

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
SPECIAL MEETING - MARCH 11, 2021**

3/11/2021 - Minutes

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present (via videoconference): Mayor Dr. Craig Brown, Mayor Pro Tem David Collins, Council Member E. R. Johnson, Council Member William Schuster, Council Member Bill Quiroga, Council Member John Listowski, and Council Member Marie Robb.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.A. Clarification Of Governor's Mask Order (Legal)

City Attorney Don Glywasky reported on the Governor's Executive Order GA-34 which bore the caption "Relating to the opening of Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster". The order went into effect on March 10, 2021 does not terminate the Statewide Disaster Declaration, but it eases restrictions which had been in place. The extent to which restrictions are eased depends on location (areas of high or low hospitalization rates). In a county where there is not a high hospitalization rate, the Governors Order states there are no COVID-19 operating limits for any business or other establishment. Further, although the Order states that people are encouraged to wear coverings over their face and mouth, no person may be required by any jurisdiction to wear or mandate the wearing of a face covering. Nothing in this executive order precludes businesses or other establishments from requiring employees or customers to follow additional hygiene measures, including the wearing of masks. The consensus is that a municipality is an "establishment" as used in Executive Order GA-34, so in city facilities persons that enter may be required to wear masks and follow other hygiene measures, such as disinfecting hands on entry. Likewise a number of school districts are continuing their face masks requirements. This stems from the authority of establishments to make and enforce rules within their own buildings. Also, there is a federal Executive Order which requires the wearing of masks on public transportation; passengers on City buses are required to wear masks under that federal mandate.

4.B. Presentation Of City's February Water Bill Policy (Dan Buckley)

Deputy City Manager Dan Buckley reported on a plan to address utility billing for customers that sustained pipe damage resulting in water leaks during the freeze. This policy adjusts customers' bills to avoid costs from consumption excesses due to water line leaks. To address the high number of accounts with excess usage, the city will bill customers the lesser amount of their February and January bills. Customers whose February consumption was equal to or less than January will receive a bill based on the actual February consumption. If February usage exceeds January, then the January amount will be billed. For example, if a customer's January bill totaled \$105, but the February consumption totaled \$190, the customer would be billed \$105. This will account for excessive consumption caused by water leaks. If a customer, upon receiving their March and April bills, determines that an additional adjustment may be warranted based on their records for a leak that occurred after February's read, the customer should contact Utility Billing at 409-797-3550 or www.galvestontx.gov/paymywaterbill.

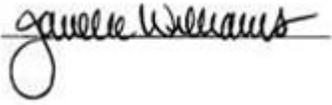
4.C. Announcement Of City Staff's Presentation On Winter Storm Response At The March 25th City Council Meeting (Brian Maxwell)

City Manager Brian Maxwell announced that Staff will provide a presentation on the Winter

Storm Response at the March 25th City Council Meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janelle Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Janelle Williams, City Secretary

Date Approved: May 27, 2021