

SPECIAL MEETING:

The La Cygne City Council met on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at the La Cygne City Hall. Council Members present were: Danny Curtis; Thomas Capp; Jerome Mitzner; and Keith Stoker. Absent: James Thies.

Others in attendance included, but not limited to: City Clerk Jodi Wade; City Attorney Burton Harding; Linn County Newspaper Tony Furse; Robert Sullivan; Ron and Judy Wier; Keith Smith; Robert Burns; David and Denise Jarrett.

MAYOR DEBRA WILSON CALLED THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:00 p.m.

The Purpose the Special Meeting was called for:

❖ **RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF FINANCIAL EMERGENCY**

City Clerk Wade reviewed information received from the Kansas League of Municipalities. CC Wade indicated Governor Kelly did issue a declaration on February 14 for a state of emergency due to extreme cold temperatures and wind chills causing a strain on the supply of natural gas. The Linn County Commissioners issued a declaration on February 15 for a state of emergency for our county due to extreme temperatures causing strain on a supply of natural gas. The situation of strain on the gas supply lead to an historic spike in pricing from suppliers. Not knowing if FEMA would consider assisting with a financial crisis, the League of Municipalities has advised the cities involved in this situation to pass a resolution declaring a local state of financial emergency.

Mayor Wilson and the Council members inquired if signing this resolution obligated the city to any particular procedures for paying their invoice for natural gas or for billing the customers of the City. CC Wade indicated this declaration just serves as "notification" to the County and to the Governor that our City is going to have exposure to this financial crisis stemming from the spiked pricing. At this time, the legislative body is reviewing statutes and bills are being drafted for consideration for how cities can manage through this financial situation.

Mayor Wilson indicated at this time we do not know the exact amount of exposure for our City until we receive the invoice from KMG. We can only work the MMBtu usage from Panhandle Eastern Transport and the daily index price for the month of February to calculate the amount the invoice for the City could end up being. The City is also reviewing their budget and their reserves in preparation.

Mayor Wilson asked if FEMA were to approve funding assistance has there been any indication of how that would be dispersed to the city or to businesses within our City. Mayor Wilson indicated the City of La Cygne reached out to the high-level users asking them to shut-down during the period of crises in order to insure there was enough gas supply for everyone in the community. An order requesting gas use to be for health and wellness only was distributed to all businesses in our community. Asking the businesses to close during the period of February 15 – 19, 2021 affected production and sales for those companies. CC Wade, again, stated "we, as a region and nation, have not experienced spikes in pricing like what occurred from February 11-20, 2021. Discussions on all levels of government are being held regarding this crisis. Investigations are being considered to come forth from FERC to

determine justification for the increase in pricing.” Mayor Wilson reviewed the importance for the city and for businesses to document any additional costs endured from being shut down.

CC Wade indicated it is not normal practice for a City to pass a resolution declaring a state of emergency, typically this is done by the County in most emergency events. In this particular situation it isn't necessarily every city in a County being impacted therefore as a City we need to notify our County and the Governor that we have been impacted. Having this signed resolution declaring the state of financial emergency will make it clear on all levels that we did suffer exposure.

❖ **Motion**

Council Member Mitzner motioned to approve Resolution No. 428 declaring a local state of financial emergency effective February 23, 2021 for the City of La Cygne. Motion seconded by Council Member Capp, voted on, passed 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

❖ **Motion**

Council Member Mitzner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Council Member Capp, voted on, passed 4-0. Time 5:35 pm.

I, _____ La Cygne City Clerk, do hereby declare
(Jodi Wade) the above to be true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, and do hereby subscribe my name on this 23rd of February 2021.