



Kirby Smith, Council Member
Brian Darby, Council Member
Holly Gray-Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem

Carl E. Gierisch, Jr., Mayor

Steve Heath, Council Member
Angie Grimm, Council Member
David Thompson, Council Member

**MINUTES
ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 14, 2020
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
500 S. OAK STREET
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Carl E. "Scooter" Gierisch, Jr. and City Secretary April S. Hill.

PRESENT via VIDEO CONFERENCING:

Mayor Pro Tem Holly Gray-Moore; Council Members: Angie Grimm, Brian Darby, Kirby Smith, David Thompson, and City Attorney Jeff Moore.

DEPT. STAFF via TELECONFERENCING:

City Manager Scott Campbell, Assistant City Manager Cody Petree, Assistant City Manager Gary Johnson, Police Chief Jeriahme Miller, Fire Chief Chris Addington, Director of Fiscal and Administrative Services Vicki Rodriguez, Public Works Director Shawn Wilkinson, and Parks and Recreation Director Ronnie Angel.

ABSENT: City Council Member Steve Heath.

A. CALL CITY COUNCIL TO ORDER

Mayor Gierisch called the regular City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Gierisch was present in the Roanoke City Council Chambers. Mayor Pro Tem Holly Gray-Moore, Council Members Angie Grimm, Brian Darby, Kirby Smith, and David Thompson were present via video conferencing.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance given by Mayor Gierisch.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Gierisch announced the July 28th City Council meeting will be cancelled.

C. PUBLIC INPUT

Jim Carter, stated he is running for the Board of Managers of the Denco Area 9-1-1 District and asked the City to consider voting for him. Mr. Carter also stated the he is available to answer any questions.



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D. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed below are considered routine and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a Councilmember or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed and considered separately.

1. Consider approval of the minutes from the regular City Council meeting held on June 23, 2020.

Motion made by David Thompson second by Brian Darby to approve Consent Agenda Item 1.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion made by Brian Darby second by Holly Gray-Moore to approve Resolution No. 2020-107R appointing Brandon Barth to the Board of Managers of the Denco Area 9-1-1 District.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion made by Holly Gray-Moore second by David Thompson to approve Resolution No. 2020-108R, directing its designated officer to calculate an 8 percent voter-approval tax rate pursuant to Section 26.05, Tax Code.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion made by Angie Grimm second by Holly Gray-Moore to approve an application for the Façade Grant Program from Jack Laymen of Los Compadres located at 320 S Oak Street, Roanoke, TX.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion made by Angie Grimm second by Holly Gray-Moore to approve an application for the Façade Grant Program from Andrew Runyon of Runyon's Fine Furniture, located at 500 Hwy 377, Roanoke, TX.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion made by Holly Gray-Moore second by Angie Grimm to appoint Victor Molaschi, Kristie Womack, Randy Corn, and Jason Kasal to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to expire in July 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion regarding Celebrate Roanoke.

City Manager Scott Campbell gave an overview of the challenges the city is facing with the Covid-19 pandemic.



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Mr. Campbell stated that he would like to get some input from the Mayor and City Council regarding the possibility of cancelling the Celebrate Roanoke Event. Mayor Pro Tem Holly Gray-Moore asked if there have been initial discussions regarding the cancellation.

Mayor Gierisch stated that due to the current Covid-19 situation, most events around the DFW Metroplex has been cancelled. Mayor Gierisch further stated that the city needs to make a decision quickly, as there are cost associated with this event that could be incurred if the decision is not made in a timely manner.

City Manager Scott Campbell stated that this is a difficult decision as this is the city's signature event. Mr. Campbell further stated that discussions with city staff regarding the current situation with Covid-19, have raised concerns regarding exposure to the employees, as approximately half of the city's workforce participate in the event. Additional concerns were raised regarding the ability to adequately "social distance" attendees at the event, and all that entails.

Mr. Campbell stated that unfortunately due to the planning associated with this event, the decision would need to be made quickly.

Mayor Pro Tem Holly Gray-Moore stated that October is a long way out, and would hate to see the event be cancelled this early, although it is understood the reason why.

Mayor Gierisch stated that the State Fair of Texas runs around the same time as the Celebrate Roanoke Event and there is a concern that with the cancellation of the fair this year, in addition to other event cancellations in the area, there could be a larger attendance at this year's city event. Mayor Gierisch further stated that he too dislikes the idea of cancelling this event, but wants to be mindful of the current situation.

Mayor Pro Tem Holly Gray-Moore asked if we have spoken with any of the surrounding city's that held their July 4th events, in regard to the type of turnout at these events.

City Manager Scott Campbell stated that he was not sure, as our Events Coordinator Mary Jo Tellin had been focusing on learning more about virtual events, due to the pandemic.

Mayor Gierisch stated that most cities utilized virtual events for the July 4th celebration. Mayor Gierisch further stated that he will reach out to the cities that held their July 4th events in person.

City Manager Scott Campbell stated that he agrees with the Mayor Pro Tem, saying it is disheartening to cancel so early. However, there is a substantial cost risk involved if the event is cancelled at the last minute. At this time there are too



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many unknowns, as to what is going to happen with this pandemic, and the resulting restrictions by higher officials.

Mayor Gierisch stated that large events, such as the State Fair of Texas, along with others, had cancelled their events early. This was done out of an abundance of caution.

Mayor Pro Tem Holly Gray-Moore stated that her concerns are doing what's right for the City of Roanoke, as opposed to doing what everyone else is doing.

Mayor Gierisch agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Gray-Moore.

Mayor Gierisch asked Mr. Campbell what is the absolute deadline on making this decision.

City Manager Scott Campbell stated that a decision needs to be made immediately, with a decision being made by the July 28th City Council meeting.

City Council Member Angie Grimm asked what happens if staff chooses not to work the event, due to the risk of exposure to Covid-19. Will the staff have that option to choose?

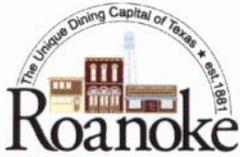
City Manager Scott Campbell stated that is a great question. Mr. Campbell explained that the city has a great staff and has not had anyone adamantly state they would not work the event. However, we cannot say definitively that a staff member will not come to us and state they cannot work the event, due to an underlying health condition, or be uncomfortable with being around that many people due to the risks. Mr. Campbell further stated that this is a difficult question to answer.

Mr. Campbell stated that the city's Events Coordinator Mary Jo Tellin was currently working on alternatives, like a weeklong virtual event involving contests, online educational cooking classes sponsored by local restaurants, etc.

City Council Member Angie Grimm asked if it would be possible to give out gift cards/coupons from the local restaurants, like what was done for the July 3rd virtual event. Ms. Grimm further stated this would get people into the businesses and restaurants, possibly spurring further purchases.

Mr. Campbell stated that he and Ms. Tellin have been discussing these options.

City Council Member David Thompson asked if the event were cancelled right now and then everything started returning to normal, would it be possible to rapidly organize the event at the last minute.



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City Manager Scott Campbell stated that it would be possible, but it would be on a much smaller scale, due to the availability of the bands, vendors, and such.

Mayor Gierisch stated that, in agreement with City Council Member Angie Grimm, if we cancel the event this would free up funds to be put towards a program that would help offset the loss to businesses, while giving the residents an incentive to go to the local businesses and restaurants.

City Council Member Brian Darby stated that what he is hearing is that no one is wanting to cancel the event. However, he is hearing a lot of cons and not a lot of pros. Mr. Darby further stated, "First and foremost are health concerns, and based on that we have to cancel it." Mr. Darby stated that with the information we have, it is not possible to safely hold the event in the current situation.

City Attorney Jeff Moore stated that the frustration comes from the numerous orders issued by the Governor, which is making it difficult to keep up with all the changes, such as the enforceability of a face mask order. This makes it difficult to predict what to expect in October.

Mayor Gierisch stated that this is one of the challenges everyone is facing.

City Council Member Angie Grimm stated that she is in agreement with Council Member Darby, and thinks the event should be cancelled.

City Council Member Kirby Smith asked is there any type of "event insurance," that would allow us to schedule the event, but cover us financially if we were unable to have the event.

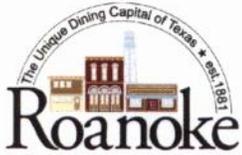
City Manager Scott Campbell stated that there is a type of insurance that covers events, but it is for weather related issues, and it is very specific as to what is covered.

City Council Member Smith stated that he was in agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Holly Gray-Moore in regard to cancelling the event so early, especially if there is a way to insure no loss of funds. Maybe the city could move forward with a scaled down version.

Mr. Campbell stated that he would find an answer to the insurance question and let everyone know.

City Council Member David Thompson asked if we are going to wait on making a decision.

City Manager Scott Campbell stated that although we usually cancel the second City Council meeting in July, we can hold another meeting on July 28, 2020, to further discuss the cancellation.



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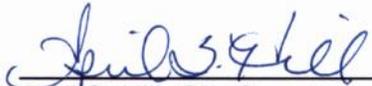
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Mayor Gierisch stated that holding the second meeting should not be an issue, as our meetings are currently being held via Zoom.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Holly Gray-Moore second by Brian Darby to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.



April S. Hill, City Secretary



Carl E. "Scooter" Gierisch, Jr., Mayor