

**City of Locust Grove**  
**Special Called Meeting Minutes**  
**3640 Highway 42 – Public Safety Building**  
**Via Teleconference Call/Zoom Meeting**  
**Streamed on Facebook Live – City of Locust Grove-City Hall**  
**Locust Grove, GA 30248**  
**Thursday, March 26, 2020**  
**10:00 A.M.**

<b>Members Present via Teleconference</b>	<b>Staff Present via Teleconference</b>
Robert Price - Mayor	Tim Young – City Manager
Willie Taylor – Councilman	Bert Foster – Assistant City Manager
Randy Gardner – Councilman	Misty Spurling – City Clerk
Rod Shearouse – Councilman	Jennifer Adkins – Assistant City Clerk
Carlos Greer–Councilman/Mayor Pro Tem	Daunte’ Gibbs – Community Development Director
Rudy Breedlove – Councilman	Anna Ogg – Main Street Manager
Keith Boone – Councilman	Jesse Patton – Police Chief
	Andy Welch – City Attorney

Mayor Price called the meeting to order at 10:14 AM via Teleconference once link was established with all parties and Facebook Live stream could begin.

Invocation given by Assistant City Manager Bert Foster

Councilman Shearouse led the Pledge of Allegiance

**NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS -**

**1. Presentation on COVID-19 Virus impacts on the community and government operations by Tim Young and Bert Foster –**

City Manager Tim Young made a comment to confirm we are on Facebook Live so anyone from the public can join in on the meeting.

Mr. Young led discussion via a screen share of a PowerPoint and giving an update on COVID-19 and discussion took place on how the City of Locust Grove is handling social distancing. Mr. Young said the City closed public access to City Hall and the Public Safety Building on March 16, 2020 and have transitioned to online activity only. We are continuing to do building inspections; we are not assessing late fees on utility bills and have extended due dates for business licenses through July 1, 2020. We have increased the cleaning of all facilities and have limited contact through the incorporation of teleworking and increasing our capabilities there. We are continuing to prepare for what may come during these very stressful times. Nothing further.

**2. Ordinance on Declaration of Emergency and Certain Precautionary Regulations and Emergency Measures –**

Mayor Price opened for discussion from Council.

Councilman Greer made a comment the ordinance specifies the parks will remain open. Councilman Greer said his concern the number of hours or days the virus can linger and asked if we should consider closing the [pocket] parks to public access. Mr. Young said this is a model ordinance from GMA (Georgia Municipal Association); however, we encourage people to practice personal responsibility while using any of the parks. Mr. Young said Warren Holder Park and Tanger Station are operated by the County and are closed as we know of. Discussion took place on who would make the decision to close our [parks] if needed and nothing further.

Mayor Price asked for questions from Councilman Taylor and there were none.

Mayor Price asked for questions from Councilman Boone. Councilman Boone made a comment Section 15 (last paragraph) says “The Mayor and City Manager shall periodically and no later than at each regular meeting report to Council an update of the City”. Councilman Boone said he would like to be notified first. Discussion took place on Section 16. Attorney Andy Welch replied this section (16) is not dealing with the emergency powers as in Section 15; therefore, we did not make changes to this section. Discussion took place and nothing further.

Mayor Price asked for questions from Councilman Shearouse and there were none.

Mayor Price asked for questions from Councilman Gardner. Councilman Gardner made a comment to Attorney Andy Welch most sections do not have any mandatory language [law] and asked if that can be added. Attorney Andy Welch said Section 7 does have mandatory language; however, the other sections are urging provisions for the public to adhere to the Governor’s Executive Order dealing with social distancing. Discussion took place. Attorney Andy Welch said the failure on the public’s part to abide makes more accessible for the virus to spread. Further, Attorney Andy Welch said we can’t prohibit activities all together because we could not enforce without putting our officers in harm. Nothing further.

Councilman Greer asked Attorney Andy Welch what the importance is of approving this ordinance since the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and higher authorities have documentation in place urging the public to stay at home. Attorney Andy Welch replied the adoption of this ordinance is very important and the Governor’s directive is very helpful and have authorized local governments to act. This ordinance is more descriptive and informative to the public regarding social distancing and discussion took place. Attorney Andy Welch reviewed Section 11 of the ordinance and nothing further.

Mayor Price asked for questions from Councilman Breedlove and Councilman Breedlove made a comment he thinks we should consider closing the City parks.

Mayor Price asked for questions that Council may have for each other or the Mayor. No questions and nothing further.

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Taylor made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance #20-03-025

RESULT	APPROVED ORDINANCE #20-03-025
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

Attorney Andy Welch made a comment to address the closing of parks concern and said the Mayor has the power to enforce this ordinance. If the parks being open becomes a problem the Mayor can authorize to close the parks and post notices. Mayor Price responded that we would close the parks for 15 days and post signs. Nothing further.

Mayor Price opened for public comments.

Main Street Manager Anna Ogg said the following questions are from Facebook Live and proceeded to read each question.

1. Dawn Lee Pantoja asked will the City be closing dine-in restaurants?

Mayor Price replied No.

Tiffany Freeman asked if hair salons can stay open and please give more clarification on Section 7.

Mayor Price replied yes hair salons will remain open. City Manager Tim Young replied to the question on Section 7 and said continue to practice measures of social distancing and use your own judgement.

2. Jamie Phillips asked why is there not a general “lock down”.

City Manager Tim Young replied this will be addressed in the next item number three (3).

Attorney Andy Welch said the State Law does not authorize us [City] to go beyond the directives in terms of the Governor’s Executive Orders. Discussion took place regarding the Shelter in Place declaration, and Attorney Andy Welch said we could not enforce that declaration. Further, Attorney Andy Welch said another issue is once a business is closed; when and how is it determined when the business is safe to reopen. Discussion took place and Attorney Andy Welch said people exercising and following the rules of separation (washing hands, etc.) could alone keep the virus from spreading.

City Manager Tim Young said this is a personal responsibility issue and if a shut-down goes in effect, it would be authorized from higher authorities than us. There are new updates and changes every day, and we will continue to review and update accordingly. Nothing further.

3. Jamie Phillips asked where he/she can find a copy of the ordinance.

City Manager Tim Young replied a copy will be posted on the City of Locust Grove website after the meeting is over.

4. Mandy Whisnant asked how other cities are addressing the COVID-19 issue.

Mr. Young replied some have closed restaurants to drive-thru only, and some have authorized the shelter in place with exceptions.

Attorney Andy Welch said some governments have not taken any action.

5. Adrian Hopson Moll asked at what percentage of ill residents is the City willing to consider issuing additional regulations.

Attorney Andy Welch replied we do not have a percentage threshold other than what would be determined by the Governor. Once we received those directives we would follow and enforce. The Mayor, Tim, and he are meeting daily via phone conference with County officials and others to determine needs as a unified community.

6. Dawn Lee Pantoja asked why the City would not want to restrict fast food restaurants to take-out only being President Trump wanted major restaurants like McDonalds restricted to take out.

Attorney Andy Welch replied the City has encouraged all restaurants to take-out only; however, if a restaurant has the dine in option, we have encouraged social distancing and adhering to social separation.

7. Joy asked if we could provide a link to the document the City Attorney read.

Attorney Andy Welch replied yes, that was information from the Emergency Management Act O.C.G.A 38-3-29.

Mr. Young made a comment we have reached out on a regional level for help in expanding restrictions; however, receiving no positive feedback.

Mayor Price closed the public comment Q&A.

### **3. Resolution requesting Shelter in Place declaration for the Atlanta Metropolitan Area**

Councilman Greer said he would like to see this approved and not removed from the agenda. Councilman Greer said it is his understanding other cities have approved a Shelter in Place resolution.

Attorney Andy Welch replied he has heard that as well and said we have Constitutional rights that must be preserved and narrowly apply emergency powers so as not to infringe on someone's rights. Discussion took place.

Mayor Price asked for a motion to remove item three (3) from the agenda. Councilman Boone made the motion to remove item three (3).

RESULT	APPROVED REMOVE ITEM
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED – FIVE IN FAVOR (TAYLOR, BOONE, SHEAROUSE, GARDNER, BREEDLOVE) AND ONE OPPOSED (GREER)

### **4. Items related to local government operations and budget**

City Manager Tim Young led discussion we will be closing out Fiscal Year 2019 and installing the new 2020 budget next week. Discussion took place about looking at adjustments and other measures depending on sales tax and other revenues. Nothing further.

Mayor Price asked for any comments from Council.

Councilman Greer made a comment he thought we were having a meeting to put restrictions in place and enforce but as it stands, he does not feel we have accomplished that. Further, Councilman Greer said good things have come out of this meeting, but he does not feel we accomplished what we set out to do. Nothing further.

Councilman Taylor made a comment he feels like the City complies based on what we are doing and what the Federal Government has set forth.

Councilman Boone made a comment we had bid openings yesterday for Tanger Park and asked if we will delay that project. Mayor Price replied no. Mr. Young replied the money is already in reserve in Development Impact Fees and can only be used for parks. Nothing further.

Councilman Boone also thanked Tim for all the updates and thanked all the dedicated City employees.

Councilman Shearouse thanked all the employees and said he is proud of how the City has handled this impact.

Councilman Gardner thanked staff for professionalism and response during this time.

Councilman Breedlove said thanks to all.

Attorney Andy Welch made a comment these are difficult times for everyone, and we must take oath in the interactions we have today and commended all staff and Council for their hard work.

Mayor Price thanked everyone for working diligently through a time we have never experienced before. He encouraged people to keep praying and said prayer answers everything.

**ADJOURNMENT** –

Mayor Price asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Greer made the motion to adjourn.

RESULT	APPROVED – ADJOURN MEETING
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 <sup>ND</sup> MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
FAVOR	MOTION CARRIED MEETING ADJOURNED @ 11:27AM.

Notes taken by:

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Misty Spurling, City Clerk