

Mayors minute. May 2020

I hope this message for May finds all of you well. The city council has held a meeting every Monday since mid-March when this virus event first started. Due to COVID-19 and the potential for the city to receive future FEMA funds for cities, I declared a state of emergency which must be renewed every 7 days. By also declaring a state of an emergency, the city council can hold meetings without the normal 48 hour posting, which allows the council to stay up to date on the virus on a weekly basis and they can make informed decisions regarding procedures for the city. These weekly meetings have been well attended by all council members, police, EMS, and West emergency management personnel. I thank all for their dedication these past weeks.

We are relying on McLennan County as far as safety requirements as the city falls under their control on these matters. We can tighten regulations but not loosen guidelines put into effect for the county.

The council has had many discussions regarding reopening various public areas but I feel that any major decisions on opening parks, the Community Center, and other public properties will be clearer on May 18 when we hear from Gov. Abbott on the 2nd stage of Texas reopening plan. It is my sincere desire to get West reopened and back in business as soon as its possible. I am sure there will be some procurers that we will all have to live with when this happens such as continued social distancing, wearing masks, continuing to practice good hygiene, and for seniors and those at risk will be highly recommended to stay at home as much as possible. We will just have to see but it will be a different world we will all have to adjust to.

I plan on holding a regular council meeting at the Community Center on June 2nd. We have dealt with some small matters in our Monday weekly meetings, but I feel any major decisions require being brought to the council for their consideration at a normal meeting.

The city funds allocated for the senior meal program started back in March have been exalted however, we have received many donations from the private sector that will allow us to continue this program for another couple of weeks. This partnership between public funds and private sector funds is a great example how the citizens of West work so well when called upon. Thanks to all organizations, individuals, and businesses for helping with this program. We are delivering 180 meals every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

This Friday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, May 15 at the West Community Center COVID-19 testing will take place for those with an appointment. To have an appointment you must meet certain criteria: symptoms such as fever/chills, cough, fatigue, sore throat, and shortness of breath. You can call 512-883-2400 or go to <https://txcovidtest.org/>

I will keep you updated on future actions we will take later this month. Stay safe, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and remember if you feel sick do not go to work. God Bless each of you.