AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CTY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020 - 4:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1111 BAILEY AVENUE, NEEDLES

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS MAY BE ATTENDING THIS MEETING
TELEPHONICALLY BY CALLING THE FOLLOWING NUMBER:
1-866-576-7975
Participant access: 853544

THE PUBLIC MAY ALSO ATTEND BY CALLING THE ABOVE NUMBER AND
MAY SUBMIT ANY COMMENTS IN WRITING PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY
EMAILING djones@cityofneedles.com

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL

As a courtesy to those in attendance, we would ask that cell phones be turned off or set in their
silent mode. Thank you.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE - Persons wishing to address the City Council pertaining to item(s) on this agenda
are requested to do so at this time. When addressing the Council, please come to the podium and give
your name and address for the record. A three-minute time limit per person has been established.

1) Resolution No. 2020-14 Declaration of the Existence of a Local Emergency – COVID-19

ADJOURNMENT

INTERNET ACCESS TO CITY COUNCIL AGENDAS AND STAFF REPORT MATERIAL
IS AVAILABLE PRIOR TO CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AT
http://www.cityofneedles.com - THE PROCEEDINGS ARE BEING AUDIO TAPE.

Posted: March 24, 2020

SB 343-DOCUMENTS RELATED TO OPEN SESSION AGENDAS -- Any public record, relating to
an open session agenda item, that is distributed within 24 hours prior to the meeting is available for public
inspection at the City Clerk’s Office, 817 Third Street, Needles, CA 92363.

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in
this meeting, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at (760) 326-2113 ext 145. Notification 24 hours prior to
the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28
CFR 35.102-104 ADA Title II).

I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
Agenda was posted at the front entrance of City Hall not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting.
Dated this 24th day of March 2020.

Dale Jones, CMC, City Clerk

032520ccspag
City of Needles, California
Request for City Council Action

Meeting Date: March 25, 2020

Title: Declaring a Local Emergency due to the COVID-19 Virus.

Background: Due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus the President has issued a National Emergency Declaration. The Governor then issued an order closing all non-essential businesses and activity not related to critical and essential activities necessary to protect the public’s health and safety and ordering people to shelter in place to avoid unnecessary contacts which can spread the virus. Additionally, the County Board of Supervisors issued a Declaration limiting gathering of people and cancelling events.

There are two pieces of legislation with a third under consideration that will reimburse businesses for the economic costs of responding to the virus and providing compensation for individuals that were furloughed or lost their jobs as a result of the virus. The State, County, and local declarations will best qualify those businesses and individuals for compensation.

Lastly the City/NPUA has incurred additional costs to respond which can be reimbursed. The City/NPUA will also experience losses in sales and transient occupancy taxes, lost revenue from event closures such as the rodeo and boat show, and golf course and utility revenues as a result of business closures.

The City Attorney drafted declaration adds no new restrictions on private activity beyond those established by the State and County.

Fiscal Impact: This action will best qualify the City/NPUA and local residents and businesses for reimbursement from emergency funding for additional costs and losses.

Recommendation: Adopt the Emergency Declaration Resolution No. 2020-14

Prepared By: City Manager

City Management Review: _____________ Date: _____________

Approved:☐ Not Approved:☐ Tabled:☐ Other:☐

Agenda Item: /
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-14
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES
OF A DECLARATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
(COVID-19)

WHEREAS, the Needles City Charter Article V, Section 514 empowers the City Council to declare an emergency measure for preserving the public peace, health or safety; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Needles, does hereby find that:

1. Threatened existence of conditions of possible peril to the health and safety of persons in Needles are present as a result of the increasing spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) across the state; and

2. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed multiple cases of individuals who have severe respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus, called COVID-19, as well as deaths caused by this illness; and

3. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

4. On March 4, 2020 California Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the state prepare for broader spread of COVID-19; and

5. The increase of reported cases and deaths associated with COVID-19 has also prompted the County of San Bernardino on March 11, 2020 to proclaim a local and public health emergency; and

6. On March 17, 2020 the County of San Bernardino ordered the cancellation of all gatherings of any size; and

7. On March 19, 2020 the Governor of California issued an Executive Order ordering all residents to stay at home except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of federal critical infrastructure sectors; and

8. A proclamation of a local emergency will assist in a coordinated public health response to reduce transmission and illness severity, provide assistance to health care providers, coordinate and mitigate public services that may be disrupted from this emergency, and mitigate any other effects of this emergency on the citizens of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED, that a local emergency now exists throughout the City; and

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this City shall be those prescribed by state law, ordinances, and resolutions of the City of Needles; and
The local emergency shall remain in effect until such time that the Council determines that the emergency conditions have been abated; and

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that, without limiting the nature of the foregoing, the City Manager or his designee pursuant to this declaration and order, applicable state and federal laws and regulations as well as Article VI, Section 605 of the Needles Municipal Code, is empowered:

(A) To make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life, health, safety and property as affected by such emergency;

(B) To obtain vital supplies, services, equipment and property needed for the protection of life, health, safety and property, and to bind the City for the fair value thereof;

(C) To require emergency services of any City officer or employee and, to command the aid of as many citizens of this community as he deems necessary in the execution of his duties. Such persons shall be entitled to all privileges, benefits and immunities as are provided by state law for registered disaster service workers;

(D) To requisition necessary personnel or material to any City department or agency; and

(E) To execute all of his ordinary power as City Manager, all of the special powers conferred upon him by Article VI, Section 600 of the Needles City Charter or by resolution or emergency plan pursuant thereto adopted by the City Council, all powers conferred upon him by any statute, by any agreement approved by the City Council, and by any other lawful authority.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Needles, California, held on the 25th day of March 2020, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

______________________________  ______________________________
Mayor                                          City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

______________________________
John O. Pinkney, City Attorney
SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom today announced that President Donald Trump has approved California’s request, submitted earlier today, for a presidential Major Disaster Declaration to bolster California’s COVID-19 emergency response efforts.

“Earlier today we requested a presidential Major Disaster Declaration and this afternoon we got it,” said Governor Newsom. “The declaration will supplement our state’s comprehensive COVID-19 surge planning and make vital resources available. We appreciate the quick response and partnership from the White House.”

The Major Disaster Declaration includes any and all individual assistance programs to assist those affected by the outbreak and lessen the economic impacts of the crisis. It will provide additional assistance, including but not limited to, mass care and emergency assistance, crisis counseling, disaster case management, disaster unemployment assistance, disaster legal services and Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance.
The State of California and local governments have taken extraordinary steps to protect public health in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Last week, the Governor signed emergency legislation allocating $1.1 billion toward the state’s response, issued a Stay at Home order, deployed the National Guard to help support food banks, and signed an executive order to prepare the health care system for a possible surge in cases. Learn more about the state’s ongoing COVID-19 emergency response here.
EXECUTIVE ORDER N-33-20

WHEREAS on March 4, 2020, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS in a short period of time, COVID-19 has rapidly spread throughout California, necessitating updated and more stringent guidance from federal, state, and local public health officials; and

WHEREAS for the preservation of public health and safety throughout the entire State of California, I find it necessary for all Californians to heed the State public health directives from the Department of Public Health.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes of the State of California, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8627, and 8665 do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1) To preserve the public health and safety, and to ensure the healthcare delivery system is capable of serving all, and prioritizing those at the highest risk and vulnerability, all residents are directed to immediately heed the current State public health directives, which I ordered the Department of Public Health to develop for the current statewide status of COVID-19. Those directives are consistent with the March 19, 2020, Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response, found at: https://covid19.ca.gov/. Those directives follow:

ORDER OF THE STATE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER
March 19, 2020

To protect public health, I as State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health order all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors, as outlined at https://www.cisa.gov/critical-infrastructure-sectors. In addition, and in consultation with the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, I may designate additional sectors as critical in order to protect the health and well-being of all Californians.

Pursuant to the authority under the Health and Safety Code 120125, 120140, 131080, 120130(c), 120135, 120145, 120175 and 120150, this order is to go into effect immediately and shall stay in effect until further notice.

The federal government has identified 16 critical infrastructure sectors whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or
destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination thereof. I order that Californians working in these 16 critical infrastructure sectors may continue their work because of the importance of these sectors to Californians' health and well-being.

This Order is being issued to protect the public health of Californians. The California Department of Public Health looks to establish consistency across the state in order to ensure that we mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Our goal is simple, we want to bend the curve, and disrupt the spread of the virus.

The supply chain must continue, and Californians must have access to such necessities as food, prescriptions, and health care. When people need to leave their homes or places of residence, whether to obtain or perform the functions above, or to otherwise facilitate authorized necessary activities, they should at all times practice social distancing.

2) The healthcare delivery system shall prioritize services to serving those who are the sickest and shall prioritize resources, including personal protective equipment, for the providers providing direct care to them.

3) The Office of Emergency Services is directed to take necessary steps to ensure compliance with this Order.

4) This Order shall be enforceable pursuant to California law, including, but not limited to, Government Code section 8665.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 19th day of March 2020.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State
County orders cancellation of large gatherings

Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman has announced that, in an effort to protect the public from any possible spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, the County's Public Health Officer today has ordered the immediate cancellation or postponement of gatherings of more than 250 people within the county until further notice.

The order applies to, but is not limited to, concerts, conferences, and professional, college, and school sporting events, and is in line with guidance issued late Wednesday night by the California Department of Public Health.

"The County realizes that this order will result in inconveniences to many people and businesses. However, the County’s primary concern is the health and wellbeing of its residents and visitors," Hagman said.

Smaller gatherings should refer to guidance from the California Department of Public Health, which can be found here.

The County Public Health Officer's order does not apply to activities such as attendance at regular school classes, work, or essential services.

"Certain activities are essential to the functioning of our state and must continue," the order states. "Hence, this Order does not apply to essential public transportation, airport travel, or shopping at a store or mall. This Order also does not apply to congregate living situations, including dormitories and homeless encampments."

Although there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the county, numerous cases have been confirmed in neighboring counties. Large gatherings that attract travelers and other people who don't routinely congregate with each other increase the risk of COVID-19 appearing within San Bernardino County.

As should always be the case, people experiencing symptoms of contagious illness should seek medical guidance, not attend work or school, and avoid contact with other people.

On Tuesday, the County Public Health Officer and the Board of Supervisors declared a local health emergency to help ensure county government and the public are prepared for the possibility that COVID-19 will appear within the county.

Various appropriate County departments and agencies have been working together since Jan. 25 to prepare for the possible arrival of the virus within the county. That is when the County was notified an aircraft carrying U.S. citizens evacuated from the region in China where the virus had originated might be arriving at Ontario International Airport. The flight was eventually diverted to Riverside County. The County Department of Public Health activated its Department Operations Center on Feb. 13.
County Public Health continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health to respond to reports of COVID-19. Although Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency to help the state prepare for broader spread of COVID-19, the health risk from COVID-19 to the general public in San Bernardino County remains low at this time.

As with any virus, especially during the cold and flu season, there are a number of steps you can take to protect your health and those around you:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning spray or wipes.
- If someone does become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough, they should stay away from work, school or other people to avoid spreading illness and seek assistance from their healthcare provider if symptoms become severe.
- N95 masks are not recommended outside a healthcare setting. Surgical masks can be worn by sick individuals to reduce the likelihood of spreading germs to others.

For more information on COVID-19, please call (800) 722-4794 or visit the County Public Health COVID-19 webpage at wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/coronavirus. Information is updated as soon as it is made available.

Event organizers seeking guidance from the Public Health Officer specific to their planned events should send their inquiries to coronavirus@dph.sbcounty.gov.