

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON  
SPECIAL MEETING - APRIL 16, 2020**

4/16/2020 - Minutes

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER  
With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

**Present (via videoconference): Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Craig Brown, Council Member Amy Bly, Council Member David Collins, Council Member Jason Hardcastle, Council Member John Listowski, and Council Member Dr. Jackie Cole.**

**Absent: Mayor James Yarbrough.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Agenda Items - a total of 61 comments were received. 60 comments are related to COVID-19 with the following breakdown: 29 comments are in favor of opening the beaches; five comments are in favor of keeping the beaches closed; one comment is asking that you open Seawolf Park for Galveston residents; two comments are in favor of opening the golf courses; one comment is a request to add timeshares to the short term rental ordinance; one comment is a request to allow limited access to the ocean for surfing; seven comments are in favor of re-opening the businesses; one comment requests that you resist the urge to re-open too early; one comment is in favor of closing the causeway and points of entry; one comment is a question about the city's plan to deter tourists from entering the island; one comment is in favor of keeping the stay at home order in place until at least April 30; two comments are related to enforcement of the ordinances in effect; one comment is a question about testing sites for the virus and the antibodies; one comment is against quarantining healthy people; one comment is related to monitoring the wastewater for COVID-19; one comment is a request for more port-a-potties on the Seawall; one comment is related to the modified bus routes; one comment is related to the resurgence of a second corona wave; one comment is related to imposing additional restrictions at grocery stores; and one comment is a request for a financial update at the next meeting. Non-Agenda Items - one comment was related to water service.**

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4.A. Update On Corona Virus/COVID-19 (B. Maxwell)

**City Manager Brian Maxwell provided the following update: we continue to have our daily calls with UTMB and the Health District; today was the first day we stood up testing on the Island for anyone that wants to have testing done at Fire Station #5; they had over 790 calls for testing and they are completed booked up through Saturday; they are going to be opening up a third site in League City next week; they have done over 5,000 tests as of yesterday which is 10% of the population; long-term plans for the Health District will be moving towards a more traditional testing sites; yesterday was the first day both UTMB and the Health District reported single digit positives which means the numbers are starting to trend down for the County; he met with the restaurateurs yesterday about how opening up will look like; the next phase will depend on Houston, they hit their highest numbers today and have not peaked yet; next week he will bring some planning for the next phase which come in the first week of May; we are not going to do make any rash decisions or do anything to put people in harm's way; we do recognize that we need to start doing some things here locally that will help but before we start opening up the beaches and other things we need to make sure we know what Houston is doing; we need Houston in order to make a lot of the economic wheels to turn here; we continue to struggle with the crews on the cruise ships, they are trying to bring down the crews to skeleton levels, and a couple tested positive; Carnival originally**

planned to bring some crews here but have decided to do a direct route and avoid Galveston altogether.

Discussion was held regarding how many hospital beds are dedicated for COVID-19, the testing turnaround, what the re-entry plans looks like, whether short term rentals should take reservations for May and June, possible direction from the Governor on a regional approach, dedicating city resources to train on tracing the virus, and loosening some of the restrictions today versus waiting next week for a more ordered plan.

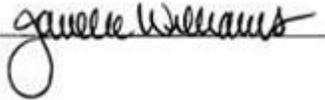
5. ACTION ITEMS

- 5.A. Consider For Approval An Ordinance Of The City Of Galveston, Texas; Modifying Certain Emergency Orders Ratified By City Council In Ordinance 20-28; Making Various Findings And Provisions Related To The Subject, Providing For A Penalty And Providing For An Effective Date.

**Motion was made by MPT Brown, second by CM Bly, to defer action on the ordinance. Unanimously approved by those present.**

6. ADJOURNMENT

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janelle Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Janelle Williams, City Secretary  
Date Approved: April 30, 2020