

**CITY OF BRAWLEY
APRIL 21, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Brawley, California met in regular session at 6:00 PM, City Council Chambers, 383 Main, Brawley, California, the date, time and place duly established for the holding of said meeting. The City Clerk attests to the posting of the agenda pursuant to G.C. §54954.2.

Mayor Kastner-Jauregui called meeting to order @ 6:00 PM

PRESENT: Couchman, Hamby, Kastner-Jauregui, Nava, Wharton
ABSENT: None

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was **approved** as submitted. m/s/c Nava/Wharton 5-0

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENTS (Not to exceed 4 minutes) this is the time for the public to address the Council **on any item not appearing on the agenda** that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council.

To maintain social distancing, in person attendance is strongly discouraged. Should a member of the public wish to provide public comments, please submit written comments via email to abenavides@brawley-ca.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office at 760/351.3080. The deadline to submit written comments or schedule telephonic participation is 2PM on April 21, 2020.

State of California Governor Gavin Newsom waived specific portions of the Brown Act by Executive Order for the period that social distancing measures are recommended and required by state and local public health officials. The waiver of Brown Act provisions requires:

- a. Members of the public are allowed to observe and address public meetings telephonically or through other electronic means.
- b. Procedures "swiftly" accommodate any reasonable request to accommodate access by disabled individuals to meetings that are accessible telephonically or through other electronic means in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA").
- c. Notice of the procedure is provided for making requests or such reasonable accommodation with the notice for any public meeting.
- d. Letter submitted by Cathy Sullivan dated April 15, 2020 regarding right-a-way issues on her property.

3. CONSENT AGENDA Items are approved by one motion. Council Members or members of the public may request consent items be considered separately at a time determined by the Mayor.

The consent agenda was **approved** as submitted. m/s/c Nava/Couchman 5-0

AYES: Couchman, Hamby, Kastner-Jauregui, Nava, Wharton
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

- a. **Approved** Accounts Payable: April 10, 2020 and April 17, 2020

b. **Rejected** Bids for Project No. 2019-04 Wildcat Drive Improvements Project

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Update on City of Brawley Declaration of Local Emergency as a Result of COVID-19 Pandemic

i. **Larry Lewis, CEO for Pioneer’s Memorial Healthcare District** updated Council on precautions taking during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- a) There are two entrances to hospital for the public where individuals on the campus are screened and sent to the proper locations.
- b) Visitors are limited in the hospital to minimize transmission and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE.)
- c) Patients who show any symptoms are sent to the back side of the ER where they are tested for COVID-19. Testing is done by Quest and has a 24 to 48 hour turn around period in most cases. Depending on the severity of their symptoms patients are either admitted or sent home with guidance on care and when they should re-contact if symptoms worsen.
- d) PPE was limited at first and N95 masks are provided to those who screen patients up front, conserving most sensitive equipment for those directly caring for patients.
- e) Patients with symptoms are taken to negative air rooms where only three people are allowed which are usually a physician, nurse and aide. The aide is the only one who is going in and out of rooms.
- f) All eight ICU rooms are negative air rooms including four more next to ICU and two in the ER and several in Med-Surg.
- g) There has been an unexpected increase in cases this past week and a well thought out emergency operation process.
- h) Ventilators were sent by the State and Riverside via Reach and were received within three hours.
- i) Hospitals in the area are in good shape. PMHD has a total capacity of about 30 and ECRMC is about the same.
- j) California will peak within the next few weeks. COVID has devastated the County, States and national Healthcare Systems.
- k) Hospital revenue has dropped by 40%. Losses in California hospitals have been about \$13 billion.
- l) PMH received funds from CARE Act and is managing and monitoring expenses in areas such as supplies and labor.
- m) PMH is still discussing and meeting with others about re-opening the hospital to schedule elective surgeries. Due to the lack of PPE equipment used in surgeries, opening may be premature. PMH’s concern is the shortage of PPE and the increase of COVID spread.
- n) Hospitals in Brawley and El Centro are working together along with the County Health Dept.
- o) There is a shortage of testing. PMH has received a few tests but not enough. More are expected soon. ECRMC received equipment for testing COVID-19 patients with a fifteen-minute turnaround time but they have not received the supplies adequate to complete the tests.

Mayor Kastner-Jauregui asked Mr. Lewis when patients are sent home with guidance and instructions, who does the follow up? She also inquired if the hospital is fully staffed.

CEO Larry Lewis responded that once a patient is released, they are registered with the County and communicate with the County who manage the case. Staff has been flexing and the hospital has experienced a drop of about 15% in costs and hours worked.

CM Nava thanked Mr. Lewis for providing information.

CM Wharton stated it is difficult to operate something as complex and as important as a hospital system at this time with all the factors in mind.

Council thanked Mr. Lewis for the update and sharing such important information.

ii. Overall Outlook Presented by Interim Fire Chief Mike York

Interim Fire Chief Mike York provided an outlook of the current emergency situation. The Imperial County Public Health Department has tested a total of 1,257 patients. Of that number, there are 195 positive cases, 131 remain active, 59 have recovered and five deaths have resulted from COVID. The City's Emergency Operations Center remains open and is being staffed virtually with key personnel available by phone and email. Alternates have been designated. The City is in daily communication and working in close cooperation with the County Emergency Operations Center and various local entities. Many efforts are reactive as the situation develops. The City and County are trying to be proactive, develop plans and mitigate future events related to COVID-19. Community-wide testing is being planned for the near future. Environmental Health, County Public Health, both hospitals PMH and ECRMC and various private entities are planning to participate. The goal within the City departments has been to preserve the services to the best extent possible in relation to all of the Federal, State and Local guidelines, preserving public health while protecting employee's health to continue providing those services.

CM Hamby asked if it is it clear where the five death cases originated.

IFC York stated that he did not have specifics on where they were originated from other than from Imperial County. There was a press release regarding the fifth death and that individual originated in Baja California and was transported across the border for treatment.

CM Wharton asked about the effects of temperature on COVID. Is there past data on the way viruses behave that suggest a de-escalating of cases in Imperial County?

IFC York said that has been a topic of discussion. There is speculation that climate changes may be beneficial. It is a consideration at this time.

CM Couchman asked if there are more or less calls for medical assistance in the City than before COVID.

IFC York stated overall within the Fire Department, the call volume has decreased. EMS calls have decreased slightly. BFD has also implemented new procedures and policies regarding COVID.

iii. Potential Financial Impacts Presented by Finance Director Tyler Salcido

Power Point Presentation-Tyler Salcido, Finance Director

- Content is available upon request at the Office of the City Clerk

FD Salcido stated that, excluding the potential COVID-19 fiscal revenue impacts, the projected June 30, 2020 General Fund Unassigned Reserve is \$558,000. There is high probability of the depletion of remaining reserve, depending on the length of current stay-at-home orders and continuing efforts to access potential relief and assistance from State and Federal sources.

CM Nava thanked FD Salcido for the information. As expected, spending is down considerably, people are unemployed and more declines are expected.

CM Wharton said at the end of the day COVID is going to require political support from the State and Federal government. Cities were left out of the CARES Act stimulus package. There are numerous proposals both from California League of Cities and SCAG for smaller cities. COVID can damage a city's ability to operate. It is important to reach out and talk with representatives.

Mayor Kastner-Jauregui thanked FD Salcido for the presentation.

CM Hamby the report shows the hard work underway to provide a clear idea of where the City stands.

- iv. Discussion and Potential Action to Adopt City Council Resolution No. 2020- Resolution of the City Council of the City of Brawley, California, Brawley Proclaiming the Existence of an Ongoing Local Emergency for COVID-19

The City Council **adopted** Resolution No. 2020-29: Resolution of the City Council of the City of Brawley, California, Brawley Proclaiming the Existence of an Ongoing Local Emergency for COVID-19. m/s/c Wharton/Hamby 5-0

- b. Discussion and Potential Action to Review and Accept the Audited Financial Statements for the City of Brawley for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019, Prepared by Moss, Levy & Hartzheim LLP and Presented by Tyler Salcido, Finance Director.

The City Council **accepted** the Audited Financial Statements for the City of Brawley for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019, Prepared by Moss, Levy & Hartzheim LLP and Presented by Tyler Salcido, Finance Director. m/s/c Couchman/Nava 5-0

- c. Discussion and Potential Action to Adopt City Council Resolution No. 2020- : Resolution of the City Council of the City of Brawley, California, Approving Purchase of Thirteen (13) Mobile Data Computers for the Brawley Police Department in the Amount of \$91,215.36, Utilizing State COPS Funds.

Interim Police Chief Sheppard stated that Brawley PD is looking to purchase a tablet type in-car computer which allows for greater functionality in the field.

The City Council **adopted** Resolution No. 2020-30: Resolution of the City Council of the City of Brawley, California, Approving Purchase of Thirteen (13) Mobile Data Computers for the Brawley Police Department for \$91,215.36, Utilizing State COPS Funds. m/s/c Wharton/Hamby 5-0.

5. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- a. Update on Emergency Construction Project at the Brawley Water Treatment Plant to Replace Components of Two Sedimentation Basins and Emergency Purchase of Sewage Pumps for Lift Station No. 1, presented by Public Works Director Guillermo Sillas, PE.
 - 1) The contractor completed the electrical connection of the limit switch which protects the system in case of any obstruction of misalignment. On Friday April 17th, the sedimentation basin was put in operation. It has been producing water since then. It will be tested for a period of 15 days.

The troughs are expected to arrive by the end of April and they are the last components for the project to be considered complete.

- 2) The contractor is beginning to gather the components to build the pump. The installation will be performed with minimal down time once all of the components have arrived. The Pretreatment staff has been monitoring the lift station daily to ensure no additional major failures are occurring to the pumps.
- b. Update on Emergency Replacement of Three Failing A/C Units at Brawley Police Department, presented by Interim Police Chief Scott Sheppard.
 - 1) Contact was initiated to explore whether Federal Asset Forfeiture funds could be used. Equipment is eligible for purchase.

6. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

- a. Record of Building Permits for March 2020 in the City of Brawley, Prepared by Oscar Escalante, Interim Building Official.

7. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

- Nava:** Thanked everyone for efforts.
- Wharton:** He is eagerly awaiting news from Governor. Encouraged everyone to help one another.
- Couchman:** Wearing a mask is vital. Thanked everyone for hard work.
- Hamby:** There is confusing information from the County and State. He expressed appreciation for the collaboration and efforts for Brawley.
- Kastner-Jauregui:** Thanked staff and expressed appreciation to all citizens. She continues to field calls to provide general information and I see social separation not working.

8. CITY MANAGER REPORT

- 1) The City is working in close collaboration with Imperial County Public Health Department on COVID topics.
- 2) Bulk Item pickup will resume with Allied Waste.
- 3) Expressed thanks to Imperial Valley Growers Association and Kaz-Bro for face coverings.

9. CITY ATTORNEY None to report

10. CITY CLERK None to report

11. CLOSED SESSION

EXISTING LITIGATION (California Government Code §54956.9)

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel – One (2) Cases
 - i. City of Brawley vs. Ruben Banuelos

ii. City of Brawley vs. James McConnell

POTENTIAL LITIGATION (California Government Code §54956.9)

a. Conference with Legal Counsel – 3 Cases

ADJOURNMENT @ 7:39pm

Alma Benavides, City Clerk