

March 27, 2020

Gooding City Council Minutes

Special Meeting

The special meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Gooding, Idaho was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Gooding Municipal Building, 308 5th Ave West, Gooding, Idaho on March 27, 2020. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Brekke.

Roll Call

Present were Mayor Brekke, Councilperson Arkoosh, Smith and Shepherd. Councilman Cram was not present.

Employees

Present were City Clerk Hollye Lierman, Public Works Director Larry Bybee, Waterworks Clerk Hayden Peterson, Water/Sewer Superintendent Noel Edwards, Streets/Sanitation Superintendent Mitch Rogers, WWTP Operator Paul Childs, Attorney Hobdey and Chief Fisher.

Visitors

Present were Susan Bolton and Hal Nichols.

Items

- 1. Decisions on Procedures for Gooding City Operations and Services Regarding COVID-19:**

Mayor Brekke stated the City has implemented process and procedures for COVID-19. As of right now the City is limiting access and limiting staff. Public Works is on call and only out for necessary or emergency calls. The Supervisors make their rounds daily. They will start rotating staff as needed and they may need to restrict traveling together if possible and if needed hours can be restricted. The parks will remain open but group gatherings will be prohibited. The toys will be closed off. The Mayor stated he feels this is a waste of time because there are no restrictions from gatherings or outside travel or any enforcement. He doesn't feel that three weeks is long enough. Councilman Smith stated the Police Department is allowed to issue tickets for not abiding by the Governors Stay Home Order. The Mayor stated restaurant sit down service is not allowed. If caught allowing sit down service it will be a Health & Welfare violation. The Golf Course will remain open. The Country Club is closed to dine in but the patio is still open and customers must have 6 feet of distance between them. Hal Nichols stated his business is shut down. Governor Little has ordered everyone to stay home but they aren't. Mayor Brekke stated the City will do all that we can to protect employees and citizens. The Mayor also stated provisions for small businesses have been made. He recommends business owners speak with their bank or CPA's. Paul Childs, WWTP Operator, stated the sewer plant is under control at this time. Paul also stated as a crew, if one of them exposes the virus to the rest of the crew then they are all quarantined and there wouldn't be anyone certified to take samples or to run the systems.

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Noel Edwards, Water/Sewer Superintendent, stated they are watching for non flushable items and everything looks good right now. He also stated the water is monitored 24/7. Noel has spoken to the City of Twin Falls and if our crew is down they would be willing to help.

Chief Fisher stated all of the parks are closed other than the Golf Course. He will be contacting the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind regarding their parks. The schools have shut down their playgrounds already. He also stated his officers will be educating before issuing any citations.

Hal Nichols stated since his business is considered recreation he understands that he would be allowed to open but only three lanes could be used. Mayor Brekke agreed.

Councilwoman Shepherd stated the Governor has stated massage therapy is essential. Bath and Body Boutique has inferred therapy and is important to the health of citizens. She asked if red light therapy is essential. Attorney Hobdey stated that if she wanted to be open then she could. Councilman Smith suggested she reach out to Governor Little to get clarification.

- 2. Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency:** Councilman Arkoosh made a motion to affirm the Mayor's Local Emergency Declaration COVID-19. Motion seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mayor Brekke has declared a local disaster emergency and signed the Mayor's Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency.

There being no further business, Councilman Arkoosh made a motion to adjourn the special meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

ATTEST:

Hollye Lierman - City Clerk

Jeff Brekke - Mayor