



***MINUTES***  
***SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING***  
***TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020***  
***7:00 P.M.***

The Special Meeting of the City Commission was held at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room via a virtual format. Due to City Hall temporarily closed to the public as precautions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, participating remotely were Mayor Usha Reddi and Commissioners Wynn Butler, Linda Morse, Mark J. Hatesohl, and Aaron Estabrook and City Attorney Katharine Jackson. Present were City Manager Ron R. Fehr, Deputy City Manager Jason Hilgers, Assistant to the City Manager Jared Wasinger, and City Clerk Brenda K. Wolf. Also participating remotely were Jason Smith, President/CEO; Daryn Soldan, Economic Development Director; and Larie Schoap, Chair, Board of Directors, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Reddi led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GENERAL AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 033120-A - TEMPORARY CITY OPERATION CHANGES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Katie Jackson, City Attorney presented a resolution amending certain internal processes as to how the City would operate temporarily during the COVID-19 pandemic. She then answered questions from the Commission.

Jason Hilgers, Deputy City Manager, and Ron Fehr, City Manager, clarified the purpose for the resolution. They answered questions from the Commission.

Jared Wasinger, Assistant to the City Manager, read the public comment for this item submitted online from Pete Frasco, 5305 Stone Crest Drive, regarding use of virtual technology for meetings.

Mayor Reddi read a public comment from Kathy Hedge, representing the League of Woman Voters, expressing concern for not having live public participation nor having second reading of ordinances.

Hearing no other comments, Mayor Reddi closed the public comments.

## GENERAL AGENDA (CONTINUED)

### RESOLUTION NO. 033120-A - TEMPORARY CITY OPERATION CHANGES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (CONTINUED)

After discussion, Commissioner Butler moved to approve Resolution No. 033120-A which temporarily changes some aspects of how the City operates its affairs during the pandemic with a sunset date of the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 2020. Commissioner Hatesohl seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Morse voting against.

### MANHATTAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST - PROVIDE LOCAL BUSINESSES WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UTILIZING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jason Hilgers, Deputy City Manager, presented the request from and the proposed Agreement with the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce to be funded from the Economic Development Fund.

Jason Smith, President/CEO, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, participating remotely introduced Larie Schoap, Chair, Board of Directors, and Daryn Soldan, Economic Development Director, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce.

Daryn Soldan, Economic Development Director, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, provided information regarding programs available to businesses and interaction with the Small Business Administration (SBA), local bankers and local businesses. He answered questions from the Commission.

Jason Smith, President/CEO, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, and Jason Hilgers, Deputy City Manager, answered questions from the Commission.

Larie Schoap, Chair, Board of Directors, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, thanked the City and Chamber staff for their hard work and believed this financial assistance for businesses was a great use of economic development funds. She then answered questions from the Commission.

Jared Wasinger, Assistant to the City Manager, read public comments that were submitted online prior to the Commission meeting by Dave "Lewis" Guthals, 1907 Gardenia Terrace; Kristin Brighton, 3917 Golden Eagle Drive; and Kurstin Harris, 601 Fremont Street, who provided support for the Chamber's request, and from Jonalu Johnstone, 300 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 324, representing the Living Wage Group and Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice, who urged the Commission to help businesses preserve jobs of employees by using economic development funds to maintain employees and secure their wages and benefits.

## GENERAL AGENDA (CONTINUED)

### MANHATTAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST - PROVIDE LOCAL BUSINESSES WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UTILIZING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

Mayor Reddi read comments from Dennis Cook, Director, Aggieville Business Association, who provided information regarding the current status of businesses and loss of employees in Aggieville and the need for financial relief, and from Gina Scroggs, Director, Downtown Manhattan, Inc., who provided information regarding the status of businesses Downtown and stated that the qualification criteria and process needed to be outlined so that every type of small business that needed the bridge funding gets it.

After discussion, Commissioner Butler moved to approve the Chamber of Commerce request and authorize City Administration to finalize the loan agreement and the Mayor to execute. Commissioner Hatesohl seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 5-0.

Ron Fehr, City Manager, asked the Commission for feedback in regards to how the Commission meeting went. The Commission further discussed public comments in regards to the resolution passed. Katie Jackson, City Attorney, provided clarification as to how public comments should be handled based on the resolution adopted. The Commissioners provided feedback to the City Manager.

### ADJOURNMENT

At 10:05 p.m. the Commission adjourned.

  
Brenda K. Wolf, CMC, City Clerk