

**CITY OF LOUISBURG, KANSAS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 22, 2020**

The Council of the City of Louisburg, Kansas met at 6:30 p.m. in special session via Zoom video conferencing. Mayor Marty Southard presiding.

Council Members: Steve Town, Kalee Smith, Sandy Harris, Donna Cook, Thorvald McKiearnan
City Administrator: Nathan Law
City Clerk: Traci Storey
City Attorney: Kelly Stohs
Police Chief
Fire Chief
Communications Coordinator: Jean Carder
Public Works Supervisor
Press
Visitors

The Louisburg City Council special meeting was held via Zoom.

Mayor Marty Southard said Councilmember Thorvald McKiearnan had written a letter to Governor Kelly on behalf of Council to encourage an end to the “stay home” orders.

Mayor Southard said he had an issue with the letter being signed only by him. He believes it should have all the signatures of the Council. He also struggles with the overall point of the letter as this is a virus that is affecting the entire nation.

Councilmember Donna Cook asked if this letter could be legally done. City Attorney Kelly Stohs said yes. Cook finds the letter is too long and drawn out. Some of the things in the letter regarding housing don’t have anything to do with this and she said in her opinion the Governor won’t see this letter anyway. Councilmember Harris thinks the letter should be a unanimous vote to be sent. Councilmembers had discussion.

City Attorney Stohs said this is a political issue and therefore the Council might want to consider not adding a councilmember's name who is not in favor of the letter out of respect to that person. Councilmember Harris wants the letter to be unanimous vote.

Councilmember Smith thought the letter was well written and doesn't think it does any harm to send it. Councilmember Town asked if it was an option to use City letterhead or plain paper. Stohs said if you write your own letter then it would be plain, but if it came from Council it could be on letterhead. Councilmember Harris suggested changing the first sentence since Mayor Southard didn't write the letter. Councilmember McKiernan said having only the Mayor's signature is like all other action the council takes. He does not believe it is political and believes the letter has more clout if it came from Council.

Mayor Southard said everyone wants to be back to normal, but as a virus can't be controlled. Attorney Stohs said those that vote yes could sign.

Councilmember McKiernan made a motion to approve the change to the letter's intro as previously discussed, have it signed by the Mayor and be approved by the majority. Councilmember Smith seconded. Councilmembers had discussion. Motion carried 4-1 (Town voting no) to send the letter signed by the Mayor on behalf of the Council. Town in voting no said that with no disrespect to the other councilmembers he did not think the letter was necessary and therefore voted no.

At 6:55 p.m. Councilmember Kalee Smith moved, seconded by Councilmember Thorvald McKiernan and carried 5-0, to adjourn the meeting.

Approved:

Marty Southard, Mayor

Attest:

Traci Storey, City Clerk