

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL/SAN MIGUEL COUNTY
COMMISSION EMERGENCY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020
AT 5 P.M.THROUGH GOOGLE MEET.**

MAYOR: Louie A. Trujillo

COUNCILORS: David G. Romero
Elaine Rodriquez
Michael L. Montoya
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT: William Taylor, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

San Miguel County Board of Commissioners, Madam Chair Maria Martinez present, Commissioner Harold Garcia present, Commissioner Janice Varela present, Commissioner Max Trujillo present, and Commissioner Chris Najar present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Trujillo seconded the motion. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The current Governor's Public Health Order.

Mayor Trujillo gave a brief introduction regarding the Governor's order requesting the counties to move from red to yellow.

2. Creation of a public awareness campaign for both the City and County.

Mayor Trujillo introduced Ruthy Watson from New Mexico Highlands University. Ms. Watson gave a brief explanation regarding the creation of a public awareness campaign and the slogan "stop now so you can go later". Ms. Watson used the comparison for a stop light, red means emergency trips, yellow means slow down and think and green means mask up, 6ft apart, no gatherings and no physical contact.

Mayor Trujillo introduced Victor Reyes, Legislative/External Affairs Director from the Governor's Office.

City Attorney Scott Aaron asked about data regarding where the positive cases are coming from and to pinpoint the areas of spread.

Leo Maestas from the Office of Emergency Management advised he doesn't have clarity regarding community spread.

Matthew Probst from El Centro advised the most common point of community spread are gatherings and not properly distancing.

3. Enforcing the Governor's stay at home order at the local level.

Mayor Trujillo spoke about having a person designated for contact tracing within the City that would get training to be certified.

Mayor Trujillo spoke about public awareness for mental health resources.

Councilor Romero suggested establishing a task force between the City of Las Vegas and San Miguel County to help with the enforcement of the Governor's order.

Commissioner Harold Garcia spoke about the possibility of the Local Emergency Planning Council assisting the City of Las Vegas with the task force between the City and San Miguel County.

Chris Lopez from the San Miguel County Sheriff's department spoke about them enforcing the Governor's orders by educating and giving warnings to the community.

Mayor Trujillo spoke about the community having notice since March and at what point do they step up and start issuing citations.

Victor Reyes, Legislative/External Affairs Director from the Governor's Office spoke about the Special Session being called to help those during these difficult times and it is the law and people need to follow the enforcement of the Governor's orders.

Police Chief Adrian Crespín advised the citizens are complying with mask usage but they are seeing people coming from out of town that are not wearing masks and need to be reminded. Police Chief Crespín advised he doesn't want his officers to get into a use of force over mask usage.

Commissioner Chris Najar asked under what statute they would cite, what are the potential fines and court costs.

Police Chief Crespín advised they use the state statute under the public health order with a \$100 fine into Magistrate court along with a criminal complaint.

Matthew Probst from El Centro advised the problem areas could be the out of state people coming in that are not aware of the mask mandate here or since their state doesn't have one they don't follow it here.

Councilor Rodriguez agreed with Mayor Trujillo on enforcement because of the large impact it has on the small businesses.

Ruthy Watson also agreed with getting the community leaders, other organizations and business leaders involved to help influence others in the County and City.

Discussion took place regarding law enforcement educating those businesses who are not complying to the Governor's orders.

Commissioner Max Trujillo advised the spread is fast and exponential and the flattening of the curve would be very slow. Commissioner Trujillo recommended that their message needs to be clear, positive and constant and he would be willing to record a PSA at the radio station.

Mayor Trujillo advised we are all in this together.

City Manager Taylor spoke about engaging with religious leaders to also get the message out.

Commissioner Harold Garcia spoke about the pandemic bringing frustration out on all of us and is grateful he lives in the community and encourages us to work together during this pandemic.

Mayor Trujillo advised a listener suggested having a slogan that says "we are one".

Commissioner Maria Martinez thanked 100% communities for their hard work and encouraged Police Officers to have resources such as masks for individuals that don't have one so they could comply and give them a chance. Commissioner Martinez advised that they should use kids from the community to talk on the radio and also have the message in spanish.

Councilor Montoya agreed with citing people and had hoped Mayor Trujillo would have included the City of Pecos and the community of Mora and Wagon Mound. Councilor Montoya suggested sending out a pledge as a reminder for the "stop now so you can go later".

Councilor Ulibarri Jr., recommended having families send one person to the grocery store to get what they need to slow the spread and use common sense on what we do and where we go. Councilor Ulibarri Jr., thanked San Miguel County and the City for everything.

Mayor Trujillo advised he wants the public awareness ads to be out by Monday.

County Manager Vidal Martinez advised he invited Caleb O'Rear from Alta Vista Hospital and would like data from their covid response.

Dominique Martinez from the Public Health Office thanked everyone and advised she would see what she could do to get training for contact tracing for the City of Las Vegas. Ms. Martinez spoke about the process for contact tracers and investigators.

Mayor Trujillo suggested having a meeting on December 3rd to see where they are at. Mayor Trujillo recommended Media Coordinator Virginia Marrujo helping Ruthy Watson with the graphic design for the public awareness campaign.

Commissioner Harold Garcia thanked Law Enforcement for all they do.

Councilor Romero thanked Matthew Probst and Dominique Martinez for all their work and also thanked Mayor Trujillo and City Manager Taylor for their commitment.

Police Chief Crespin thanked Leo Maestas from the Office of Emergency Management for providing masks to the Police department so they could provide the public with them.

Mayor Trujillo thanked Leo Maestas from the Office of Emergency Management for everything he's done.

County Attorney Dave Romero advised on behalf of the Romero Law Firm they would like to contribute \$1,000 worth of gloves and masks to those who need it in the community.

Mayor Trujillo thanked County Attorney Dave Romero and suggested that Leo Maestas from the Office of Emergency Management could help distribute them.

Louella Reed from Alta Vista Hospital thanked Mayor Trujillo for the Health care proclamation and gave an update regarding six inhouse covid positive patients, no ICU bed capacity, few Med/Surg bed capacity and average 4-5 PUIs a day. Ms. Reed advised they got prepared in March and the Hospital has 54 beds and the capacity is 12 patients on Med/Surg and 4 patients in ICU. Ms. Reed advised the testing has changed to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for those who have a doctor's order.

Mayor Trujillo thanked everyone for all they do and recognized Phil Scherer from the Las Vegas Optic for helping the community and the radio stations.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Chris Najar made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Max Trujillo seconded the motion. All were in favor.



Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk