



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**March 24, 2020
MINUTES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Reynosa, Launer, Thusu, Longoria, Morales

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

None.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hernandez, James, Jenner, Moreno, Patlan, Popovich, Thompson

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

1.1. Welcome and Call to Order

Mayor Thusu called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1.2. Invocation

The invocation was led by Public Works Director Hernandez.

1.3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chief Popovich.

2. AGENDA CHANGES OR DELETIONS

To better accommodate members of the public or convenience in the order of presentation, items on the agenda may not be presented or acted upon in the order listed. Additions to Agenda may be added only pursuant to California Government Code section 54956.8.

None.

3. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL - Please refer to Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 regarding public comment. Please send all correspondence concerning this meeting to info@dinuba.ca.gov prior to the meeting.

This portion of the meeting is reserved for any person who would like to address the Council on any item that is not on the agenda. Please be advised that State law does not allow the City Council to discuss or take any action on any issue not on the agenda. The City Council may direct staff to follow up on such item(s). Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes. If there is any person wishing to address the City Council at this time please approach the podium and state your name and nature of the request.

None.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

4.1. SUBJECT

Resolution No. 2020-15 Declaring a Local Emergency in the City of Dinuba, California and Request for Assistance Under the California Disaster Assistance Act (LP)

RECOMMENDATION

Council to adopt Resolution No. 2020-15 ratifying a local state of emergency as declared by the City Manager acting as the designated Director of Emergency Operations for the City of Dinuba in response to COVID-19 pandemic.

City Manager Patlan delivered the staff report and recommended that the City Council consider and adopt Resolution No. 2020-15 ratifying a local state of emergency declaration.

Council Member Reynosa asked how state and county orders regarding COVID-19 are being enforced.

City Manager Patlan indicated that enforcement falls upon the cities. Dinuba has taken a soft and layered approach which includes contact from Code Enforcement asking for compliance, followed by a warning call or visit from Code Enforcement / Fire Department and implementing stronger measures if non-compliance occurs. He reported that to date, no strict enforcement has been necessary.

Council Member Morales asked if businesses are allowed to sell take-out orders and Patlan responded that they are and the City will be following state and county orders on these matters.

Council Member Reynosa asked how price gouging is being addressed.

Patlan indicated that the Attorney General addresses these types of issues; however, the City can enforce state laws.

City Attorney Jenner indicated that other options include revocation of business licenses.

Council Member Launer asked if businesses are following the "gathering of 10 or less" orders.

City Manager Patlan indicated the state and county are giving businesses latitude.

Vice Mayor Longoria asked how the state and federal government reimbursements for COVID-19 related expenses will be used.

City Manager Patlan indicated there has been no specific contribution to the City at this time and explained specific guidelines of legislation.

Council Member Morales asked how much of an increase in price is considered

price gouging.

City Manager Patlan shared that state law indicates that businesses can't increase prices more than ten percent over regular prices during a state of emergency.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Longoria, second by Council Member Launer, to adopt Resolution No. 2020-15 Declaring a Local State of Emergency in the City of Dinuba, California and Request for Assistance Under the California Disaster Assistance Act.

Ayes: Launer, Longoria, Morales, Reynosa, Thusu

5. MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Launer shared that she has been working with community groups to help educate people on the dangers of COVID-19.

Mayor Thusu thanked staff for handling of the COVID-19 situation.

6. CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Patlan complimented staff for their dedication and professionalism during the current COVID-19 crisis.

Mayor Thusu suggested an easier way to convert the COVID-19 page on the City website to Spanish.

Council Member Morales recommended also adding information on the page that explains that City water is safe to drink.

Council Member Launer also recommended a phone alert (Alert TC) announcement be sent out in regard to the City's water quality.

City Manager Patlan shared that staff will work on the items the Council suggested.

The Council and staff commended City Manager Patlan for his leadership during the COVID-19 crisis.

Chief Popovich provided an update on the additional safety measures the department has been taking to protect staff from COVID-19 risks.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Thusu adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.