

April 21, 2020

The City Council of the City of Fort Morgan, Colorado, met this day for a virtual meeting via computer link due to restrictions on public gatherings related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Honorable Mayor Ron Shaver called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Roll Call: Present: Honorable Mayor Ron Shaver
Councilmember Clint Anderson
Councilmember Lyn Deal
Councilmember Allison Howe
Councilmember Kevin Lindell
Councilmember Doug Schossow
Councilmember Brian Urdiales

The meeting was also attended by Acting City Manager Brent Nation, Interim Police Chief Jared Crone, City Treasurer Jean Kinney, Human Resources/Risk Management Director Susan Kurk, Public Works Director Steve Glammeyer, Community Services Director Ty Hamer, Economic Development Specialist Sarah Crosthwaite and Deputy City Manager/City Clerk/PIO John Brennan.

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDED POLICY PERTAINING TO REQUESTS UNDER THE COLORADO OPEN RECORDS ACT

City Attorney Geoff Wilson explained that the city's local policy on open records requests was last updated 13 years ago, and this measure would bring the policy in line with changes to the law since that time and address some issues the city had seen. He said the policy was based on one originally developed by the Colorado Municipal League and adopted by many municipalities. Councilmember Lyn Deal offered a resolution to approve the Resolution approving an amended policy pertaining to requests under the Colorado Open Records Act. That resolution was seconded by Councilmember Kevin Lindell and approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN AMENDED INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO THE FMPD SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

Interim Police Chief Jared Crone said this agreement had been in place since 1997 and was last revised in 2009, and this amendment reflected changes to the number of agencies involved as well as some procedural practices. Some council and staff discussion followed about cost sharing and other issues.

Lindell offered a resolution to approve the Resolution approving an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Fort Morgan, the City of Brush and the County of Morgan for the operation of a special response team by the Fort Morgan Police Department. That resolution was seconded by Deal and approved unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE

Acting City Manager Brent Nation said Economic Development Specialist Sarah Crosthwaite had been working on ways for the city to help local businesses that were severely impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Crosthwaite described her proposal, which called for the council to appropriate \$50,000 toward a Business Recovery Grant Program that would offer grants of up to

\$5,000 to qualifying local businesses. Crosthwaite outlined the requirements and the application process, and said the grant funds could be used by the businesses for a variety of costs. Council and staff discussion followed about the application prerequisites and the possible uses of the grants, as well as the source of the city funding to create the program.

Deal offered a resolution to approve the appropriation of \$50,000 from General Fund reserves and the creation of the COVID-19 Business Recovery Grant Program as presented, which was seconded by Councilmember Brian Urdiales and approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF EXPECTED 2020 REVENUE SHORTFALL AND POTENTIAL BUDGET REDUCTIONS

City Treasurer Jean Kinney reviewed a spreadsheet she had included in the council's meeting packets, showing several scenarios of revenue impacts for the city from the COVID-19 pandemic. She had taken different percentage drops in sales tax collections and utility bill payments and calculated the resulting shortfalls in those revenues compared to the budgeted amounts for 2020. She then outlined possible means of reducing expenses to absorb the revenue reductions, which could include delaying planned capital projects, postponing or canceling planned pay increases and other cutbacks.

Council and staff discussion followed about the budget situation as well as the city's overall financial condition, which Kinney said was very strong with healthy reserve funds. Council members expressed their views that they would rather wait on capital projects than cancel employee raises, and that more information was needed in order to make decisions on further cutbacks.

The council direction was to postpone capital projects for now and to gather more data on how large the revenue shortfalls actually turned out to be, and to keep the council informed as more information is available and other decisions need to be made. No formal action was taken.

RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATION IN THE CITY OF FORT MORGAN

Nation said this measure would simply extend the emergency declaration the council had enacted on March 31 through the end of May. He said that would ensure the city stayed in the pool of qualified entities for disaster relief or emergency assistance funding that may become available from the state and federal levels.

Councilmember Allison Howe offered a resolution to approve the Resolution extending the public health emergency for the city of Fort Morgan, which was seconded by Councilmember Doug Schossow and approved unanimously.

UPDATE ON CITY MANAGER RECRUITMENT AND SCHEDULE OF PROCESS

Mayor Ron Shaver said the city had executed a final agreement with recruiting firm KRW Associates, and the recruitment process for a new city manager would be longer than expected due to the need to conduct many of the steps in the process remotely because of COVID-19 restrictions. Some council and staff discussion ensued, and no formal action was taken.

2021 BUDGET CALENDAR – PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL GOALS

Deputy City Manager/City Clerk/PIO John Brennan said he had compiled the results of a survey of council members following the council's March 10 budget planning retreat, as well as a pre-retreat survey, and looked for areas of common ground to develop a list of shared goals for the 2020 budget. He said there was significant overlap in areas such as trails, economic development,

focus on historic downtown, employee pay and other areas, which Brennan outlined in a memo included in the council packet. Brennan suggested that if the council was comfortable with the goals outlined in his memo staff could move forward on that basis, with the understanding that the goals may need to be revisited at some point as uncertainty surrounding the virus outbreak began to resolve and the future became more clear. The council consensus was to move forward on that basis and no formal action was taken.

CONSENT AGENDA BY RESOLUTION

Brennan presented the Consent Agenda for Council consideration as follows:

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the disbursements and payroll for March
- B. Approval of the minutes of the March 31, 2020 City Council special meeting
- C. Approval of the minutes of the April 7, 2020 City Council regular meeting

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine business by the Council and will be enacted with a single motion and a single vote by roll call. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is deemed necessary, that item should be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

Howe offered a resolution to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which was seconded by Urdiales and approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

REPORTS BY OFFICIALS AND STAFF

Public Works Director Steve Glammeyer said the city had received \$30,000 in federal funding for the airport in the first coronavirus stimulus bill approved by Congress.

Nation updated the council on the status of the golf course, which had been closed due to coronavirus social distancing requirements. With the impending lifting of the state Stay at Home order and contingent on approval from the Northeast Colorado Health Department, Nation said, staff hoped to reopen the course the following Saturday.

BIDS, MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brennan announced current bids and upcoming meetings.

Mayor Shaver adjourned the April 21, 2020 regular meeting at 7:33 p.m.

/s/ Ronald Shaver
Mayor

/s/ John Brennan
City Clerk