

The Carl Junction City Council met in regular session on Tuesday March 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. Mayor Mark Powers called the meeting to order with the following present: Rick Flinn, Richard Zaccardelli, Don Marshall, Roger Spencer, LaDonna Allen, Mike Burns, and Randy Hutcheson. Mark Satterlee was absent. Also present were City Administrator Steve Lawver, City Attorney Mike Talley, City Clerk Maribeth Matney, Deputy City Clerk Alaina Wright and City Administrator Assistant Crystal Winkfield.

AGENDA

Roger Spencer motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Richard Zaccardelli seconded. All in favor. No opposed with one absent. Ladonna Allen motioned to approve the consent agenda. Roger Spencer seconded. All in favor. No opposed with one absent.

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no one present for public forum.

CITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Steve Lawver stated AAOA has closed the Senior Center for two weeks and during that time they are serving homebound and frozen meals only. They have been in every day deep cleaning the senior center. He advised the Community Center staff has been provided with a solution of bleach and water and are required to wipe down touch surfaces every day. Steve Lawver also said there is hand sanitizer at the front desks of City Hall and the Community Center. Steve stated he got a proposal from Jani King to sterilize the entire building. He said they have a solution for disinfecting that is anti-viral and food safe they can use in the entire building. Steve Lawver informed the council he would need board approval to accept the proposal. Steve informed the board that events with vulnerable age groups have been cancelled or postponed, including the pressure-cooking class and game night. He also said he is looking at other events and reservations to see if they need to be cancelled or rescheduled. He stated the city needs to follow CDC recommendations for any event that would include more than 50 people and those need to be cancelled and notified accordingly. He said he has press releases drafted depending on what actions the board decides to take. Steve informed the board this is a very fluid situation, and he and Mayor Powers will need to be allowed to use their discretion for some issues. Steve Lawver proposed shutting the Senior Center down until April 6, and needs to be able to cancel reservations that are using the Senior Center and to carry out other administrative actions without having to call an emergency meeting for each decision. Steve informed the board he wants to close open gym because last night there were over 50 kids in the gym, and we have seniors who use the gym in the morning. He said he doesn't want to close the lobby yet for city hall or the police department because it is important for people to have access, but he does want to encourage people to limit their business to email or phones when possible. Steve said we offer a myriad of ways to pay water bills; it is not necessary for people to do it in person. Steve also said he is not worried about Zumba, pickleball or yoga. He said they are very popular activities but they're also small and he would limit the sizes to the CDC recommendation. Steve said pickleball is non-contact sport and there is room between people during play. He stated MML hosted a webinar today, and he included in everyone's packets the information regarding continuing government operations. Steve advised court has been suspended by a Supreme Court order and notices are posted at both the police department and city hall. He informed the board he will suspend all travel to conferences and meetings for staff. He told the board he does need guidance for extraordinary circumstances. Richard Zaccardelli asked if water shut offs were being suspending during this period. Steve Lawver replied yes, because clean water is a hallmark of health and we don't want city employees out in public knocking on doors. Ladonna Allen would like to see all activities suspended if we shut down the community center and questioned about any outdoor activities that would have more than 50 people. Steve Lawver said MIRMA suggested following CDC guidelines no matter where the gathering is held. Ladonna Allen also asked about the budget which hasn't been passed yet, and questioned if anything needs to be addressed over loss of revenue or increased expenses. Maribeth Matney said it would be better to pass the budget as is and then amend it later if necessary. Mike Burns asked if the budget has to be passed at next meeting and Maribeth Matney and Steve Lawver responded yes. Mike Talley advised the mayor has the power to make emergencies purchases, but he doesn't find anything in the city code that allows the mayor to declare an emergency and take certain liberties. Mike Talley said if there are certain things the board wants the mayor to be able to do, then an ordinance needs to be drafted giving him the powers the board feels he should have during this kind of emergency. Steve Lawver said there are things that need to be done immediately. Mike Talley advised he could get board approval tonight for known issues, but he's concerned about things that may come up in the next week and can't wait until the next board meeting. Steve Lawver said if the CDC recommendations become less than 10 people together, there will be many more things that have to shut down. Mike Talley suggested the board authorize Steve Lawver or Mayor Powers to follow CDC guidelines, whatever those may be. Ladonna Allen asked about keeping the board meetings open while obeying open meeting laws. Steve Lawver responded that five people must be physically present, and the public must be able to listen to the meeting if they're not physically allowed in. Ladonna Allen asked when the city should consider employees working from home. Steve Lawver responded that the city does have at risk employees, but he doesn't know the threshold for sending people home. He said the city needs to protect employees and keep them healthy. Ladonna Allen motioned to authorize Mayor Powers to take any actions necessary to ensure the city is following CDC guidelines. Richard Zaccardelli seconded. All in favor. No opposed with one absent. Mike Burns informed Steve Lawver and Mayor Powers he would be available for any emergency meetings that might be necessary.

Roger Spencer motioned to approve the \$4985 bid from Jani King to disinfect the Community Center. Richard Zaccardelli seconded. All in favor. No opposed with one absent.

QUARTERLY CHAMBER REPORT

The Chamber of Commerce did not have a representative present, but each member of the board was presented with a copy of their quarterly report.

TENNIS COURTS BID

Steve Lawver informed the board that he received a bid from Gerald Perry Tennis Company to reseal and restripe the tennis courts at Center Creek Park. He advised they are the only company that offers this type of service within roughly 250 miles, and the bid was \$12,850. Steve informed the board they also have a bid of \$15,405 for the tennis courts at the Briarbrook Golf Course, that is much more expensive because of the shape those courts are in. Steve said he has been approached about doing a land swap with the Briarbrook CID in exchange for the city doing that resurfacing. He said the property in question is just off the current parking lot and it would be advantageous for the city to own. Steve told the board the proposed land would work for getting a playground, pavilion and parking space in the area. He said the Briarbrook CID is proposing to give the city the property if the city resurfaces the tennis courts. Ladonna Allen asked if the public would have access to the courts or just Briarbrook CID members. Steve Lawver responded any member of the public would have free access. Mike Talley asked if Steve had looked into whether the land is worth the \$15,405 it would cost to resurface those courts. Steve Lawver replied he is unsure how to figure that since it is not a buildable lot. Steve said the city would have to evaluate if the property is worth \$15,000 to the city. Rick Flinn asked what \$15,000 would purchase in Briarbrook and Steve Lawver said it wouldn't buy much. Ladonna Allen believed that would be the best use for that property. Rick Flinn asked what exactly the city would be purchasing. Steve Lawver responded it is a small triangle shaped area of land, but it is hard to describe without showing it on a map. Ladonna Allen motioned to accept the bid for the courts at Center Creek Park. Richard Zaccardelli seconded. All in favor. No opposed with one absent.

REPORTS

The Council reviewed the Administration report.

Activities Director report - Kenny Wickstrom reported the majority of the Community Center events are unsure at this time. He informed the board he was worried if weekly events continue, the numbers will be down because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Kenny said we pay instructors a set amount and if we don't have the attendance to at least break even, he doesn't believe we should have them. He also told the board he has concerns about the fitness center because the machines are so close together. Kenny also told the board he believes the gym should be completely open or completely closed, but shouldn't be closed for some activities and open for others. Rick Flinn asked about the average age of pickleball players. Steve Lawver replied he believes it is 45-55. Richard Zaccardelli asked if pickleball would be played at Center Creek Park once the tennis courts are redone. Rick Flinn stated he believes if we're going to close the gym to basketball, we should close it to all events. Roger Spencer asked about the after-school program. Kenny replied it is going well.

Public Works report - Jim Chaligoj was not present but included a report in the packets.

Police Dept. report - Delmar Haase stated right now the police department is not making any cuts in service. He informed the board he was on conference call with the governor today. He said at this time there are 15 confirmed reports and currently Greene County is the closest to us. Delmar said so far, the common link is international travel, but that's likely because those are the only people being tested at this time. He also said we should expect those numbers to go up because the governor said soon, they will be able to do 10,000 tests a day. Delmar said there is not a shortage of food or products, people are just panic buying. He said the governor will not shut down school for the state. Delmar also said the governor won't shut down public areas, because he believes that should be up to local government. He said the board should expect some changes in the budget because of the availability of paper products right now. The police department is testing for a new officer Thursday evening.

Bldg Insp report - No discussion.

Court report - No discussion

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget/Finance: Mike Burns asked if there were any questions on the proposed budget. None were raised.

Code/ Nuisance: Randy Hutcheson had nothing to report.

Human Resources: Roger Spencer had nothing to report.

Public Facilities & Planning: LaDonna Allen had nothing to report.

Senior Citizens- Richard Zaccardelli already reported.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Randy Hutcheson advised the board the business at 303 Briarbrook Drive was completed and looked much nicer.

NEW BUSINESS

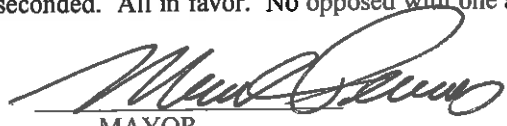
Mayor Powers informed everyone there were visitors present from PSU.

Mayor Powers was informed the Association of County Clerks and Election Officials has petitioned to move the election from April 7 to June 2.

ADJOURNMENT

Roger Spencer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Richard Zaccardelli seconded. All in favor. No opposed with one absent. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.


CITY CLERK


MAYOR