

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, HELD ON MARCH 4, 2021 AT 5:30 P.M. PURSUANT TO SECTION 418.016 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE.

Pursuant to Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code, on March 16, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas granted the Office of the Attorney General's request for the temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act to allow for telephonic or videoconference meetings of governmental bodies that are accessible to the public in an effort to reduce in-person meetings that assemble large groups of people, as a precautionary measure to contain the spread of novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Accordingly, the public was not allowed to be physically present at this Special Session of the City Council of the City of Jersey Village, Texas, but the meeting was available to members of the public and allowed for two-way communications for those desiring to participate via telephone with the following toll-free number: **346-248-7799 along with Webinar ID: 841 8177 1204.**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCE A QUORUM IS PRESENT

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mitcham at 5:32 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor, Andrew Mitcham	City Manager, Austin Bless
Council Member, Drew Wasson	City Secretary, Lorri Coody
Council Member, Greg Holden	Finance Director, Isabel Kato
Council Member, Bobby Warren	Director of Public Works, Harry Ward
Council Member, James Singleton	
Council Member, Gary Wubbenhorst	

B. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Any person who desires to address City Council regarding an item on the agenda will be heard at this time. In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, unless the subject matter of the comment is on the agenda, the City staff and City Council Members are not allowed to discuss the subject. Each person is limited to five (5) minutes for comments to the City Council.

There were no Citizens' Comments.

C. Consider Ordinance No. 2021-10, amending the Jersey Village Code of Ordinances, Chapter 70, Article II, Section 70-78, providing for water bill adjustments for a declared emergency; providing for severability; providing for repeal; and providing an effective date.

City Manager, Austin Bless, introduced the item. Background information is as follows:

During the recent winter storm event there were a large number of homes that had broken water pipes. This caused a lot of water to go through the water meter and the residents will be charged that amount, unless a bill adjustment is made.

The City currently offers a water bill adjustment if people submit a notarized form saying they had a leak, it was repaired, and the repairs can be documented. While the City could utilize that way of adjusting bills for this event, Staff feels this is a lot of paperwork for Staff to manage, track and proceed, and a burden on the residents to complete while dealing with the damage to their homes.

SPECIAL SESSION MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS – March 4, 2021

Staff is proposing an amendment to the Ordinance to allow the Finance Director, after both an issuance of a disaster declaration by the Mayor and approval from the City Manager, to adjust bills because of a leak that was caused by a natural or man-made disaster. The bill would be adjusted to the average water usage of the customer. This is the same way it is calculated if a person were to request a bill adjustment due to a leak.

This ordinance is similar to the one in our fee schedule that authorizes the City Manager to waive permit fees for buildings that need to be repaired after they are damaged by a natural or man-made disaster.

There was discussion about the amount of usage during the storm that was over and above normal. City Manager Bless stated that it was over 5,000 gallons. There was also discussion about the amount of dollars adjusted compared to what it costs the City for the water. City Manager Bless explained that the adjustments will be about \$20,000. He explained that we have reached out to the Northwest Regional Water Authority to see if they will give adjustments to the City for the water used and we have not heard back from them.

With no further discussion on the matter, Council Member Wubbenhorst moved to approve Ordinance No. 2021-10, amending the Jersey Village Code of Ordinances, Chapter 70, Article II, Section 70-78, providing for water bill adjustments for a declared emergency; providing for severability; providing for repeal; and providing an effective date. Council Member Singleton seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Holden, Warren, Singleton, and Wubbenhorst

Nays: None

The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-10

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS; AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, BY ADDING SUBSECTION G TO SECTION 78 OF ARTICLE II, CHAPTER 70, WITH SUCH SUBSECTION PROVIDING FOR WATER BILL ADJUSTMENTS RELATED TO A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

D. ADJOURN

There being no further business on the Agenda the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.



Lorri Coody, City Secretary