

**Council Minutes April 7, 2020**

**STATE OF TEXAS           §**

**COUNTY OF TARRANT   §**

**CITY OF BEDFORD       §**

**The City Council of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in Special Session at 1:00 p.m. via videoconference, on the 7th day of April, 2020 with the following members present:**

Michael Boyter  
Tom Burnett  
Dan Cogan  
Ruth Culver  
Roger Fisher  
Amy Sabol  
Rusty Sartor

Mayor  
Councilmembers

constituting a quorum.

Staff present included:

Cliff Blackwell  
Stan Lowry (Via Telephone)  
Michael Wells

Interim City Manager  
City Attorney  
City Secretary

**SPECIAL SESSION**

The Special Session began at 1:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Boyter called the Special Session to order.

**OPEN FORUM**

Nobody signed up to speak under Open Forum.

**1. Consider a resolution amending and extending the executive order of Mayor Michael Boyter issued on March 25, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Mayor Boyter stated a declaration of local disaster due to public health emergency was issued on March 19, 2020 and the City Council met and adopted an executive order on March 25, 2020, which was essentially a “state-at-home” order. He discussed recent amendments made to Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley’s executive order, as well as an executive order issued by Governor Greg Abbott and an opinion by Attorney General Ken Paxton. He stated the City’s executive order expires that day, and Council needs to discuss extending the order and incorporating the language from Tarrant County and the state. Amendments include definitions of essential services; that nothing in the order is intended to restrict essential services permitted by the Governor’s order; not restricting business operations in compliance with the Attorney General’s opinion; changes regarding minimum business operations and elective medical

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procedures; removal of language regarding price gouging; changing the restrictions on worship services; adding curbside pickup as options for restaurants; adding yard maintenance and landscapers as essential businesses; and changing the language for essential critical infrastructure. He discussed extensions of orders in Tarrant County and other counties.

There was discussion on the reasoning behind removal of the price gouging language and Tarrant County removing language regarding the seizure of property. There was discussion regarding the language related to religious services, including Governor Abbott's order adding them to the list of essential services; the incorporation of language in Governor Abbott's order into Judge Whitley's order; and the language in the attached chart to Judge Whitley's order prohibiting all in-person worship services.

Motioned by Councilmember Fisher, seconded by Councilmember Sartor, to approve extending Mayor Boyter's order to April 30, 2020 based on the text of the order and not the chart.

There was discussion on the end date for the order, including leaving it open-ended; the language regarding religious services, including language in Mayor Boyter's previous order; leaving in language for price gouging; and other amendments to the order.

Councilmember Fisher stated the preservation of as many rights as possible even in a pandemic is paramount and did not want his name on an order that says that people will not have church.

Motion denied 5-2-0. Mayor Boyter declared the motion denied.

Voting in favor of the motion: Councilmember Sartor and Councilmember Fisher

Voting in opposition to the motion: Mayor Boyter, Councilmember Cogan, Councilmember Sabol, Councilmember Burnett and Councilmember Culver

Motioned by Councilmember Sabol, seconded by Councilmember Culver, to approve the draft order as written except for going back to the original language with respect to worship services and retaining the price gouging language from the order on March 25, 2020, with an end date that matches Tarrant County's order.

Motion approved 5-2-0. Mayor Boyter declared the motion carried.

Voting in favor of the motion: Mayor Boyter, Councilmember Cogan, Councilmember Sabol, Councilmember Burnett and Councilmember Culver

Voting in opposition to the motion: Councilmember Sartor and Councilmember Fisher

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Boyter adjourned the Special Session at 1:22 p.m.

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Michael Boyter, Mayor

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ATTEST:

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Michael Wells, City Secretary