

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES April 6, 2020

Participation available via <https://zoom.us/j/594878309> and 877-853-5257 using Meeting ID 594 878 309

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Berbee at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Berbee.

The invocation was led by Mayor Berbee.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Seymour, Deborah Groat, Henk Berbee, J.R. Rausch, Mark Reams, and Aaron J. Carpenter. Donald Boerger arrived at 6:16 p.m.

OTHERS PRESENT: *City Manager Terry Emery, Law Director Tim Aslaner, Finance Director Brad Lutz, Deputy Police Chief Tony Brooks, Fire Chief Jay Riley, Public Service Director Mike Andrako, City Engineer Jeremy Hoyt, IT Director Aaron Story, Human Resources Director Brian Dostanko, Economic Development Director Eric Phillips, Clerk of Council Rebecca Dible, and Journal Tribune Mac Cordell.*

Mayor Berbee read the following:

General Zoom Meeting Information

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all City Council meetings will be conducted as virtual meetings until further notice. Meetings will be open remotely to the public to follow along and participate during the Public Comment section of the agendas. It is recommended to either join by desktop or by tablet/smart phone app. If using the smart phone application, please download it ahead of time from your respective app store. The public may also participate telephonically. Zoom meeting links, meeting IDs, and phone numbers will be published on the agenda.

Speaking

Due to possible lag time in streaming, these meetings will be run at a slower pace to ensure proper procedure is maintained. All meeting participants are expected to keep their speakers silenced throughout the meeting unless they are called upon for a voice vote or until they are recognized by the chair. It is important that all participants state their name prior to commenting, as citizens may be participating telephonically.

Public Comments

The public is encouraged to give prior notification to the Clerk of Council if they wish to comment at a meeting. The public is also welcome to submit written comments prior to the meetings by emailing the comments to rdible@marysvilleohio.org. During "Citizen Comments" sections of meetings, parties wishing to speak must use the "raise hand" Zoom function in order to be recognized. If a citizen is participating in the meeting telephonically, they may press *9 by touchtone phone to "raise their hand."

Presentations and Handouts

All presentations and/or handouts must be submitted to the Clerk of Council at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

AGENDA:

1) Zoom Meeting Platform

Mayor Berbee explained this was the first trial using the Zoom webinar platform. He stated if there were no objections, Council would continue using the platform for Council and Committee meetings until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no objections.

2) COVID-19 Pandemic

Finance Director Lutz explained that he had created a COVID19 Financial Evaluation and Planning Outline for the City (Attachment A). City Manager Emery and Mayor Berbee thanked Finance Director Lutz for his diligent planning efforts and Economic Development Director Phillips for his continuous engagement. Per Councilman Rausch's inquiry, Mr. Phillips local businesses are encouraged to reach out to their local bank accountants, as per the Small Business Alliance (SBA) recommendation for payroll financial coverage questions/assistance. Fire Chief Riley gave an update regarding emergency response services. He stated all leave for Police and Fire staff was cancelled beginning April 12, 2020 and that the 2020 finances for personal protective equipment (PPE) were exhausted. Chief Riley stated they would be requesting additional PPE financing at the upcoming Finance Committee meeting and gave additional updates. Human Resources (HR) Director Dostanko updated Council regarding HR's actions during the pandemic and continuously updated information they were receiving. They are providing as many options as possible to managers and allowing the managers to oversee their respective departments/divisions. HR continued to update employees via email and spoke highly of the caliber of City staff. Council Members asked numerous questions of Administrative staff. The also thanked Administration for their efforts and discussed a formal letter and/or proclamation in response to the efforts and action taken by both City staff and citizens.

COMMENTS OF CITY MANAGER AND COUNCIL:

City Manager Emery thanked his staff for their excellent work and responded to additional Council questions.

Councilwoman Groat specifically thanked Executive Administrative Assistant Anna Krutowskis and Council Clerk Rebecca Dible for their phenomenal communication and assistance throughout this crisis as well as the City Manager, Police and Fire Chiefs, and City staff. She supported a proclamation by the Mayor giving full support of City personnel. Councilwoman Groat also noted that freedom and safety required a difficult balancing act.

Councilman Rausch also supported Administrative staff and relayed concern because statistics only show eight confirmed cases of COVID in Union County, he stated many did not understand that testing in the county was extremely limited that many more (statistically, possibly 80%) had already been exposed and needed to continue taking precautions.

Councilman Seymour complemented City staff and stated that although he was in favor of a proclamation, it was important to not come across as boastful. He also confirmed the Public Safety/Service Committee meeting would be held on April 13, 2020 via the Zoom meeting platform.

Councilman Reams also was in full support of a proclamation in support of the efforts taken by City staff and citizens. He encouraged specific examples be given to let City residents know what the City encouraged them to do at this time.

Councilman Carpenter wished all good health and spoke of many, including himself, who were adjusting to working extremely long hours at this time. Per his request, Law Director Aslaner gave an overview regarding the current situation and legal requirements for public meetings.

Councilman Boerger confirmed that all regularly scheduled Board, Commission, and Committee meetings would proceed using the Zoom platform (other than the April 2020 Board of Zoning Appeals which would take place using the Google Meeting platform) to reassure concerned citizens.

Mayor Berbee confirmed details with City Manager Emery regarding a letter to be written and placed in the paper as an editorial in the Friday newspaper (Good Friday) regarding the proclamation conversation.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.