

CITY OF BAY CITY

MINUTES • APRIL 07, 2020

**COUNCIL
CHAMBERS | 1901
5th Street**

City Council Workshop

5:00 PM

**1901 5TH STREET
BAY CITY TX, 77414**



Mayor

Robert K. Nelson

Councilman

William Cornman

Mayor Pro Tem

Jason W. Childers

Councilman

Brent P. Marceaux

Councilwoman

Becca Sitz

Councilwoman

Julie Estlinbaum

***Bay City is committed to developing and enhancing the long-term prosperity,
sustainability, and health of the community.***

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

There was a quorum.

Motion made by Councilwoman Estlinbaum, Seconded by Councilman Marceaux.

Voting Yea: Mayor Nelson, Councilman Cornman, Councilman Marceaux, Councilwoman Estlinbaum, Councilwoman Sitz

Voting Abstaining: Mayor Pro Tem Childers

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

REGULAR ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND / OR APPROVAL

1. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DISCOUNTING THE CITY'S WATER BILLS FOR FUTURE BILLING PERIOD(S) AS DETERMINED BY COUNCIL.

(Councilman Bill Cornman)

Councilman Cornman stated that the current situation would probably go into May. The City needed to see if there was something that it could do to help the commercial customers.

Finance Director Scotty Jones provided Mayor and Council with a handout which outlined the revenues from residential and commercial accounts, with some discount options. She stated that she had reached out to TML and other cities to see what they were doing. Currently they are doing what the City is doing—no disconnects, payment plans and no fees. She added that her staff has only received concerns from residential customers.

Mrs. Jones went on to explain the other information contained in the handout. Currently available for operations in reserves is \$1.9 million. Mrs. Jones pointed out that those reserves were to help with cash funding projects. She added that she has seen invoices and statements coming in for water projects. There was also \$870,000 set aside in CIP.

Councilman Cornman clarified that the numbers in red were numbers coming from Utility, and what was not in those numbers was Sanitation because it comes from the General Fund.

City Attorney Anne Marie Odefey wanted to clarify that the City would need to define a public purpose behind doing this. She spoke about concern with the term "Public Forgiveness". She pointed out that partnering with the CDC would be a great idea for the business side. Mrs. Odefey stated that the City could not give away free stuff, because it was a constitutional thing. She stated that if the City wanted to provide some assistance, the public purpose would be the City giving this to the citizens to get them back on their feet.

Mayor Nelson asked if the discount had to be across the board, or just for those in trouble, and Mrs. Odefey stated it would have to be across the board.

Councilwoman Estlinbaum stated that she would be fine with a discount across the board. Councilman Marceaux stated that we would be doing this for the economic stability of our citizens, and Mrs. Odefey stated yes. The City would be using built up funds to stabilize the economy.

Mayor Nelson stated that he would like to see the CDC Board help, and Councilwoman Estlinbaum stated that she could bring it up to the board. The Mayor continued by stating that the CDC loans money to businesses, but they typically have to wait 60 days. However, he believed that had been waived so that they can lend sooner.

Councilwoman Sitz questioned if doing this would cause a tax increase, and Mrs. Jones stated no if they are taking from Utility. Mrs. Jones reminded Mayor and Council that the Texas Water Development Board would be looking at the City's finances to see how we are.

Councilman Cornman asked how Finance would be affected if the City discounted for a period of time. Mrs. Jones stated that she had spoken with the City's software company, Tyler Technology, and they are able to assist with that. Mrs. Odefey offered another option to think over, deferring payment. The citizen would have to come in and ask for it. Councilman Marceaux stated the issue with that is deferring would not help the group that would need it.

City Manager Shawna Burkhart recommended that the discount be stair stepped, 50% one month and 25% the next.

There was discussion about including sanitation dollars in the equation, as well as whether to implement the discount for one month then evaluate that information.

It was the consensus of Council to table the item until the April 28th Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Councilman Marceaux, Seconded by Councilwoman Sitz.

Voting Yea: Mayor Nelson, Mayor Pro Tem Childers, Councilman Cornman, Councilman Marceaux, Councilwoman Estlinbaum, Councilwoman Sitz

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.