



COUNCIL MINUTES

April 7, 2020

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session Meeting via a virtual format streamed into the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, on April 7, 2020 at 2:01 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles*
Mark Freeman*
Jennifer Duff*
Francisco Heredia*
David Luna*
Kevin Thompson*
Jeremy Whittaker*

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Agnes Goodwine
Jim Smith

(*Council participated in the meeting through the use of video conference equipment.)

Mayor Giles conducted a roll call.

Mayor Giles excused Councilmember Thompson from the beginning of the meeting; he arrived at 2:20 p.m.

1. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide direction on the current COVID-19 impacts, responses, and the City's future actions, focusing on Public Safety and community resources.

Chief Cameli provided an update and stated three staff members have been tested for COVID-19, two were negative and one is pending. She stated dispatchers will advise of possible exposure on a call and if a patient tests positive after transport to the hospital, staff are advised. She added the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is still operational and maintaining supplies, and the biggest issue continues to be maintaining Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). She thanked the Purchasing Department for keeping up with purchasing and commented the department has just over a one-month supply of PPE.

Chief Cameli commented on the anticipated peak, which is April 23rd and is sooner than previously expected. She explained there are different weights placed on social distancing and school closures, which has a bigger impact and causes projections to go down. She added she has contacted the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, asking if the number of patients reported to be in hospitals for other health related issues outside of COVID-19 are included in the out of state numbers.

In response to a question from Councilmember Whittaker regarding the data we are receiving and the review from the City's data analytics team, Chief Cameli replied that she is unsure if the team

has reviewed the IHME data; however, they are managing call data and providing information to the department three times a day to compare data and call volume.

Mayor Giles confirmed that, consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, employees and staff that are not delivering medical services to the public are transitioning to cloth masks. He requested clarification regarding an EOC report that the department is looking at acquiring cloth masks for staff that is working, but not providing medical assistance.

Chief Cameli confirmed that employees not working on emergency calls will have cloth masks; staff is working on quotes to have a seamstress produce a supply; and that it will be a City decision on what to purchase and when we can get a supply.

In response to questions from Vice Mayor Freeman regarding call types, call volume and areas with higher flu related calls, Chief Cameli indicated that all call types are lower except structure calls; however, a flu query has not been done and she will ask the data analytics team to report on that data type.

In response to a question from Councilmember Heredia related to requiring the public to wear masks, Chief Cameli responded there is a value to cloth masks and first responders will wear them when they are out in the public but not on emergency calls.

City Manager Christopher Brady explained the CDC recommends that if you live in an area with a significant outbreak, that masks be worn outside of the home where it is difficult to practice social distancing. He added there is not a broad CDC recommendation to wear masks at all times, except in areas where there is a significant outbreak.

In response to a question from Councilmember Luna, Mr. Brady stated that the conversation regarding the cloth masks is a recent development as a result of employees in the field requesting masks. He commented this request cannot be fulfilled currently as masks are going to hospitals and first responders. He expressed support for employees that want to wear masks.

Mayor Giles expressed the opinion that people will continue wearing masks until this virus subsides, that he encourages residents to make masks for family and friends, and he continues to be concerned about City employees.

Chief Cost expressed appreciation to Chief Cameli and the Mesa Fire and Medical Department (MFMD) for their continued assistance and said without MFMD the Police Department (PD) would not have the PPE needed to do the job safely.

Chief Cost remarked that PD records and dispatch staff are wearing cloth masks to prevent the spread.

Chief Cost explained there continues to be a slight reduction in dispatch calls, that burglaries and accidents are down but those numbers are evened out with disturbance, domestic violence, and neighborhood calls. He stated there have been a handful of calls since the Governors Executive Order was issued closing businesses. He provided an example of a bar in southeast Mesa that was operating as if no order had been issued and said the owner was educated and the bar was shut down.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Freeman regarding well checks of Police personnel, Chief Cost stated that all personnel in the field and in the buildings have temperatures taken

before and after shifts, and staff is tracking contacts with COVID-19 tested or positive results patients, similar to what MFMD is doing.

Mayor Giles thanked Chief Cameli and Chief Cost for the update.

1-b. Hear an update and discuss the Mesa CARES program; a Citywide initiative to assess community needs and connect residents and businesses to available resources as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Assistant City Manager Kari Kent provided an update on the Mesa CARES program and indicated the program launched on April 6 and included outreach through press releases, social media, and a video campaign. She explained that additional outreach will utilize Nextdoor posts, flyers at schools with meal pickup boxes, and grocery stores. **(See Attachment 1)**

Ms. Kent announced the Mesa CARES Community Resource Call Center is open every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is staffed with Library personnel that spent many hours training. She commented that the resources are also listed on the website in multiple languages and include State and Federal resources and nonprofits. (See Page 3 through 5 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Kent provided information on the community assessment focus this week to determine the greatest community needs and connect with the community in a more personal way. She highlighted the number for the resource call center. (See Page 11 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Kent provided information on the outreach calls to the community with the goal of getting as much feedback as possible to bring categories of need back to Council. She added by 1 p.m. today, over 2000 calls had been made and 900 surveys completed, including 100 organizations that provided feedback and 190 surveys completed by Economic Development, Downtown Transformation, and Falcon Field staff. (See Page 12 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Kent highlighted call center stats and explained Library and Communications staff are working on a frequently asked questions list in order to get consistent information, issues, and questions on the website. (See Page 13 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Kent stated the City is waiting for guidance on the CARES act so staff will know how the dollars can be distributed, as well as understanding the criteria and eligibility requirements. (See Page 14 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Kent explained that the results of the community assessment will be provided on April 14.

In response to a question from Mayor Giles regarding the needs assessment and recommendations, Ms. Kent commented the survey will help staff compile the immediate needs in the community and be proactive in developing those needs, so when the City receives CARES dollars, the money can serve residents and businesses in particular areas.

Mr. Brady explained this is a very aggressive effort and once staff identifies the needs and categories, Council will receive an update. He stated at that point, the criteria and program will be developed to determine who will be eligible. He added programs usually take months to figure out and staff is completing the process in a couple of weeks.

In response to a question from Councilmember Heredia related to regional coordination, Mr. Brady indicated staff is having talks in relation to homeless shelters and emergency assistance.

He added that each city will receive a certain amount of dollars based on population, but if there are opportunities to work with local communities the dollars can be leveraged to a greater degree. In response to a question from Councilmember Duff related to special education needs and if that is in the purview of this program, Mr. Brady stated there are dollars allocated to education but not to cities as that is not something cities are usually involved with.

In response to further questions from Councilmember Duff regarding options for lower income residents' who do not have access to computers, Mr. Brady commented staff is aware of these challenges and is working on how to communicate with this population and surprisingly enough phone apps seem to be a good solution. He added hardcopies may also be an option with the challenge being a safe way to deliver forms and information.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Freeman related to population, Deputy City Manager Scott Butler confirmed the Treasury Department indicated 2018 census numbers will be utilized unless they are able to get the 2019 numbers.

Mayor Giles reminded viewers the number 644-CARE is for those who want to direct COVID questions to the City.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

2. Scheduling of meetings.

Thursday, April 9, 2020, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

JOHN GILES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 7th day of April 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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