

**KINGSBURG CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
March 23, 2020 at 6 pm**

Based upon recommendations from the CDC regarding social distancing relative to COVID-19 (coronavirus) and in accordance with the applicable provisions of Executive Order N-25-20 issued by Governor Newsom on March 12, 2020 (“EO”), the Special City Council meeting scheduled for March 23, 2020 was held via teleconference. Per the EO, the City Council Chamber, located at 1401 Draper St., was closed during the teleconference. The City had a free call-in conference call number for those who wish to provide public comment during the public comment period of the agenda or on a specific agenda item.

6 P.M. SPECIAL SESSION MEETING:

Call to order and roll call: At 6:00pm Mayor Michelle Roman called the special meeting of the Kingsburg City Council to order.

Council Members present via teleconference: Jewel Hurtado, Vince Palomar, Sherman Dix, Laura North and Mayor Michelle Roman.

Staff Members present: City Manager Alexander Henderson, City Clerk Abigail Palsgaard and City Attorney Michael Noland via teleconference.

Public Comments: Heather Dunn, Resident, asked City Council revisit allowing backyard chickens. The importance of self-reliance regarding food has been brought to light with the shortages in stores. It will help families provide for their own.

Regular Calendar

Adopt Resolution 2020-022 A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Kingsburg Proclaiming The Existence Or Threatened Existence Of A Local Emergency (Covid-19)

City Manager Alexander Henderson stated this is a continuation of discussion from last Wednesday’s meeting specific to the declaration of a local emergency regarding COVID 19. The Federal Government and the State of California have declared an emergency. Mr. Henderson said he has now declared an emergency and through this action he is designated Director of Emergency Services. The City Council must consider and ratify within 7 days.

Mayor Roman asked for the record who is on the Kingsburg Disaster Committee. City Manager Henderson said by the City Code it is the Mayor, the City Manager, the Fire Chief and the Police Chief. According to the adopted Emergency Operations Plan Chief Perkins would be the Assistant Director.

Council Member Dix asked what the limitation of the actions of the Disaster Committee are compared to City Council. City Manager Henderson reviewed City Code Section 2.40.040 – The powers and duties of the Disaster council shall be and it is hereby empowered, to develop and recommend for adoption by the city council, emergency and mutual aid plans and agreements and such ordinances and resolutions and rules and regulations as are necessary to implement such plans and agreements.

City Manager Henderson explained the Emergency Operations Plan is more relative as the City Code was adopted in 1973 and the Emergency Operations Plan in 2010. City Council remains the decision-making body. City Attorney Noland explained these issues would come as recommendations to the City Council for purposes of review and adoption. Council Member Dix said it would make sense to name the Fire Chief the Assistant Director. He asked if we have the line of succession. City Manager Henderson stated according to the Emergency Operations Plan it is the City Manager, then the Police Chief and then the Fire Chief.

Dave Crinklaw, West Star Construction, commended everything City Council has done to take action. He said they have shown great leadership and asked to be contacted if he can help in anyway.

Council Member North made a motion to approve a request from the Director of Emergency Services for the City of Kingsburg that the City Council of the City of Kingsburg proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency (COVID-19) and adopt Resolution 2020-022 of the City Council of the City of Kingsburg proclaiming the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency (COVID-19). Council Member Hurtado seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Henderson relayed that staff did contact all the grocery stores as directed by Council to see if they have special hours for seniors. Save Mart has senior specific hours, does do delivery through Instacart with a fee. The other ones, late last week, were not offering senior specific hours. Staff has started a list of open business with hours and if they have online options, City Manager Henderson said he has been talking to other city managers regarding eviction relief, continuing to look into that. The ambulance calls for service have been down 50%.

There are potential revenue impacts, building permits have slowed, user fees for recreation and parks have gone down due to the program and the parks being closed. Staff suspects lower TOT taxes as travel is not recommended. CalPERS has lost 69 billion and won't know total losses until Summer 2020. Council Member Dix asked for Finance Director Colado to do an analysis if TOTs are down and if sales tax with gas prices are dropping so we can get an idea of those numbers. City Manager Henderson said he is having a tax consultant updating sales tax recession numbers.

Council Member North asked if city employees are not getting paid if they are not working. City Manager Henderson said they are not getting paid, if they have sick leave, they can use it. The After School Recreation is a cost neutral program. Council member Dix asked if there is a way to repurpose those employees. City Manager Henderson said he will look into it.

Mayor Roman discussed the potential evictions in town due to the shelter in place. She would like to pass something that supports stopping evictions and foreclosures. Council Member Dix said it is difficult to get involved in a private contract. He would rather leave it up to the individual to decide, maybe work on a rent reduction. No evictions translate to no rent, possibly. Mayor Roman clarified that she is not talking about eliminating rent, just that the tenant cannot be evicted because of a late payment. Council Member Dix gets that they are talking about deferring rent, but we need to look at the burden on landlords. It is not the place of City Council to decide.

Mayor Roman said it already is passed for residential mortgages. Council member Dix said it is up to the local jurisdiction to determine. City Manager Henderson said there are two different mortgage reliefs, one is federal and only related to FHA loans. The other the Governor gave local jurisdictions the ability to give

specific direction. He didn't provide any specific relief. Council Member Hurtado stated the Governor left it up to local jurisdictions. City Attorney Noland said the Fresno County Court cut back hours and consequently cases are not being seen. The Court has limited access in the actions that can be brought, including any type of civil action. Council Member Dix stated that commercial tenants can be exonerated from eviction, even if they are currently 6 months behind which could stop the landlord from renting to a hospital or the government. Council Member North said it is so new, and we don't know what the future holds. We can hold off and come back in a future time. Council agreed.

City Manager Henderson said the Governor is asking for passive compliance. Recently Staff and Council Members have had folks ask about playgrounds and parks. We are asking people to follow the guidelines. Until the Governor goes to mandated enforcement, that has been our approach at the local level. It is new and confusing. There is updated information on the website for our citizens. The City Manager said he is available for questions. Council Member North said she had a citizen contact her that they concerned about children playing at park equipment, other communities have put up police tape. City Manager Henderson said staff has closed restrooms, put up signs about proper hygiene, have been wiping down equipment but can't do it everyday. If there is a desire to fence off the parks, we can. Council Member Dix said he thinks points are a valid; high touch areas could be spreading it. He can imagine a lot of police tape being ripped down. Council Member Hurtado said she saw lots of kids playing yesterday at Athwal. She doesn't know if police tape is the best idea. Parks are a high touch area. Mayor Roman asked if we have orange fencing. City Manager Henderson said he will work with Community Services Director Adam Castaneda and Public Works with barricades and signage. Council Member Palomar feels citizens are not taking it seriously. He thinks it a good idea to look at fencing up parks. Council gave staff direction.

Mayor Roman said she appreciates all of Economic Development Consultant Jolene Polyack's work on the list of what businesses are open. It is on the City website.

Other Business that may come properly before the City Council

Council Member Palomar said he is worried about going into a recession and water shutoffs. We will need a policy for how they can pay it back.

Mayor Roman thanked staff and citizens, we will work together and get through it.

The Special Kingsburg City Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm.

Submitted by:

Abigail Palsgaard, City Clerk