

CITY OF WILLIAMS CITY COUNCIL

ANNOTATED MINUTES PAGE 1  
AGENDA ITEM

MARCH 19, 2020  
COUNCIL ACTION

EMERGENCY MEETING

**I. PROCEDURES**

**A. Call to Order 10:05 AM**

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order.

**B. Roll Call**

**Present: Mayor John W Moore, Vice Mayor Don Dent, Council member Mike Cowen, Council member Bernie Hiemenz, Council member Frank McNelly (arrived at 10:30), and Council member Lee Payne (arrived at 10:36).**

**Absent: Council member Dawn Trapp.**

Present from City Staff, City Manager Chase Waggoner, Chief Herman Nixon, Public Works Director Tim Pettit, and City Clerk/HR Director Pamela Galvan.

**II. Council will discuss the COVID-19 situation at hand, and how the City is going to proceed.**

*The County put out their closures for all unincorporated areas in the county.*

*The City Clerk is putting together an Emergency Declaration for the city.*

*The Mayor is looking to Council for a decision on whether or not the city should shut down.*

- It is noted that the Grand Canyon Railway will be closed until May 21, 2020, and reopen on May 22, 2020.*
- Several businesses have already closed.  
There was continued discussion of the businesses that have closed already.*

*Council is of the position that they do not feel or want to close down our local business.*

- Council member Cowen noted that he is not going to be a part of any decision with regards to the closing or not of local businesses, as he is an owner himself; Mayor Moore takes the same position.*

*Vice Mayor Dent suggested that perhaps we highly recommend that they close; we want to leave it up to the business owners to make that decision.*

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*Mayor Moore expressed concern that people are not taking this seriously.*

*There was talk of the COVID-19 virus and the general public's response.*

***Recesses at 10:24***

*It was decided to recess until the other Council members arrive.*

***Reconvened at 10:37***

*Mayor Moore reiterated the City of Williams will be signing a Declaration of Emergency this afternoon, and called the meeting to discuss the City's position in closures or not of local businesses.*

- *Railway will be closing March 20, 2020, for two months.*
- *They discussed if things get better in the next few weeks, can they change their decision; yes, was decided. They can review as it progresses.*
- *What is the CDC's recommendation; they covered the recommendations.*
- *Businesses should follow what others and the CDC recommend.*
- *They discussed businesses that are operating take-out only.*

***At 10:45 AM, Mayor and Council Member Cowen will recuse themselves from this part of the meeting as they are business owners and it presents a conflict of interest.***

***Vice Mayor Dent took over the meeting.***

*Council member McNelly agrees with Vice Mayor Dent in that the businesses should decide for themselves whether they are going to close or not. People are taking precautions and taking this seriously.*

*The consensus is that businesses should have the right to choose to stay open or close down. Telling them to close does not seem right.*

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*The Police Chief feels that the public is taking this seriously and being cautious, and agrees with Council is allowing the businesses to make the choice for themselves.*

*It is thought that at some point the powers that be may hand down a shutdown order to all, but for now, our businesses should make that decision for themselves.*

**Motion:** *To ask the businesses in Williams to voluntarily comply with the proclamation put out by Coconino County on March 18, 2020. We would ask businesses if they don't comply to use the recommended social distancing guidelines issued by the CDC, and to control their occupancy levels.*

**Action:** *Approved*

**Moved by:** *Vice Mayor Dent, Seconded by: Council member Hiemenz*

**Roll Call Vote:**

Vice Mayor Dent	Yes	Council member Hiemenz	Yes
Council member McNelly	Yes	Council member Payne	Yes

**Motion passed unanimously.**

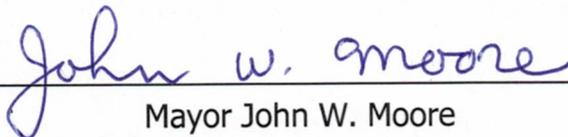
**At 11:02 the Mayor and Council member Cowen returned to the meeting.**

**Motion:** *The City is declaring an emergency by Proclamation on March 19, 2020.*

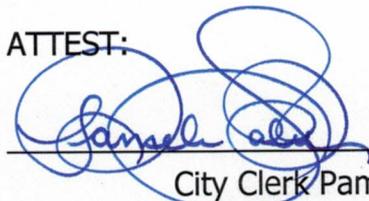
**Action:** *Approved*

**Moved by:** *Council member Payne, Seconded by: Council member McNelly*

**III. ADJOURN – 11:03 AM**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor John W. Moore

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk Pamela Galvan

