



MINUTES OF THE MISSION SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 30, 2022

The Mission City Council met for a Special City Council meeting on Wednesday, March 30 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Flora. The following councilmembers were in attendance: Ken Davis, Debbie Kring, Lea Loudon, Kristin Inman, Hillary Thomas, Trent Boultinghouse, Mary Ryherd and Ben Chociejski.

Mayor Flora explained that in consideration of on-going COVID-19 health concerns, the meeting was also offered virtually through Zoom if preferred. The public was invited to participate in the meeting by using the instructions included in the City Calendar item listed on the front page of the website. For those participating virtually, they had the option of utilizing the "chat" feature to voice their comments which would be read aloud. The members of the public in-person, were encouraged to raise their hand and stay at their seats to be called on. The Mayor requested that anyone commenting to state their name and city of residence as well as to be conscientious of others talking and to speak clearly and slowly.

Mayor Flora added that since this was a special meeting, the Council would only consider the one item presented under the Agenda, which was COVID-19 Policies and Protocols.

COVID-19 Policies and Protocols

Ms. Smith reported that throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Mission's Governing Body, staff and employees have thoughtfully and carefully implemented a variety of safety protocols designed to protect the public and employees. These efforts have been undertaken to slow the spread of community transmission and to ensure that organizational staffing levels can be maintained for continuity of operations.

In early January, following an upward trend in cases (percent positivity rates) in Johnson County and information from the Chief Medical Officers throughout the metro area about increasing demands on the hospitals and medical networks, COVID-19 protocols were increased throughout City facilities and operations. At that time a City mask ordinance was also put in place.



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For the last several weeks, the incident rate/percent positivity rate for COVID-19 has dropped dramatically throughout the County. The City mask ordinance was allowed to expire on February 23, 2022 at which time the Council relaxed some of the COVID-19 protocols for City facilities. Since that time, the numbers have continued to decline and, as of March 22, 2022, Johnson County had a percent positivity rate of 2.6%, making this an area of low community transmission according to CDC guidelines.

However, there is still the opportunity for a new variant to emerge, which could negatively impact the number of cases and our healthcare systems and resources. Based on the current data and public health recommendations, staff is recommending a removal of all current masking and distancing requirements throughout City facilities (for staff and patrons) effective Thursday, March 31, 2022. In order to remain as flexible and responsive to the pandemic as possible, the following considerations would be used to guide decisions should the data trend in a negative direction. Staff believes it is important to establish some benchmarks or thresholds which to make future decisions in order to allow for a quick response and to know how to appropriately message this and any future changes to the public.

- Level of Community Transmission
 - Low
 - Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
 - Get tested if you have symptoms
 - Medium
 - If high risk for severe illness, talk with healthcare provider regarding need to mask or take other precautions
 - Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
 - Get tested if you have symptoms
 - High
 - Wear a mask indoors in public
 - Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
 - Get tested if you have symptoms
 - Additional precautions may be needed for people



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Ms. Smith added that some of the precautions will remain in place, including practices for sanitizing.

Councilmember Boultinghouse commented that he was supportive of staff's recommendation, adding that he is proud of how this has been handled up to this point but is in favor of removing these restrictions and allowing some relief. Councilmember Davis agreed, commenting that this gives the City criteria for moving to more strict requirements, if necessary. It provides guidelines and a benchmark to accomplish that.

Councilmember Kring asked and Ms. Smith confirmed that the City is still recommending that employees become vaccinated.

Moved by Davis, Seconded by Ryherd to approve the updated COVID-19 mitigation strategies, protocols and procedures for the City of Mission, removing masking and distancing requirements and allowing for future decisions to be guided by CDC, Community Transmission Level criteria, as outlined in the March 30, 2022 Special Meeting packet. AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Loudon, Inman, Kring, Thomas, Ryherd and Chociej. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Flora announced that the public video from tonight's meeting will be available through a link on the City's website - missionks.org.

Moved by Thomas, seconded by Kring to adjourn the meeting at 6:20p.m. All present voted AYE. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by Audrey McClanahan, City Clerk.



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Sollie Flora
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Solana Flora, Mayor

DocuSigned by:
Audrey McClanahan
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Audrey M. McClanahan, City Clerk