



Hermosa Beach City Council Virtual

Town Hall Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 30, 2020

Virtual Town Hall Meeting 6:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

City Council

Mary Campbell, Mayor

Justin Massey, Mayor Pro Tem

Stacy Armato, Councilmember

Michael Detoy, Councilmember

Hany Fangary, Councilmember

City Council members of the City of Hermosa Beach met via a virtual town hall meeting held pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom March 17, 2020 on the above date.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS BY MAYOR PRO TEM JUSTIN MASSEY

Mayor Pro Tem started the meeting by thanking and welcoming everyone to the Hermosa Beach Virtual Town Hall to discuss the city's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Mayor Pro Tem Massey communicated that he would moderate the meeting and shared remarks pertaining to the meetings structure. He explained that questions have been submitted in advance and will be addressed by the panel. And a second round of questions will be taken live during the Town Hall meeting. He added that the panel will address eleven different topics based on the questions submitted to the city. Those topics are:

1. Beach Activity
2. Testing
3. Easing of public health orders
4. Business recovery and reopening
5. Financial assistance and relief
6. Open streets
7. Mental and physical health

8. Recreational facilities
9. Honoring essential workers
10. Face coverings
11. Future events

Mayor Pro Tem Massey then introduced the speakers for the meeting who provided opening remarks prior to taking questions:

- Hermosa Beach Mayor Mary Campbell
- City Manager Suja Lowenthal
- Chief of Police Paul LeBaron
- Dr. William Kim (Chief Medical Advisor to Beach Cities Health District)

(Complete audio and video is available upon request at the City Clerk's office or can be accessed by clicking the following link. [4-30-20 Town Hall Meeting.](#))

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Campbell began her opening remarks by thanking all front line and essential workers for their tireless efforts during this difficult time. She also thanked city staff and all community members for adhering to the health orders. She stressed the importance of continuing the efforts to follow public health guidelines in order to slow the spread and continue to save lives. She touched on the efforts of City Council and staff to assist during this time through the implementation of the eviction moratorium while the current situation stabilizes. The City has also taken multiple steps to assist local business by waiving certain fee's and residents by canceling street sweeping citations.

City Manager Suja Lowenthal thanked the Mayor and Council for their leadership. She also thanked staff, and residents for sticking together during these difficult times. She then shared the multiple collaborative efforts being conducted with local, County, and State officials to navigate this unique situation. She described the steps being taken in order to comply with local health orders by canceling city events and closing City Hall. Ms. Lowenthal then shared the expected budgetary impacts and shortfalls caused by the pandemic, and the actions being taken by both Council and staff to mitigate budgetary impacts.

Police Chief LeBaron began by thanking Council, staff, and the entire Hermosa community for the warm welcome. He also thanked the community for all the kind gestures from food donations, masks, and other needed items, but he was most thankful for the community complying with the public health orders. He shared how the communities concerted efforts decrease the dangers faced by the men and woman of the Hermosa Beach Police department. He then shared some highlights of the continued police work and successes even during this pandemic. He closed his comments by encouraging all residents to continue to stay vigilant of crime even during this crisis.

Dr. Kim began by giving an overview of the number of COVID-19 cases in some of the neighboring South Bay cities. He shared he various resources available to impacted community members and emphasized the need to monitor and maintain good mental health during this difficult time. Dr. Kim then shared the testing efforts and differences in test being conducted in response to COVID-19. He shared the importance of continuing to follow the health orders to slow the spread in order to chart a path to opening and returning to some sense of normalcy.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER TOPICS (QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE)

Mayor Pro Tem Massey began facilitating the question and answer portion of the meeting on questions that had been submitted in advance of the town hall. The questions submitted related to the eleven topics Mayor Pro Tem described in his opening remarks. The panel collaboratively and thoughtfully took turns answering questions and providing as much detail as possible.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER TOPICS (QUESTIONS SUBMITTED DURING TOWN HALL)

Mayor Pro Tem Massey then began reading the questions that had been submitted live during the town hall. Again, the panel worked collaboratively based on each unique question to provide thorough and concise answers to the submitted questions from community members and stakeholders.

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CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Pro Tem Massey thanked the panelist and community members for their participation in the town hall. He communicated that if a question was not addressed during the town hall, city staff would do their best to get a response to each person who submitted. He encouraged all residents to stay abreast of all the latest information being provided by local, County, State, and National officials.

Mayor Campbell shared a link for those looking to volunteer and give back to the community. She closed by thanking everyone who participated and helped organize the town hall. She also encouraged everyone to stay engaged, stay positive, and support your local businesses and community members.

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