	Present in person
Bobby O'Neal	Council Member, District 3	Present in person
Dan Blakemore	Mayor Pro Tem/Council Member, District 4	Present via phone

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Tim Patek, Interim City Secretary Kristi Gilbert and Finance Director Laura Zella

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

This time is set aside for any person who wishes to address the City Council. Each person should fill out the speaker's register prior to the meeting. Presentations should be limited to no more than 3 minutes.

Mayor Kacir stated the Council would consider Item 2. related to the postponement of the general election first.

The following individuals made a presentation to the City Council:

- Reed Means with the Long Branch Saloon stated that instituting an immediate closure of restaurants this evening it will drastically affect businesses that were planning to be open tonight.
2. Discussion and possible action on an ordinance postponing the May 2, 2020 General Election to November 3, 2020 for the protection of the health and safety of the general public.

Mayor Kacir stated the purpose of the item was based on an executive order issued by the Governor. The Mayor stated concerns included some election workers are in a higher

risk category, sanitization of election equipment may be difficult, managing the numbers and distancing of voters may be difficult, the campaigning would be difficult as door-to-door visits or rallies would be limited.

Councilmember Schroeder inquired as to the continued placement of political signs and allowing for an extension of political sign placement. The Mayor advised this item was to consider the emergency postponement only.

ACTION: Item 2

POSTPONE ELECTION

Councilmember Schurig moved to adopt an ordinance postponing the May 2, 2020 General Election to November 3, 2020 for the protection of the health and safety of the general public. Councilmember Schroeder seconded the motion. Mayor Kacir called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

1. Discussion and possible action on an ordinance extending a public health emergency declaration regarding precautionary measures in reference to the COVID-19 virus.

Mayor Kacir clarified the original public health declaration and the emergency declaration the Council adopted on March 16, 2020 included language that automatically included amendments based on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations. Mayor Kacir stated the City was already limited to no more than 10 individuals in an area based on the CDC recommendation issued earlier in the week.

Mayor Kacir stated enforcement action had been taken on one business earlier in the day. Council held discussion with regard to timing of limiting the 10 individuals and the closure of restaurants.

Councilmember Schroeder stated he felt businesses should be allowed to have up to 50 people in a building until 11:59pm this evening.

Mayor Pro Tem Blakemore stated, since the ordinance had already been enforced at 10 individuals, the City should be consistent and keep it at a maximum of 10. Councilmembers O'Neal and Schurig concurred with Mayor Pro Tem Blakemore.

ACTION: Item 1

EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Mayor Pro Tem Blakemore moved to leave the emergency declaration the same. Councilmember Schurig seconded the motion. Mayor Kacir called for a roll call vote. For: Blakemore, Schurig, O'Neal and Kacir. Against: Schroeder. The motion passed 4 to 1.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Approved this 9th day of April 2020.



Connie Kacir, Mayor



Krishi Gilbert, Interim City Secretary