



MINUTES

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Special Session

Council Chambers, City Hall

Approved: May 27, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sharon Konopa called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Mayor Sharon Konopa and Councilors Rich Kellum, Bessie Johnson, Alex Johnson II, Dick Olsen, Mike Sykes, and Bill Coburn (via teleconference)

Councilors absent: None.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

- a. Adoption of Resolution No. 6873 declaring a local state of emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

City Manager Peter Troedsson explained that the primary purpose and impact of the resolution is to allow the City to make emergency purchases. The Albany Municipal Code requires that the city council ratify the declaration once the mayor has signed.

Councilor Rich Kellum said a concerned constituent asked him whether residents' rights were going to be stripped away with the ratification of this resolution. They had concerns about martial law.

Troedsson said the option of declaring an emergency has existed in not only Albany's code but many cities' codes for many years. Staff recently located a 1918 emergency proclamation related to the Spanish Flu. He assured the council that the resolution doesn't take individual rights away; it provides greater flexibility to the city manager for conducting City operations.

MOTION: Councilor Mike Sykes moved to ratify the mayor's approval of the resolution. Councilor Bessie Johnson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. RES NO. 6873

Troedsson noted that access to City Hall will be limited to City staff and residents who make appointments to conduct business that cannot be completed online or by phone.

Sykes wanted to make sure that police and fire operations are functioning okay, and the chiefs said yes, they are doing well.

The city councilors noted their interactions within the community over the past week and encouraged residents to be courteous and considerate to one another, not to panic, and to find alternate ways of doing business that allow them to implement social distancing measures.

Troedsson noted that the City is working on a website to connect resources with needs.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Monday, March 23, 2020; 4 p.m. work session

Monday, March 25, 2020; 7:15 p.m. council meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Holly Roten
Senior Administrative Supervisor

Peter Troedsson
City Manager