

Work Session
November 22, 2021
@ 5:00 PM

Present-Mayor Weatherwax

Brent White
Denise Lovett
Joyce Jeffreys
Jason White
Cassandra Lee

Meeting was called to order by the Mayor Weatherwax.

Cassandra Lee Council Member had ask that all supervisors be present at this work session to speak as to how COVID had effected their departments. The information that follows is just some of the statements given and none are in their entirety:

City Clerk – Deroma Pepper was the first to speak and gave an over all approach to the discussion as the City Hall deals with each department. In summation statements were given to things each department dealt with as far as personnel, personal contact with citizens, everyday functions of the City that continued because the City provides services to the citizens. Although some things changed in the procedures in which business was handled – no business went undone because the employees showed up and did the jobs they were expected to do. We had 40 employees that were off work due to COVID – some were because of their selves being sick, a family member or close contact with a positive case person. There were procedures today that we are following because COVID has not went away.

Park and Recreation Director Deangelo McDaniel spoke on how the safety of the children and families were the top priority for his department. Sanitizing was a major job done in all areas of his department because of the public access. Bathrooms at all parks were sanitized every hour and playground equipment also had a scheduled time for regular sanitizing. Accommodations were made in order to keep the ballfields open, the recreation center had restrictions that were enforced in order for things to be allowed to be held within it. Thanks to the employee’s dedication unlike some other park and recreation areas most things continued under strict rules.

Police Chief Craig Knight spoke on the department having to limit arrest, wearing protective coverings when they could but in some situations, it was not possible when a job had to be done – sometimes body fluids had to be dealt with and no time for protection.

Fire Chief Brian Phillips spoke to how some in his department had contracted COVID and was pretty sure it was from contact with individuals on scenes that they had to provide services to. Others in his department were off due to exposure to family members etc. Like the Police Department they were exposed sometimes not knowing for sure if the individuals were positive or not. The Fire Department didn't allow the public in to the station due to the firemen being there to cut down exposure and they sanitized regularly and if someone was positive extra measures were taken.

Water Superintendent Jay Johnson stated that the biggest effect it had on his department was when he had 2 employees off at the same time who were positive and another employee that had been tested but was negative – this put a burden on himself and other employees trying to keep everything going but the outside departments pulled together and got things done. Other ways that they were affected was although they weren't suppose to be in a certain distance of each other to prevent possibly passing the virus – it is and was impossible in some instances not to be in close contact with the work that they have to do, along with having to be in direct contact with customers.

Water Plant Chief Operator Stanley Nichols said that at the Water Treatment Plant extra attention was paid to sanitizing before and after each shift change because of the limited number of employees and the ADEM requirements for the operation of the plant. The effects of COVID and the required isolation if positive or in contact with a positive person was a really big concern because if one of their water operators fit in this category and didn't follow procedure it potentially could put all of the workers at risk and in turn could have put the City of Moulton Water Plant in a crisis. The employees understood the limitations and abided by them which prevented problems.

Sewer Superintendent Mark Heflin said that with his staff they stayed away from each other with him working the field and the other 2 employees would rotate working in the lab with extra caution taken in sanitizing between workers. Of course, the sewer is a collaboration of everything and everyone so any exposure to any of it is always a risk and with COVID this was no different.

Gas Superintendent Caleb Harville reiterated what others had said that in his department they had some that were positive or exposed to COVID but also followed protocol set by the administrators as to disinfecting and social distancing whenever possible. But like the other workers this was not always possible. His department also has to interact with the citizens when dealing with the gas either in the field or in the office preparing for services to be installed.

Foreman Jeff Brewington said he had some guys out during the outbreak but most were due to contact with a positive person. Thankfully the garbage trucks that are used prevents the direct contact with the garbage in most cases. When an employee was off due to COVID extra

measures were taken to prevent the other employees that had to share the duties and equipment used by that person.

Don Mitchell spoke on behalf of the City Cemetery and told Council and those present about the issues that few had thought of that were not involved as to the actual funerals of the COVID victims and families---in our area there were several families that the cemetery workers were ask to help by being pallbearers because families/friends were not or did not attend funerals during these times. When a person died we were not aware of the reason in most cases for the death and the family could have been positive with COVID or been in the presence of that person before their death if they had COVID.

Pro-Shop Manager Mike Brown spoke on behalf of the Golf Course: He said the biggest problem they had was customers not adhering to the rules of wearing mask. They posted requirements of mask wearing while in pro-shop but still had people refuse to wear them. With the customers refusal to wear mask put everyone at a greater risk and also, they would not adhere to limiting the number of people in the shop at one time no matter what you told them. One of his employees has had cancer and during this time was very fearful of the possibility to be exposed to the COVID but still came to work except when she was off due to her child's exposure at school. Mr. Brown installed plexiglass at the register to cut down on the exposure and advised employees to use sanitizing agents often.

Next on the agenda was Ms. Cassandra Lee, she ask that the Council look into the deadlines that are set and adhering to those deadlines for meetings, agenda placement deadlines, when agendas should be ready for Council, when minutes should be ready for Council and other items that have not been followed by City Clerk Deroma Pepper. She ask that Ms. Pepper adhere to rules in preparing Council for upcoming meetings with a timely agenda and materials along with time to review minutes of previous meetings but also that those wanting on agenda etc be required to also adhere to rules in order to assist Ms. Pepper in these matters. Ms. Lee ask that the Council require that the meetings be recorded and that if they didn't agree with this request she would be recording the meetings herself.

Roger Weatherwax, Mayor

Deroma Pepper, City Clerk

Brent White, Council Member

Jason White, Council Member

Joyce Jeffreys, Council Member

Cassandra Lee, Council Member

Denise Lovett, Council Member