

**City of Morehead
Minutes of
Special Meeting of Board of City Council
April 02, 2020 12:00 PM
via Zoom & Facebook Live**

The Board of City Council of the City of Morehead, Kentucky met in special session on April 02, 2020 at 12:00 PM via Zoom & Facebook Live.

1. Call to Order

Mayor White-Brown called the April 02, 2020 Special Meeting of Board of City Council to order at 12:05 pm.

2. Attendance

Present Council Members:

Mr. Tom Carew
Mr. Mike Kash
Ms. Beth Ousley
Ms. Melisa Patrick
Mr. David Perkins
Mr. Glen Teager

3. Mayor's Update on City Services based on COVID-19

The Mayor advised she has declared a State of Emergency for the City. She reported employees are social distancing, offices are closed to the public and are available by appointment if necessary, departments are alternating days worked to limit contact. The due date for the annual net profit return has been extended to June 15, 2020. Citizens are also being referred to DMI, Chamber, and EDC. She is working on a community plan for the Homeless Shelter and DOVES. Essential city services continue, and plans have been made for each department in case of any infections.

4. Economic Impact on Morehead based on COVID-19 - Mr. Jason Slone & Mr. Bob Helton

Mr. Jason Slone advised the Chamber is reaching out to businesses daily on their issues. Slone reported 1,100 employees have been affected in Rowan and are on some form of Unemployment. Slone reported some businesses have completely shut down. The Chamber is promoting businesses to apply for SBA loans right now. Slone discussed mass claim filing for employers with 15 or more. Many businesses have not responded to surveys. Mr. Bob Helton explained he met with Tourism, DMI, SBA to all be on the same page and share the same information. Helton discussed the 300 furloughed from the hospital was substantial and the County is heavily involved with the auto industry. Helton's focus right now is retaining existing industry and continuing current construction projects and practicing coal distancing.

5. Community Aid Options - Mayor White-Brown

Mayor advised the Rowan County Community COVID-19 Response Fund has been set up to accept donations. Anyone can apply for funds from this pool; it is not restricted and is approved by local community members. Only applicants from Rowan County and/or Morehead will be approved. She explained if the City gives x amount of dollars, a business can match funds. The Mayor also reported she has talked with various cities across the country and some of their plans include decreasing property taxes for citizens rather than giving money to small businesses. KLC Executive Director advised now is not the time to make a quick decision to give away City reserves; state and federal dollars are available; City's roles will be in the recovery phase. The Mayor referred to the Forbes list of Cities provided by Councilman Teager such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, Pineville; they already have separate funds for emergencies in the EDC budgets and are multi-million dollars. Pineville is offering \$500-\$1,000 out of their Main Street Operations and Restaurant Taxes. The City of Morehead's restaurant tax is tied to debt, so that may not be an option either. The Mayor also advised \$50,000 is not enough to go around; it would create division and more problems among the Community; and from legal guidance from KLC we would be at constitutional risk. There was discussion it took time to arrange this meeting legally. Some more reasons we should not give money right now is the need to do so legally, educated and informed.

6. Small Business Idea - Councilman Teager

Councilman Teager appreciates meeting. Teager had the idea to help businesses so they are not forced to close; he realizes it cannot be completely fair, but we should still try to do something as fair as possible. There was discussion his initial idea was based on the occupational tax and some more questions need to be answered. Teager expressed we have the financial strength and we can sustain without interrupting our budget. There was further discussion of businesses using federal and state dollars before we act. There was further discussion to focus on recovery events. Jason Slone will share the SBA contact information. Bob Helton explained the Payroll Protection Program through local banks. There was discussion the bigger impact on our current will be the last quarter and the next years' budget impact is unknown at this time. Councilwoman Patrick asked for a plan for businesses so we can protect that way of life. Mayor White-Brown said we should let DMI, the Chamber, Tourism, EDC research and help business and downtown; the City should focus on their services, employees and a plan for the homeless shelters. There was further discussion by Councilmembers to continue to move forward with a business assistance plan.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was properly adjourned at 1:24 pm.

Board of City Council
Morehead, Kentucky

Approved by City Council
on April 13, 2020

ATTEST:

Laura White-Brown, Mayor

Crissy Cunningham, City Clerk