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**TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Location: Council Chambers, City Hall
337 E. Bennett Avenue, Cripple Creek, Colorado 80813**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Ashworth called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM having previously been posted in accordance with Colorado Open Records Law.
2. **ROLL CALL** – City Clerk Sciacca called the roll. Present were Mayor Milford Ashworth, Mayor Pro Tem Tom Litherland, and Councilmembers Meghan Rozell (online), Charles Solomone and Melissa Trenary. Staff present were City Clerk Janell Sciacca, City Attorney Erin Smith (by phone), Finance Director/Interim City Administrator Paul Harris, and Public Works Director Steve DiCamillo.
3. **FINANCE DIRECTOR / CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE** - Harris announced Staff wanted to have a brief discussion on moving forward with the Bennett Avenue water line project beginning April 1. He noted the current COVID-19 related risks. It is a \$1.1 million project with \$500,000 to be coming from DOLA and the City hoped DOLA would honor that award. The City has to cash flow the project but he felt it was possible. Public Works Director DiCamillo expressed the important of the project stating it was only a matter of time and breaks were going to happen. With the casinos such down it would be less impact on them to do the project now. He spoke with DOLA who confirmed the money is there. DOLA also said the City could file for an extension but then there would be no guarantee the money would still be available. An application has been submitted to CDOT for additional monies but the City will not hear on that for some time yet. DiCamillo reported these types of projects are not being shut down under current public health orders The contractor Native Sun is ready to go and he recommended moving forward. City Attorney Smith stated she was comfortable moving forward as well and the contract was a strong, good contract with protections for the City if the contractor were to default. The City will monitor things closely and she agreed the exemption made in Denver for infrastructure related projects during the Stay At Home Order should similarly apply in this case if the Governor orders the same for the entire state. She endorsed DiCamillo's recommendation. Following additional discussion on financial implications should the casinos remain closed in May and June or longer, Harris stated he would be reviewing the budget for available reductions. The City Council generally agreed they were comfortable with Harris being able to find a way to make everything work and agreed to move forward with the Bennett Avenue water line replacement and put the Department's Chip Seal project on hold. Harris provided an update on the Corona virus stating there were three (3) new confirmed cases in Teller County and unfortunately one of the victims passed away. He stated he was scheduled to attend an ICS emergency team update online later in the afternoon.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. First Reading of Ordinance 2020-02 amending Article 5 of the Cripple Creek Municipal Code regarding device fees to allow for the waiver of device fees for the month of April, 2020; Paul Harris, Finance Director/ Interim City Administrator. (*The reason for the proposed waiver is the industry wide closure - per an order of the Governor of the State of Colorado. If approved, it is estimated that the City of Cripple Creek would incur a loss of revenue in the amount of \$303,225, in waived device fees, for the month of April 2020.*) Harris noted the casino owner representation at the meeting. The City felt it important to look at the 2nd Quarter device fees for April due to the current closure imposed through April 30. Based on all the information Staff was recommending the Emergency Ordinance change be made to waive the April device fees in the amount of \$303,225. He stated there will be additional revenue losses in a number of other areas and while there has been inquiry about waiving additional month's fees as well, Staff recommended taking it a step at a time. Baxter Lee, GM of Bronco Billy's Casino, stated the casino operators were facing many uncertainties and know it won't be business as usual when they reopen so they appreciated the City considering the waiver. He asked the Council to bear in mind they were having multiple meetings every day discussing strategies moving forward and they collectively employ 1,000 families and just like the City they too are concerned about cash flow. Matt Andrighetti, Interim GM for Wildwood Casino, echoed Lee's comments and felt everyone had done a great job so far taking care of their employees. Councilwoman Rozell stated she saw that Blackhawk waived over \$700,000 fees for the casinos, or 2.3% of their budget, and comparatively Cripple Creek would be giving back 2.5%. Overall, the Council felt it was best to look at waivers on a month-by-month basis and to help the casinos out so they could help out their employees. **MOTION** by Councilwoman Trenary and seconded by Councilwoman Rozell to approve Emergency Ordinance 2020-02 amending Article 5 of the Cripple Creek Municipal Code regarding device fees to allow for the waiver of device fees for the month of April, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **ADJOURNMENT** There being no further business before the Cripple Creek City Council, Mayor Ashworth adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.

APPROVED:


Milford Ashworth, Mayor

ATTEST:


Janell Sciacca, City Clerk