

City of Loretto
Minutes of Emergency City Council Meeting
279 N. Medina Street, Council Chambers
Telephonic Meeting
March 20, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Koch called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m.

Koch gave a brief introduction explaining that the need for the emergency meeting was due to the outbreak of Coronavirus/COVID-19 and that the meeting is being conducted by telephonic means pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021.

Koch stated that following the lead of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, he issued Mayoral Declaration 2020-01 on March 17, 2020, declaring a local emergency under the authority provided by Minnesota Statutes Section 12.29. Koch stated a copy of the Declaration is available on the City's website.

Koch stated the Declaration included a written determination that in-person meetings of the City Council are not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the declared emergency. The Declaration further found that it is not feasible to have members of the public, City Staff, and City Council members at the regular meeting location due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All votes at telephonic meetings will be conducted by roll.

Koch stated that Clerk Treasurer Schneider is physically present at the regular meeting location at City Hall, but all Council Members and the City Attorney are participating through telephonic means.

Koch asked all members of the Council to identify themselves for the record. Members present included Mayor Kent Koch, Council Members Brenda Daniels, Melissa Markham, Eric Riley, and Brian Sevigny.

Koch asked all staff members to identify themselves for the record. Staff present included City Attorney Jared Shepherd, Medina Police Sergeant Jason Nelson, Medina Police Chief Ed Belland, and City Clerk Treasurer Mary Schneider.

Koch verified that all Council Members and staff could hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony.

Koch noted that members of the public have been provided notice of this meeting and the ability to participate by calling in to the teleconferencing system. Koch asked the public to continue to monitor the City's website for information on future meetings, which will include information on submitting public comments and monitoring the meetings through call-in numbers.

There was one person from the public monitoring the meeting.

Koch stated this evening's meeting is an "emergency" meeting as permitted under Minnesota's Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.04, subdivision 3. Under state law, Mayoral Declaration 2020-01 is only effective for three days unless extended by vote of the City Council. Koch stated the Council will consider a Resolution authorizing the extension of his declaration of a local emergency and it is the sole issue that will be discussed or considered.

2. ACTION/PLANNING

a. Resolution 2020-09, Extending Mayoral Declaration 2020-01 Regarding COVID-19

City Attorney Jared Shepherd stated Resolution 2020-09 extends the emergency declaration indefinitely and provides city staff flexibility. Shepherd noted that the City has an Emergency Preparedness Ordinance, Section 1005, which is made operational by Resolution 2020-09. Shepherd stated that Minnesota Statute Section 12.37 is the operative section for political subdivisions and the power to provide emergency assistance. Shepherd stated that staff should consult with the City Attorney on issues that may arise. Shepherd stated that any actions taken by staff will be subsequently brought to the Council at an upcoming meeting.

On a motion by Sevigny, seconded by Daniels, to approve Resolution 2020-09, A RESOLUTION EXTENDING MAYORAL DECLARATION 2020-01 PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. SEC. 12.29 AND CONFIRMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19.

A vote was taken by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

3. ADJOURN

On a motion by Markham, seconded by Riley, to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.

A vote was taken by roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Mary K. Schneider, City Clerk Treasurer

Kent Koch, Mayor