

Work Session Update on COVID-19 Response

March 16, 2021



Background

- Staff provided updates on the City's response to COVID-19 during 22 prior work sessions
 - March 17, March 20, March 31, April 6, April 21, April 30, May 5, May 12, May 19, May 29, June 9, June 16, June 23, June 26, June 30, July 21, August 4, August 18, August 25, Sept. 15, Oct. 13, and Dec. 1, 2020, and Jan. 26 and March 2, 2021
 - Local Disaster Declaration and Order for Public Health Emergency in effect through March 31, 2021
- **Objectives for this Work Session Item:**
 1. Provide a brief overview of Governor Abbott's GA-34 Executive Order (*slides 3-5*)
 2. Provide a recommendation and discuss potential Extension of Local COVID Disaster Declaration and Order (*slides 6-8*)
 3. Provide a brief overview for Continued Health and Safety Precautions in City Facilities (*slide 9*)
 4. Discuss and get direction regarding Special Event Review and Approval (*slide 10*)
 5. Provide Anticipated Next Steps (*slide 11*)



Overview of GA-34 Executive Order

- GA-34 issued March 2, effective on Wednesday, March 10
 - If a Trauma Service Area (TSA) does not have high hospitalizations as defined in the order:
 - Businesses can reopen at 100% capacity
 - No state-wide mask mandate; however, businesses or other establishments may still limit capacity or implement additional safety protocols, including the wearing of a face covering, at their own discretion
 - If a Trauma Service Area (TSA) region has high hospitalizations as defined in the order, a County Judge in that region may use COVID-19 related mitigation strategies
 - However, County Judges may not impose jail time for not following COVID-19 orders nor may any penalties be imposed for failing to wear a face covering
 - If restrictions are imposed at a County level, those restrictions may not include reducing capacity to less than 50% for any type of entity
 - GA-34 supersedes any conflicting order issued by local officials



Overview of GA-34 Executive Order

- GA-34 rescinded most of the Governor's earlier executive orders related to COVID-19
 - Including the requirement for a county judge or mayor to approve an outdoor gathering of over 10 or more individuals
- State's suspension of TOMA allowing for virtual public meetings was done outside of an executive order, still is in place for now, and is anticipated to continue for the foreseeable future



Continued Guidance and Resources

- Resources to find latest health and safety recommendations for individuals and businesses:
 - Federal CDC: cdc.gov/coronavirus
 - State DSHS: dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus
 - County DCPH: DentonCounty.gov/COVID19
 - City: cityofdenton.com/coronavirus
- City staff created 3 versions of a sign that businesses or establishments may use if they choose to require face coverings in their individual businesses or establishments
 - Found on City COVID-19 Business Resources page (www.cityofdenton.com/en-us/government/health-safety/covid-19-information/business-resources)



ID#21-514, March 16, 2021

Things to Know about the COVID-19 Pandemic

Updated Mar. 8, 2021 Languages Print

From CDC

Important Ways to Slow the Spread

- Get a [COVID-19 vaccine](#).
- Wear [a mask that covers your nose and mouth](#) to help protect yourself and others.
- [Stay 6 feet apart from others](#) who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- [Wash your hands often](#) with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

You Must Wear A Mask To Enter

We're requiring masks while in our store. Thank you for wearing yours.



#DentonStrong

Extension of Local Disaster Declaration and Order

- Statewide orders from Governor Abbott are in effect
 - **Local orders cannot supersede or conflict** with state orders
- Current Local Disaster Declaration and Order in effect for the City of Denton through March 31, 2021:
 - 1. Disaster Declaration** establishes a state of disaster, which is the basis for orders of Council, and is a prerequisite for state and federal disaster funding
 - 2. The Order of Council** provides authority and enables certain measures to be taken for the City to respond to COVID-19
- Staff recommends to extend the Local Declaration and Order as drafted and presented in the back-up through June 30, 2021
 - To continue to be eligible to receive outside funding sources and provide flexibility to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic



Summary of Drafted Order for Council Consideration

- Staff drafted a Twelfth Order for Council consideration with the following provisions (slides 7 & 8) and attached the draft copy in the back-up for Individual Consideration
- **Continued Provisions:**
 - Authority for City Manager to adopt procedures and directives to protect employees & public
 - Authority and flexibility for emergency response measures as allowed pursuant to Section 9-22
 - No penalties for non-payment of utilities
- **Removed and Replaced:**
 - Local requirement for Businesses to have a Health & Safety Policy that incorporates the face covering and social distancing requirements of GA-29 (***superseded by GA-34***)
 - *Replaced with:* Strong encouragement for businesses and establishments to continue to follow and implement health and safety precautions and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as they may be amended or updated



COVID-19 Emergency Expense Summary



\$2,754,631

Spent



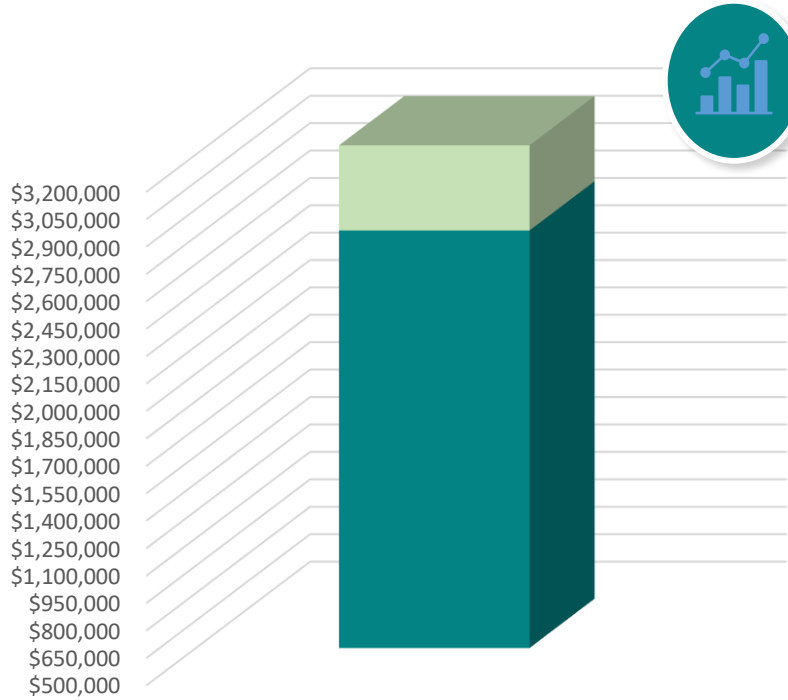
\$29,317

Encumbered



\$2,783,948

Spent & Encumbered



\$2,783,948 of \$3,250,000 Allocation
Spent or Encumbered

* Including United Way Assistance and
Interfaith Ministries Funding



Major Expenses/Contracts

Medical, Protective Services	\$ 112,278
Disinfection	\$ 139,398
Homelessness Care	\$ 455,509
United Way	\$ 116,025
Utility Assistance Program	\$ 100,000
Facility Improvements	\$ 1,555,000
Other Materials/Supplies & P-Card Transactions	\$ 276,421

*Includes no-touch thermometers

**Includes hotel rooms for quarantine

***Includes public outreach and facility closure materials



CITY OF DENTON

Continued COVID Precautions in City Facilities

- Employees will continue to telecommute where feasible. Health screenings still required for employees who report on-site
- Facilities will remain partially open with some facilities being open by appointment only and some areas of open facilities being partially inaccessible
- Personal Protective Equipment/Face Coverings
 - PPE, including face coverings, will continue to be required for City employees, contractors, volunteers, and program participants (if required by the program)
 - Face coverings will be required of the public when entering a City facility. Children under 10 years of age and those whose health would be negatively impacted by a face covering are exempted
 - Employees have been issued guidelines regarding how to communicate this requirement



Direction on Special Events

- [*staff is working on this section and information*]



Anticipated Next Steps

- Staff is anticipating additional work sessions in the next couple months for Council to discuss and provide direction on the following COVID-related topics
- **April 2021: Potential Federal Assistance**
 - Current version of federal bill HR 1319, *American Rescue Plan*, contains local government fiscal assistance
 - If signed by the President, staff will analyze final legislation and await further guidance from federal government
 - A work session may be scheduled with Council to discuss options and plan for any assistance received
- **Early May 2021: COVID Update and Discussion**
 - Situational Update on COVID
 - Discussion of Potential Next Phase of City Facilities Reopening
 - Discussion of Potential Options for Public Meetings (Council, Board, Commission, & Committees) and Phased Return



Questions?

