

The Mayor and Council met for a called meeting, via Teleconference-Zoom.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Wayne Adcock	Vice-Mayor
	Lee Malcom	Council Member
	Myoshia Crawford	Council Member
	Ross Bradley	Council Member
	Larry Bradley	Council Member
	Norman Garrett	Council Member
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Debbie Kirk	City Clerk
	Russell Preston	City Attorney
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney

Staff Present: Danny Smith, Jeremiah Still, R.V. Watts, Bill Owens, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Brian Thompson, Chris Bailey, Sadie Krawczyk, Patrick Kelley, Mike McGuire, Luke Roberts, Steve Conwell

Visitors: Les Russell

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present via Teleconference (Zoom Video / audio conferencing). There was a quorum.

To remove Item 1 under Items Requiring Action – Ordinance to Impose a Prohibition of Gatherings of More than Ten (10) People.

City Attorney Paul Rosenthal stated after the Governor gave his April 2nd Executive Order on Thursday, he issued two additional Orders on Friday for clarification of his April 2nd Order. He clarified that Local Law Enforcement, including City Police Departments, have arrest authority and the authority to impose the mandates contained within his Shelter in Place Order from April 2nd. Mr. Rosenthal explained there were some questions and concerns about whether it is only the Sheriff's Departments, but his second order makes it very clear that City Law Enforcement Authority has the ability to enforce the Shelter in Place Order. Anyone breaking that order or not following the terms of that order can be found guilty of a misdemeanor. The Governor's Order has similar language to the City's Gathering Ordinance, which states a verbal warning will be given first or encourages giving a verbal warning first, before any actual arrests or citations are made. Mr. Rosenthal stated the City Police Department now has the authority to enforce the Governor's Shelter in Place Order, which is one of the main reasons that obviates the need for the City's Gathering Ordinance at this point, plus there is a lot of ambiguity as to whether or not the City is preempted or not. Hopefully, there will be some more clarity on that later this week.

To remove Item 1 under Items Requiring Action – Ordinance to Impose a Prohibition of Gatherings of More than Ten (10) People. To approve the agenda as amended.

*Motion by R. Bradley, seconded by Adcock.
Passed Unanimously*

2. City Administrator Update

City Administrator Logan Propes stated he will be holding off on filling any positions at this time, except at the Water Treatment Plant and the Police Department. City Services are very busy, with lots of projects, even though things have slowed down elsewhere. He requested the Gatherings Ordinance be postponed until next week in case the Governor issues another order on Monday. Hopefully, it will offer more clarity from some of the ambiguity of the language between his stack of orders and the City's Ordinance. The City will continue to follow the existing Governor's Shelter in Place Order.

3. Central Services Update

Mr. Chris Bailey stated the biggest change has been alternating the schedules with the grounds crew and the buildings crew; they are splitting two and two, working six days a week. The contractors have taken over some of the larger right-of-ways starting April 1. The Central Services Supervisor and the Parks Manager are cutting grass and maintaining the Parks. Steve Conwell is working remotely and Luke Roberts is working onsite. A couple of the buildings crew are sanitizing the buildings each day. He thanked Jeremiah Still and Danny Smith for stepping up and coordinating with their departments to keep people as safe as possible. The Police Department / Municipal Court Building is still ongoing; the contractors have submitted their second pay request.

II. COMMITTEE INFORMATION**1. Finance****a. Monthly Finance Report**

Ms. Beth Thompson explained they are still working on the March numbers, which have not been finalized yet. The April numbers will take a substantial hit in some areas. She has started a staggered rotating schedule for operations. All areas are still operational: call center, meter reading, billing, drive-thru, customer service by phone and drive-thru, and the Finance Department. She clarified that customers have payment options other than paying in person; they can pay online, by phone, mail, or drop box. The drive-thru has been backed up occasionally, and customers are having to wait but they have been very understanding and patient. There will not be any non-payment disconnects or late fees charged through April 30, 2020. Ms. Thompson stated that she has set a FEMA Account up for the Public Assistance reimbursement; she will be working with each of the departments on what can be counted.

2. Airport**a. Monthly Airport Report**

Mr. Chris Bailey stated the Airport has been quiet. Georgia Airports Association has sent several correspondences out, giving directions for handling some of the traffic, but it is geared more towards commercial traffic. Bill Scott is not having operations right now. Flight Training is done on a one-on-one basis and most of it can be done online.

3. Public Works**a. Monthly Solid Waste Report**

Mr. Chris Bailey explained a few of the collection route schedules have been staggered, trying to keep people separated as much as possible. Getting garbage and trash picked up has been a challenge, but they are very close to staying on schedule. He stated they have done a great job with the amount of trash being collected during this time.

b. Monthly Streets & Transportation Report

Mr. Jeremiah Still stated they are attacking things as they come in from a minimal stand point of personnel. He explained the crews have been split in half, with one day on and one day off. They have been cleaning signs throughout the City, repairing pot holes and utility cuts as they come in, and doing jobs that can be done with minimal staffing. The department is creating good habits of cleanliness towards ourselves, equipment, trucks, and facilities. This approach will help to protect us going forward. The infrastructure is being maintained on a day to day basis.

4. Utilities**a. Monthly Electric & Telecom Report**

Mr. Brian Thompson stated most of the Telecom employees are working from home, and the Technicians are reporting from home taking care of the tickets. The Electric employees have been separated into two crews reporting to two different areas, and some other Technicians are staying in a single truck by themselves. He explained that gives them three layers with the two split crews, the Technicians, and then himself. The contractors are done on Spring Street and the decorative lighting on the western side of Spring Street started today.

b. Monthly Water, Sewer, Gas, & Stormwater Report

Mr. Rodney Middlebrooks explained half of the crews are at the Warehouse and the other half are at GUTA; the interaction is being limited between the two crews. The shifts have been split for the employees working at the Plants. The Sinclair Water Authority sent two of their employees to the City and the City sent two employees there. The Plants are similar and this will allow backup for each place in case things get worse.

5. Public Safety**a. Monthly Fire Report**

Fire Chief Bill Owens stated they closed the station to the public on March 13, 2020. Administrative staff is working remotely and staffing has been reduced to seven. The Department has been divided into two divisions, one half will be for EMS calls and the other half will be for Fire and Rescue. An Engine Company has been sent to the Airport and will be staying there in the Pilots Lounge. He thanked everyone who helped to make that happen seamlessly in only a few days. The EMS engine will be dedicated to handling COVID-19 response calls. A decontamination station has been setup in the truck bay, which is available to all City employees if needed. Chief Owens discussed the call volumes being down, because people don't want to go to the hospital right now. He stated they are letting Walton EMS handle a lot of the COVID-19 calls, but they are there for standby. The Fire Marshall is working with the local stores on rerouting entrances and exits to reduce exposure. He explained the biggest problem has been locating personal protection equipment, masks, and gloves. He stated citizens should expect a little slower response time if they are coming from the Airport; there could be a sixty second delay. He thanked the community for all of their support and feedback.

b. Monthly Police Report

Police Chief R.V. Watts explained all of the sworn officers that usually work inside the Police Department have been quarantined to their vehicles. They are also trying to limit their interaction with lots of people in the community by being reactive instead of proactive. They have implemented a check station coming in the back door, and there is only one way in and one way out of the department. The desk sergeant located at the back door will process everyone in; they will take their temperature, sanitize, and spray their clothes and shoes with Lysol. All of the officers are supposed to wear PPE gear any time they interact with the community. They should be wearing masks, gloves, and eye protection. They should also re-sanitize and spray everything down again prior to reentering their vehicle. He stated they are taking reports by phone when possible. More information is going to start being posted on social media and the website to help educate the community on the situation and what to do.

6. Planning & Code**a. Monthly Code Report**

Mr. Patrick Kelley stated Code has basically been able to maintain all of their normal services and activities. The office is working split shifts; they are working opposite shifts inside the office and remotely, so they are both available every day. A clean-in and clean-out process has been implemented for the Marshalls, so they won't be in the office at the same time. They are coordinating with each other via text, phone call, or email about being in the office for paperwork. They are mainly working remotely from their vehicles and not interacting directly with the public, and issuing repair cleanup notices. Inspections and permitting is going as normal, except being handled electronically or through the drive-thru. He stated customer service has been great helping them deal with things through the drive-thru, and they really appreciate their help. They have been cleaning frequently touched surfaces and maintaining social distancing.

7. Economic Development**a. Monthly Economic Development Report**

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk stated things have changed a lot for businesses in downtown. There are many changes to events in the City, some are trying to be postponed but many of them are having to be cancelled. The Visitor Center is closed to the public. They have 50 applications submitted so far for DDA Stabilization Grants; the DDA Board will be reviewing them on Thursday. There are more grant requests than City funding, so the DDA will have to decide what to allocate from their funding to meet the grant applications. The applications were mainly from restaurants and retailers, which was the aim. She stated they are trying to keep everything

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updated on the DDA website for businesses that are changing hours or closing. She is also trying to post resources for small businesses; their first post was viewed 98,000 times. They are in a stabilization mode and trying to prepare and think towards recovery.

Council Members and Ms. Krawczyk further discussed the grant applications, the grant process, and grant amounts. They discussed the progress of the Pavilion Shopping Center. They also discussed the number of people stores are allowing to shop at one time during this pandemic.

8. Parks**a. Monthly Parks Report**

Mr. Chris Bailey explained a lot of the surrounding areas have closed the parks or sections of the parks. He feels the City should avoid closing the parks as long as things seem to be reasonable. There has not been a huge volume of traffic or any big gatherings at the parks. He stated the bids for Pilot Park were due in March, but the due date was postponed until the end of April. Hopefully, the bid proposals can be discussed in May. The lake project at Childers Park has been postponed for a month; he didn't want to close two-thirds of the park, which is a venue for people to be outside as long as there is not a crowd.

III. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION**1. Madison Davis Subdivision Phase 3 Final Plat**

There was a general discussion on the above item. There was no action taken.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**1. Ordinance to Impose a Prohibition of Gatherings of More than Ten (10) People**

Removed from agenda.

V. ADJOURN

*Motion by R. Bradley, seconded by Little.
Passed Unanimously.*



MAYOR



CITY CLERK