



MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020, 6:00 PM

Special Telephonic Meeting of the Common Council

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A. ROLL CALL.

Present: Barbara Dorff, Bill Galvin, Brian Johnson, Veronica Corpus-Dax, Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Chris Wery, Randy Scannell, Andy Nicholson, Mark Steuer, Jesse Brunette,
Excused: Kathy Lefebvre

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

C. INVOCATION.

Mayor Eric Genrich led the invocation.

D. REPORT BY THE MAYOR.

E. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by Ald. Chris Wery, seconded by Ald. Mark Steuer to approve. Motion carried.

F. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. Informational report by Chief David Litton on Emergency Operations.

Chief David Litton spoke on the emergency operations.

2. Discussion of the emergency preparedness plan for COVID-19.

3. Discussion on approval of emergency paid sick leave.

Items 2 and 3 were taken together.

Moved by Ald. Barbara Dorff, seconded by Ald. Craig Stevens to approve as amended.

Attorney Vanessa Chavez listed the amendments as:

A modification to reflect today's date, and the update to the confirmed cases, and the counties. That is up to 72 from the 33 that we had on Sunday, March 15.

A new whereas statement stating that, or modified whereas statement saying that, because of the emergency conditions, Mayor Genrich declared a local state of emergency for the city on March 16th until the council was able to meet.

A new, whereas statements saying that on March 17th, the council met to consider this matter, a new whereas statement saying that the city recognizes the large scale medical events can affect the health, and wellbeing of city employees, and a result in employees needed to stay home.

And then for the substance there is a new number six providing for paid sick leave as you all just discussed,

A ratified proclamation by the common council, and amending the action is identified hearing.

Ald. Jesse Brunette requested an additional amendment stating: WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States, Donald Trump, declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency; and
WHEREAS, the White House Coronavirus Task Force issued the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America on March 16, 2020; and"

A voice vote was taken on Items 2 and 3 and motion carried.

4. Discussion with possible action on the "Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency for the City of Green Bay COVID-19 Response."

Moved by Ald. Brian Johnson, seconded by Ald. Chris Wery to amend Item 4 to to strike elected officials on point 2 page 3.

A vote was taken on the motion. Motion failed.

Yes- Brian Johnson, Chris Wery, Jesse Brunette, John VanderLeest, No- Andy Nicholson, Barbara Dorff, Bill Galvin, Craig Stevens, Mark Steuer, Randy Scannell, Veronica Corpus-Dax

Moved by Ald. Randy Scannell, seconded by Ald. Barbara Dorff to adopt Item 4. Motion carried.

Yes-Barbara Dorff, Bill Galvin, Brian Johnson, Craig Stevens, Jesse Brunette, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Randy Scannell, Veronica Corpus-Dax No-Chris Wery No Reponse-Andy Nicholson

G. REFERRAL OF PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS.

Moved by Ald. Jesse Brunette, seconded by Ald. Chris Wery to refer the petitions and communications to the appropriate Committee and or Commission. Motion carried.

A request by Ald. Brian Johnson to the Redevelopment Authority for consideration and possible action on the creation of an emergency relief fund to provide loans to assist small business owners with the impacts of coronavirus.

A request by Ald. Brian Johnson to the Committee of the Whole to consider establishing set hours exclusive for our vulnerable populations to access grocery stores outside of general public hours.

A request by Ald. Brian Johnson to the Personnel Committee to draft a resolution requesting the state to suspend roles on utilization of the UI fund to allow employers, and or governments to access the fund in tandem with matching subsidy payments to fully compensate employees affected by Coronavirus who are temporarily, and, or partially displaced.

H. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved by Ald. Chris Wery, seconded by Ald. Mark Steuer to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Kris A. Teske

Green Bay City Clerk

These minutes in their entirety, are available in the City Clerk's Office and on the City website at greenbaywi.gov

VERBATIM MINUTES

- Call to order the meeting, the Green Bay Common Council for the meeting on Tuesday, March 17th, 2020, clerk?

- [Clerk] Present, your honor.

- Thank you clerk. Please rise for The Pledge of Allegiance, and remain standing for an invocation.

- [All] I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty, and justice for all.

- So I do want to take a moment to pray for this council and this community, for this state, and nation. In the days ahead, we will be tested in many ways many of us might not have ever imagined. I ask for wisdom, and strength, and peace for all of us gathered here today, and for all members of the Green Bay community. Finally, I want to ask us all to think about people on the front lines of this pandemic, the emergency responders, public safety officers, medical professionals, and all providers of essential services. We owe them everything today, and we will owe them even more tomorrow. Thank you. Under the report by the mayor, so Director Faulds, Chief Litton, and Attorney Chavez will provide in depth explanations of issues we're handling tonight, but I wanted to provide you in the community with an update on the actions I've taken, or decisions I've supported

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in recent days. Last week I announced my decision to cease any involvement in public events, or travel, and urge my fellow citizens to take similar actions in light of the impending threat to our community. This past weekend, the Emergency Operations Center was opened in concert with the County. It was opened at a level four where it remains for the time being. Chief Litton will provide more details on that situation. I consulted with Director Kewoods on Sunday night, and supported her fully in her decision with Transit Commissioner Consultation to suspend general transit services. At Chief Litton's urging, and with Attorney Chavez's assistance, I declared a state of emergency in the city of Green Bay on Monday. Also yesterday, I participated in a community update with our local health system leaders, County Executive Strechanbach, and Superintendent Michelle Langenfeld. We are all united in the steps we believe must be taken to protect our community, including limits on meeting size, and strict social distancing protocols. Today, operating with the authority of the state of emergency, I closed City Hall for public business until further notice. I've also been advocating publicly, and privately for dramatic changes in the way in which our election will be administered in April. As it stands, I don't believe we'll be able to staff it appropriately, and I worry about the impact this could have on our democracy. I'm exploring any, and all options to remedy that situation. So this gives you a sense for the work I've been engaged in the past few days. As you can tell, I take the COVID-19 threat very seriously, and I'm urging you all to do the same. If you're skeptical, don't listen to me. Listen to the national, state, and public, local public health experts. This threat is incredibly real, and the time to act is yesterday. Finally I recognized, and deeply regret the negative social, and economic consequences of the public safety recommendations we are following, which is why I have called on state, and federal officials to act immediately to provide essential support to the individuals, nonprofits, and businesses who are so severely impacted. I've also called in our community members to support one another during this time of need. As always, I think you alders for your service, and I think the community for the difficult work that's been done, and for the difficult work that lies ahead, and that concludes my report. We are on to the approval of the agenda. Motion of alder from the eighth, seconded from alder from the 10th to approve the agenda. All in favor please, signify by saying aye.

- [All] Aye.

- Opposed, nay. The agenda has been approved. Onto the committee of the whole. We'll begin with an informational report by Chief David Litton on emergency operations.

- Good evening mayor, and members of the council. I think we provided you the written statement that I'm gonna read from today, and then I'll be happy to answer, fill in the color, and answer any questions at the end. So as you will recall, Alder Person Dorff submitted a communication at the end of the council meeting on March 3rd regarding the city's pandemic plan. As a result of this communication, staff immediately started to research information regarding the Coronavirus, otherwise known as the COVID-19 virus. Under Wisconsin statutes, chapters 250 to 255, the health departments have jurisdiction over these matters. As the city does not have its own health department, we fall under the jurisdiction of the Brown County Health Department, and their published pandemic plan. City staff has over the last two weeks been working with our partners in the healthcare industry on a local, regional, and statewide basis. We have been in constant contact with the four hospitals, the Brown County Health Department, the Health Care Emergency Readiness Coalition, and the Department of Health Services, the State Department of Health Services. The city activated our Emergency Operations Center to level four on Saturday, March 14, and we have been monitoring activities around the state on the web EOC, a software platform. On the same date, we made our initial requests for additional protective personal equipment for our first responders including fire, emergency medical, and police

services. The PPE is in short supply, and at some point in the near future we will run out of these supplies. Additionally, all city departments have met regularly to coordinate policy, and redundancy plans for critical city services. It is important to know that the COVID-19 virus originated in animals, and because of this it is known as a novel, or new virus. As such, scientists, and researchers do not have the same type of data and research...

- [Man] Sorry, people couldn't hear out there.

- As such, scientists, and researchers do not have the same type of data, and research as the common strains of flu. The implications are that all of the science is emerging in real time, and subject to change on an hourly basis. The real impact is that we don't have a known preventative vaccination, because of these facts, one known preventative measure is to practice social distancing, and the recommended distance at this point is six feet. The experts also say that the virus is primarily airborne, and spread through coughing, or spitting. The unfortunate part is that the virus is known to have an incubation period of 14 days. Why is that important? It is important because any person who is exposed may not know that they had the virus for up to 14 days before they exhibit symptoms, and the symptoms are 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit temperature, excessive coughing, and shortness of breath. Those are all some of the same symptoms that you have in the common flu. During this time, the infected person continues to potentially infect everyone else that they come into contact with. This is called community spread. Some of us in this meeting could have the virus right now, and not know it. This is the very reason to limit business, social, and government meetings in order to help stop the unknown spread. In fact today the governor has ordered that all restaurants, and bars close except for carry out orders, and gatherings which were initially restricted to no more than 50, which is today, as I said on the hourly basis, has been reduced to 10. It's important for the alders to know that the regions ambulance services have institute a no transport policy on of noncritical potential COVID-19 patients. What this means is that at the discretion of the paramedics, patients who are not in a life threatening condition, though they may have the symptoms of the COVID virus will not be transported to the emergency room. This has been mandated, and directed by our doctors in charge of the paramedics, and the respect of hospital systems. This is being done, because short of a patient needing a ventilator, there is nothing that the hospital can do for the patient. The hospitals today are at around 97% capacity here in Green Bay, and this is without the surge of patients that we know is going to come into contact with the virus. This is being experienced in other parts of the country right now. In these cases, paramedics will give a written set of directions to the patients to follow, and this information has been translated into various languages of our constituents. On the matter of testing, the hospitals have a limited amount of tests that they can administer. Their ability however is increasing by the day. Each hospital is developing the kind of drive through testing that many of you may have seen on the news, and other areas of the country. The current guidance is that the test must be ordered by the patient's doctor. Once the order is issued, the patient is given instructions on where to go for the test. These procedures are not being published at this time in order to protect the integrity of the testing sites. Once the test is complete, it takes 24 to 48 hours to get these results. In regards to the emergency declaration by the city, I asked Mayor Eric Genrich to make the proclamation in order to activate the provisions contained in chapter 323 of the state statutes, in order to support the health departments in a timely IE, rapid manner because of the ever-changing state of the virus spread. In closing, all of you have been sent a link to your city email account that will allow you access to the current city emergency operations plans, which includes emergency contact information for the department heads. I ask that the contact information not be shared with anyone outside of the council. I would suggest that you become familiar with the documents as they will be our guiding procedures in this health disaster in the coming days.

- Thank you Chief. Any questions for the Chief? Any questions on the line? Okay, so we'll move on to alder from the 8th.

- Mr. mayor, and if it's the wrong place, let me know, it might be under the next one. I was just wondering about, and this might fall under County too, but I'm getting asked a lot about this as far as if we do run out of hospital room, you know, what's the next step? Is that part of the plan, or is that something that Chief could address?

- Again, you know, we've been having those discussions with the local hospitals, and of course the County health department, again, they had jurisdiction here, but the plan will be going forward. You know, patients that are in the hospital right now with lower acuity, IE, people that aren't that serious, like maybe you'll be in there with gallstones, or kidney stones, or something of that nature, which can be managed at home with pain care. Those patients I think will be released earlier than normal in any case that is possible. All of the elective surgeries are being canceled as we speak. All of those minor procedures have been canceled, and so they are making room as we speak in the hospitals for the coming surge, and I know that they have, you know, some, you know, contingency plans. I won't go into, I mean every system is a little bit different, but they are planning to take on as much as humanly possible given staff, and physical location. So right up to the point of potentially having patients in the hallways.

- Thanks Chief. Do we, and again, you know, in conjunction with the County of course, because they have the health department. Do we have any recovery areas, you know, once you kinda get over the hump, but you're still within that being infectious, you don't need to be in a hospital perhaps, is that part of the plan?

- Well, part of the guidance from the CDC, and from the local health care partners would be to go home, and isolate yourself in your residence. So you know, if you know that you've got these symptoms would be to pick a room in your house where you're gonna go to, and you're gonna stay there on your own. Where family members can bring you food, and you know sustenance, and things to get by on, but literally to limit your contact, even with family members at that point. So again with the 14 day you know, period where you may not know that you have these things. You know, we could be exposing, you know, each other all day, every day right now, but once you do have it the great majority of cases, I don't want to sound like the sky's falling, but the great majority of cases people are going to recover from this, and be fine. It's people that are over age 50, and are also finding now a little bit more older, over age 60, but with underlying conditions of, you know, heart problems, with respiratory problems, if you've got diabetes, or if you've been exposed, if you have cancer, or a history of pneumonia. Those are five really high key risk areas that we are trying to isolate for sure.

- [Eric] Thanks Chief. I did talk to a couple of firemen, and we have some pretty good equipment. Are we good in that aspect with our equipment?

- Yeah, as I said earlier, we have a limit. We do have a limited supply of personal protective equipment. We did make the request Saturday morning, first thing for additional supplies, I will tell you that there are no additional supplies anywhere in the United States that can be had. Now there is something called a national stockpile,

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strategic stockpile, and we've been told that as late as five o'clock this evening, that if that is released at most we might see 10 sets. So we are making provisions to do anything, and everything that we can to provide protection to our people, and we're screening the calls at the dispatch center. We are limiting our contact even with patients, those that are known to have these symptoms. There's a set protocol for that. I have restricted anybody that's working as a paramedic in a department. I on Friday, actually last week, I restricted all of our medics over 50 that have any of these underlying health conditions. I have restricted them from riding on the ambulance at this point. I will tell you that we have 14 fire personnel, fire EMS personnel under quarantine already, and so that's concerning to us, and so I'm trying to limit the spread even within our own ranks so that both police, fire, public works, all of the people that you would consider to be public safety, that we can extend this thing out as long as we can. You know, so we have provisions for reducing manpower, for going down to one paramedic on an ambulance for running basic life support ambulances. The police have had the same kind of procedures in place. We're meeting with them daily, and we're discussing everything that's coming out on an hourly basis, and we're adapting, and adjusting on the fly, and you know, in the end we're gonna provide emergency service, and we're gonna continue to do that. We'll get through it, but these are challenging times.

- [Eric] Thank you, Chief. Alder the 10th.

- Thank you your honor. Chief, I was just gonna ask you about folks that might be coming into the Green Bay, and Brown County from overseas. Is there anything above, and beyond that we should need to know about that as far as what these folks what will happen to them when they come to the airports, or is that out of, is that something somebody can answer, or is that Brown County?

- Yeah, that'd be a directly under direct control of the Brown County Health Department. I do not know at this point if they've instituted any kind of restrictions at the airport, or testing procedures with temperatures, and so forth. I do not know the answer to that, but I will find out, and get it out to you.

- [Man] Okay, that's good. I suppose this might be Brown County as well, talking about, you know, other facilities that if the hospitals are over worked that there might be other makeshift facilities for folks. Is that something that you've talked about with the County exec, or mayor?

- [Eric] It's definitely a concern of the health systems in the area, and something that they've been talking about with public health. You know, out in California, I know some other areas, they've requisitioned motels, dormitories to provide those kinds of services, or that kind of shelter. So it's definitely a possibility in this area.

- [Man] I guess I was just kind of surprised to hear that it's 97% of capacity right now. That seems high to me, but, you know?

- [Eric] The way that Dr. Wery described it was a pandemic on top of a seasonal epidemic of the flu. So, you know, this is what we encounter many times, but we've got a pandemic on top of it.

- [Man] Well, okay, that's all I have. Thank you.

- [Eric] Alder from the 12th.

- Thank you Mayor. Chief, you had mentioned that paramedics would not be transporting folks to the hospital to get tested. Is that my understanding?

- Yeah, that's correct. So we've instituted the no transport policy for those folks that are not in life threatening conditions. So if we get called there, and the screening from the dispatch, we're going, we're responding, first of all, understand that, and we're going there, and we're doing the initial care that we normally would, but if the patient presents with the symptoms of the COVID virus there's not anything, we don't want them taken to the, the hospitals don't want them brought there, because if you get into a situation where you bring them in, even in a negative pressure room, they can't use that room now for two hours after that. They have to sanitize the room. They have to have so many air turnovers, and so forth. So the best guidance for those folks that are not in life threatening situations is, they'll be referred to call their own doctors. The doctors will refer them to a testing site. They'll get their tests, and it will be told to go home, and quarantine themselves, and, or isolate on a case by case basis. So again we are at the tip, of the tip, of the tip, of the iceberg right now.

- [Man] What are some sorts of things that you believe that paramedic medics, or firefighters are going to be asked to do in the coming days, and weeks, and months that go outside of what we normally have them do?

- Well, I think just knowing that how contagious this virus is, and the fact that, you know, we're sworn to be out there, and we're gonna do our jobs, and everybody's committed to doing so. You know, it's just, I guess the mental wear, and tear of things, and we're just trying to keep you know, keep a pulse on that. We've done everything that we can do to limit the exposure. We can you know, to limit it, but we can't eliminate it, and so you know, we just have to you know, try to keep as many people healthy as we can, and keep them out of quarantine, and keep them out of isolation, so that our pool of emergency workers doesn't keep dwindling to the point where we are really seriously overtaxing any, you know, smaller group.

- [Man] Okay, thank you.

- [Eric] Alder from the 11th.

- I'm gonna ask the chief, are you utilizing the Veteran's facility on the East side, veterans hospital, are they gonna use it, utilize that as well?

- We are not at this point. We are as a fire department, not utilizing the veteran's facility at all. I don't know if that's a consideration by the Brown County Health Department, but I will tell you that on a routine regular basis there, anything that's above a routine doctor visit there, and any kind of condition that might be life threatening, or any kind of condition that's even above normal routine, we get called to transport those folks to the hospital anyway, so while it's called the veterans hospital, it doesn't have full service.

- [Man] Okay, thank you. That's my only question, thank you.

- [Eric] It's all there. Alder from the 4th. Alder Galvin?

- [Galvin] Yeah, can you hear me?

- [Eric] Yes.

- [Galvin] Can you hear me?

- [Eric] Yep, we can.

- [Woman] I can hear you.

- [Galvin] I'm trying to ask the Chief what happened that we have 14 paramedics or EMTs on isolation now.

- Alder Galvin, I heard your question. So that's not due to any... That's not due to any patient exposure at this point, because anybody that's getting screened, we are, our employees are wearing the proper gear. That is all due to, many of all of them, and every case where either on vacation, and traveling via the airlines in areas of hotspots, and, or have come home, and have reported to be sick with various symptoms, whether, or not they related to COVID or not, if they were traveling by commercial means, they have been quarantined.

- [Galvin] Thank you.

- [Eric] Alder from the 9th.

- Thank you, mayor. Chief Litton, thank you for your overview of what your department's doing, and thank you obviously for the very risky work that you, and your team are doing. Just a couple of questions. You had

mentioned, you know, the 97% related to hospital occupancy. Do you know what the average capacity would be on any given moment?

- [Chief] I do not. I think that you know, the mayor address the fact that, you know, influenza A is rampant in the Green Bay area in our region right now, and that absolutely has to do with some of the hospitalization utilization for sure. I would guess, and this is just a guess that there are probably typically throughout the year in the 75% to 80% rate.

- Okay, and mayor, I would invite you to respond to this as well, because I think both you, and Chief could potentially have some insight into this. When we talk about our role as a city, and the county's role when it comes to public health, could you maybe just provide us a little bit of overview, I guess, sort of where the county's responsibility stops, and where the city's starts?

- Yeah, well, like the Chief mentioned, you know, the County is the provider of public health for the city of Green Bay. So in this emergency situation, they are really driving the train. The public health department over at the County is sort of the primary mover. They're most experienced in this area, and so as a result they have the highest responsibility, the Chief will fill in all the dots there.

- Yeah, I would just add Alder, that you know, the health department has the primary role in this, we are a secondary role, but I will tell you that all of the emergency services in the County, meaning all of the fire departments, police departments, all of us bring a certain level of expertise in emergency management. We work in a unified command structure, and we are very competent in those areas. We have really great, smart, experienced people, who can stand up in the Emergency Operations Center, and be a great aid to the health department, and starting tomorrow morning at eight o'clock is exactly what we will be doing on unlimited basis, and as we roll into this event going forward, that will become more, and more to a greater extent, we'll have more agencies and more representatives from every shareholder basically in the city, and the surrounding areas in the Emergency Operation Center.

- Excuse me. So when you talk about that Emergency Operations Center, how frequently is, I guess, is that group of individuals meeting?

- Well right now just, we're doing everything via telephone, so virtual meetings. We've been doing that since basically last Friday. We've been in contact with, again, our health partners, the hospitals, the regional HERC, which is a basically a group of all the different kind of health providers, meaning the nursing homes, and things of that nature, but we'll be face to face, or we'll have some, again, we're trying to limit exposure to each other as well. So there'll be a limited number of people actually in the Emergency Operations Center, and there'll be some clearance criteria before you go in, and then we'll have other agencies that will be virtually represented via either a Zoom broadcast, or through just a teleconference.

- [Man] Okay, and mayor again, I would also invite you to to share your feedback on this next question including Chief Litton, because I know that both of you have likely been meeting with a lot of our healthcare professionals in the last few days. What are they telling you that maybe we're not hearing in the media, and what are those bits of information, I guess that that could help the public become more informed about the severity of the situation?

- [Eric] I don't know that they're telling us a whole lot that's unique. Just echoing the concerns of, you know, officials with the CDC, and with the State Department of Health Services, and local public health, which is that you know, this is a very serious illness. It's spreading very rapidly in certain communities. We do not have community spread here, that's been identified in Brown County, but it exists in Madison, Milwaukee, or Dane County rather, Milwaukee County, and Kenosha County, and in cases in counties beyond that. The biggest concern that Dr. Ryan and, and Chris Volesky, and other health system leaders have voiced from the beginning of the conversations that I've had with them, again, is to the Chief's point about capacity, and it's a little bit of a euphemism. It doesn't explain exactly what we're talking about here, but we're talking about hospital beds. More importantly than that though, we're talking about ICU beds, ventilators. In the communities that I've been most dramatically impacted by COVID-19 they're making very difficult decisions about who has access to ventilators, and who does not. So it's incumbent upon us, I feel as leaders to model what is appropriate behavior. That's why I've taken such dramatic steps to limit public gathering, and I would just call on you all to try to do the same thing because, you know, oftentimes it's too late in these situations before we act, we need to act while it feels too early, and again, that's what I've been trying to model, and I would encourage you all to model that for your constituencies to send that message to the Green Bay community that it feels like an overreaction. I understand that, but the overreaction is necessary now.

- [Man] Okay, and then maybe the last question I would pose at least related to this topic, and it's a nice segue mayor, into the context of the question, which is, I feel like you're sort of seeing two different camps of people, right? Those that are, I don't want to say overreacting, but they're sort of like categorized right in that camp, and then those who are maybe under-reacting. I mean obviously we're limited in terms of everybody sees the same data, right? That's out there, and just people are extrapolating it in different ways. What advice, or guidance I guess, would you provide to the general public that maybe we haven't heard again that helps I guess better inform those individuals maybe that aren't seeing this the way that you, and your administration is?

- [Eric] I mean, again, it's really important for people to listen to the experts, the public health officials, politicians, not necessarily the most trusted sources always. So recognizing that I've been encouraging people to, you know, to listen to what the experts are saying. This is not my opinion. This is really what we're getting from public health, and public safety experts, and you know, the easiest shorthand is cancel everything. We're not good operating in gray areas. We're better when people tell us on, or off, and I think it's off at this point. We really need to radically reduce any kind of social interaction that we're engaged in, and the sooner the better.

- [Man] Have you received any indication from a state, or federal agencies regarding how long the public should expect to be in that off position?

- [Eric] No. No, it's gonna be a really long haul, I think.

- [Man] I guess, is it a phased turning off based on maybe what other communities have experienced, or is it literally like a switch where it's like, okay, we're good now?

- [Eric] Yeah, I mean, I'm not the expert in this area. I don't know exactly when it will be fully off, but it's happening quickly in other areas of the country, a shelter in place, audit orders have come down, and I think it's seven counties in Northern California. There's a pretty significant debate about that in New York City right now. Those are the biggest hotspots, but it's everywhere. I think it's in every state, or has been identified in every state, but for West Virginia last time I saw, but it's coming everywhere.

- [Man] Okay, thank you.

- [Eric] Alder Dorff on the line.

- [Dorff] Thank you can you hear me?

- [Eric] Yup.

- [Man] I can hear you.

- [Dorff] Can you hear me mayor?

- [Eric] Yeah, go ahead.

- [Dorff] I'm not getting anything. Sorry, my question if you can hear me. I can't hear you. Is to Chief Litton, Chief Litton, do you need anything from us? Do you need anything financially from us?

- Alder Dorff, I understood your question. Do we need anything financially from you? And I will tell you that we are procuring equipment. Certain things I will tell you I've ordered a couple of different devices for use in the back of the ambulances as well as our squad cars. Those pieces of equipment are in the area of about \$5,000 each plus the fluids to use them, but basically that's an electrically charged atom, or ion that that would disinfect completely 100% the back of the ambulances, and the squad cars. They're a couple of weeks out, I've already made the order. We obviously we didn't budget for these kinds of things. So under the emergency declaration you know, we have the ability to procure equipment, and supplies. We don't take that as being a wide open checkbook by any means. That would just be one example of, you know, moving quickly to get in

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line to get to things first rather than last, and that's part of, you know, the requests under the emergency declaration is to be able to move swiftly on items of procurement such as that if we were to find personal protective equipment that let's say a vendor had a minimum order on, it would exceed our statutory, you know, local ordinance of \$25,000. Those are the kinds of things that we may have to act swiftly on in order to get in front of the line. So that would be the only thing. You know, there's gonna, all the departments are tracking personnel expenses related to, in our area. You know, we've got quarantine folks. It's creating over time. So we're tracking those expenses. We are tracking all of our time that we have in this. We are tracking anything additionally that we're doing with the hopes that at the end of this under the Stafford Act, The Federal Stafford Act, that we'll be able to recoup 75% of our expenses.

- [Dorff] That's terrifying. I want you to know that I'm available. I appreciate this remote meeting. I wish all of this could have been done remotely, and maybe we need to practice a little bit more, but I think it's very important that as elected officials, we model what we're asking our citizens to do, and that is to socially distance from each other, and to not be in contact with each other. So Mayor Genrich, thank you for this meeting, and I hope that in future meetings, we should be acting as role models. Thank you and that's all I have for right now.

- [Eric] Thanks Alder. Alder from the 7th.

- [Man] Did you say 7th? There was an echo.

- Yes.

- [Man] Chief Litton, once the COVID-19 hits hard, and your staff is working overtime like crazy to stay on top of it, then also if you know about hospital personnel as well, is there a plan to provide support for everybody's family?

- Yeah, I think you know, part of that discussion will be held later in the agenda with a sick leave policy, and things of that nature. You know, we are doing everything we can, you know, internally to make sure that our employees are cared for, and their families, and you know, again, uncharted territory altogether. We're worried that, you know, let's just say that we decided that we were gonna offer daycare for our employees' kids so that they could be at work, and then we've got, you know, a group of the children here, and then one carrier, which then infects the rest of the children, who go home to the 40 families, and infects my first responders. So that's the kind of serious nature of this. While it's not gonna affect the kids, what we know of right now in a permanent fashion, they could spread. They could be, you know, we consider them little aircraft carriers. They could carry the virus back to all of our first responders. So we're really dealing with this on a case by case basis. We're trying to, you know, employees are able to trade their shifts, and move around and do things of that nature. They're gonna be able to hopefully to use a sick time judiciously when the need is apparent for daycare, for childcare and now that schools had been canceled for the foreseeable future. These are all concerns that we have, but all concerns that we will overcome. I don't have a absolute answer for you right now, but I can tell you that we're working at it.

- [Man] But I wonder if anybody's kind of thought of like, you know, sort of like the summer camp that the kids can be just, before things get bad. You know, send the kids all off to, we can figure out some kind of area, or areas where perhaps, you know, they keep a month holiday, so to speak, but you know, I'm sure you'll work it out. I was just curious how that was going. Okay, thank you.

- [Eric] Thanks Alder. Alder from the 10th.

- Thank you, your honor. Chief, I had just another question. You know, we talking about being strained as far as the emergency personnel, not just for the fire department, but for the County as well. Was there ever any talk about folks in the community, volunteers to help ease the workload in any way, shape, or form? Is there anything that was discussed at all with something like that?

- Again, under the provision of a chapter 323, which is the emergency declaration that is before you today, We do have the provision to direct volunteer personnel to assist in those endeavors that may be trained. That'll be, again, something that we can work in conjunction with the County health department to put into place. So I will tell you that all of, you know, all of the healthcare workers, nurses, doctors, RN's, LPN's, I mean every single aspect of the healthcare system, from the first responders all the way up to, you know, the brain surgeons are activated, and involved in this, and so there is a finite number of folks that can be put into use, and again, this is all over the country, so it's not like we're gonna have the calvary ride in, and save us here, either on a state, or federal level. So, you know, we're doing everything we can within the constraints, and the finite amount of people that we have in order to, you know, you've heard the term, flatten the curve. So to extend it so that it doesn't exceed our capacity. It might take a little longer for it to get outta here, but it won't exceed our capacity, and that's really the goal of all these provisions that were taking here to keep us under the health care system capacity.

- Okay, well, thank you for that. I reiterate what some of the other alders have said. I appreciate everything that your department, and the other departments have done to work on this issue.

- It's a citywide I, you know, I want to make sure that everybody understands that, you know, every single city department has been actively involved in this working hard, collaborating, and covering the bases, and everybody's had great ideas, and suggestions, and really teams come together real well. So I want to make sure that everybody else gets credit where it's due.

- [Man] Thank you for that, that's all I have.

- [Eric] Thanks Alder. Alder Galvin on the phone.

- [Galvin] Chief, I know older people are more at risk, but has there been any thought about contacting recent retirees, and have them fill in positions which wouldn't put them in contact with the public, but where it could free up other personnel, and this will also be for the police department?

- Alder Galvin, honestly, we had not thought of that position, but certainly a topic that is worth doing some research on. So I appreciate your comment there.

- [Galvin] And she was recently, in fact, all people whose licenses had lapsed, they're medical people, they've been contacted by the state, and told that they're offering a very easy way for them to get relicensed so that they can get back into the health care system to help out during this crisis, and I thought even that might be something that we could do with police and fire here.

- Yeah, I think that's a really good suggestion, and something that we can certainly talk about with our friends, and partners in the police department, and you know, we'll get at that first thing in the morning.

- Thank you, thanks Alder. Alright, so we're gonna move on to item two, which is discussion of the emergency preparedness plan for COVID-19. Director Faulds can give us a sense for what we've been doing here as an organization to accommodate our employees in this difficult time.

- Well, good evening. Thanks for meeting on such short notice. So the purpose of our plans, so the plan I'm looking at is the city of Green Bay preparedness plan for COVID-19. So the purpose of that plan is to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on our employees in the community. Obviously the safety, and wellbeing of our employees in public is very important to us. We're doing everything we can to take other precautions to minimize the spread of COVID-19. It's also to mirror our emergency declaration, and it's a communication piece for our employees. So once we adopt our emergency declaration tonight, we'll update this policy, and submit it to our employees. Chief Litton talked a lot about the background of the Coronavirus, and the impact. So I'm not gonna talk about that, even though our plan does address that. You'll see that the plan does talk about how our employees, what steps they can take to disinfect their area, and what our maintenance staff can do. We did have a harsh flu season. So for good, or for bad, we have communicated this to our supervisors, and employees several weeks ago, if not months ago. So the good thing about that is our employees are well educated on what to do to try, and prevent the spread of COVID-19, and the flu. So if we can look at page two, it's about the bottom third. There's a paragraph that starts, in the event there is COVID-19 outbreak in our community, we just heard that the mayor stated that right now there is not an outbreak in our community, and if you look at what the state government, and the federal government has been doing, they're trying to be proactive before the outbreak begins. So we have listed four things that the city is going to do to be proactive, and to back up a little bit, I took that language from the CDC that talked about if there's an outbreak in our community, these are steps you can take, but obviously we're being proactive before that occurs. So what we're doing right now is we're limiting the direct contact we have with coworkers, and with the public. So with our meetings, we're trying to be having those be done through the telephone, video conference, or through email. We're excluding individuals from employment, and really that's a practice that we do all year round. If someone is sick, we tell them to stay home. If someone is sick at work, we tell them to go home, but right now more than ever, we need to continue to do that. So if an employee has flu symptoms, or a Coronavirus-like symptoms, we will send them home. Also, if someone has just traveled the

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past week, or two weeks, we have sent them home as well, depending on where they went, and if they've used public transportation like an airplane, or a Metro, or something like that, and then we're also taking the steps of we're making as many employees as possible telecommute, and work from home, and what we do on that it's a case by case basis. So we have to look at the job, and the requirements of the job, and then look at do we have the equipment to allow the individual to work from home? And if they can, we're telling people to work from home to help try, and stop the spread with our employees into the public, and then the last one is looking at the determination of essential, and non-essential functions where non-essential employees would stay home. We haven't really had too much of a discussion on that at this point, and I think we might get into that area. I know a transit has not, they've shut down their service quite a bit. So we had to look at what we can do for those employees who are not currently working. So I'll go quickly through kind of recap. So there's some portions that talked about internal, and external meetings. We talked about how we're trying to limit direct contact with employees. Again, I touched on the telecommuting, and then if you look at exclusion from employment, what I want to touch on is right now we have returning to work is after you get a negative test, or if you get a provider to provide a return to work, and I'm not sure how accessible our tests are for residents. So I think we have to look at options of if an employee does not have symptoms for 14 days, then I think we may be willing to allow them to return to work. He'll have to touch base with the mayor, and Chief Litton on that, but one of the, I guess, concerns we have, and Chief Litton talked about is, if you do not have to go to a provider, we don't want you to go to jam up their system, and you know, take away beds, or any medical equipment that could be used for someone who actually needs it. So we have to work on that, and continue to monitor what we want to do, but one thing I really want to focus on is the leave benefits, and payroll consideration, and this is a pretty important aspect for employees, and I think it's important to alleviate some concerns that we have for our staff. So right now the federal government is looking at legislation that could help employers, I think more for like small businesses, and the government, which would be us to pay for employees who are unable to work due to the coronavirus, and I think the phrase was they're gonna move with warp-like speed. I dunno what that means, if that's tomorrow, or next week, or a month from now, but we're gonna have to wait, and see what that legislation is passed until we know exactly what the direction is. But so far what we've done in this plan is we've mirrored what the proposed legislation was this past weekend. So we are looking to offer paid leave in situations where employee's diagnosed with COVID-19. They're caring for a family member who is diagnosed with COVID-19, and the definition of family member's gonna be a little broader in the proposed legislation than it is for FMLA, and then caring for a child, because of school closing, and then also caring for a child, because a daycare closing due to COVID-19, and then also paid leave for someone who is asked to stay home, because of symptoms, or travel. What this policy at this point doesn't address, and because we said it's a very fluid situation, we're updating it as we go is, and what I'm also asking that we incorporate into our emergency declaration is to continue full pay for employees who are asked to stay home, because their responsibilities are not needed, because of services that are not being offered to the public, and to prevent them from contracting, or spreading the illness. So what I mean by that is right now our employees, it's not like if we ask them to stay home, or if they come to work on a limited basis, it's not like they have zero work to do. They have plenty of work to do, and we do have work for them to do. It's just that the responsibilities are gonna be diminished, and when they're diminished, what that means is you know, they might not get to 40 hours a week, one week, but then the next week they might get to 40 hours. So it's gonna be pretty, it might fluctuate here and there. So to kind of recap what we're looking forward to amend excuse me, our emergency declaration would be to mirror what's been proposed in legislation, which is continuing full pay for employees who are sick with the coronavirus. Caring for someone who is sick with the coronavirus, quarantine, because of the coronavirus, or taking care of a child, because of daycare, or school closing, and then the second piece that's not in the plan right now that we're asking for to be amended is to continue paying benefits for employees who may not be able to have enough work to fill 40 hours a week based on the responsibility to the public, and I really want to stress that this is not effecting a lot of our employees. This is really affecting the employees who are working in the front desk, or working as inspectors, and what's happening is our front desk employees, they still will be showing up to work, and they'll be taking

phone calls from the public, and there'll be directing phone calls, and emails to the right people in their department, and they're also gonna be providing customer service like they always do, and our inspectors, we don't want them out in the community looking at people's homes. There's kind of a risk with there, with spraying the illness, or contracting it, and we also don't want to maybe be throwing the book at businesses right now, and trying to get them into who might be in violation. I think they have enough on their plate at this point, but our inspectors do have enough work to work on current projects, then also new projects that may come in to make sure that the inspectors are not falling behind. So really all of our employees at this point, they might have some responsibilities, and number of hours that are diminished, but we have plenty of work for them to do. They can always work on filing, and organizing their office, because we have plenty to do with that, and also might provide an opportunity for HR to provide training during this downtime, or also for employees to receive job related training. So really what we're asking for is when an employee is sent home, we want them to work as much as possible. So some employees can get a couple hours a day, some can get eight hours a day, and what that's gonna do is it's gonna help continue our operations, and services for the public. If we were asking employees to go home, and let's say use their own sick leave, or paid leave, they really have no reason to continue to work, but I think if we in good faith pay for them to be home, and you know, alleviate their concerns, and the need to use their own sick leave, they can work as much as they can, be as productive as they can. They continue to serve the public. So I think that's a real benefit to doing this, and I also think it's really just, it's the right thing for us to do. I think this is a very rare circumstance that we have in front of us, and I think it's gonna be pretty tough for our employees. You know, if they're concerned about how they're gonna pay the bills, or you know, if they're gonna have benefits and, you know, if they don't have benefits, how are they gonna pay for treatment? That's can be a real difficult, and stressful situation for our employees. So what I'm asking for is that we can amend our emergency declaration to allow employees to receive full pay, and benefits throughout the emergency declaration. There is in the legislation right now a possibility that we could get reimbursed for that payment from the federal government. So we'll see what happens with that, but I think if we continue to wait for that legislation to be passed before we enact anything that we might be leaving our employees holding the bag. So that's really what our plan is right now, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

- And I would quickly just echo everything that Director Faulds said, and emphasize one of his final points, which is that, you know, this will be an opportunity for people to think longterm about their advancement within the organization. We like many organizations I think struggle to think longterm, because we're in the day to day, and accomplishing the tasks that are in front of us and necessary. So if there is an opportunity here, it is one where it allows our department heads, and our employees to think about other ways that we can improve this organization. Again, think more longterm, and more strategically. So I think you will see some of those efforts undertaken, and then to also reinforce Director Faulds' final point, which is that this is a very difficult time for people across this community for our businesses, and nonprofits and individuals. That is the case as well for our employees, and I think we'd be doing a disservice to our community, and to our employees if we did not support them in this really difficult time of need. We do have a question from the alder from the 1st. Alder Dorff?

- [Dorff] Hello? This is Alder Dorff. Did you call on me?

- I did.

- [Dorff] I just wondered is this the appropriate time to make a motion for that amendment, or do we need to wait till later on to do that? Because I really approve of what our human resources director Joe Faulds is doing. I think he's created a fabulous plan, and I'm very much in favor of it.

- Alder from the 1st wants option to adopt the amendment to the emergency declaration. Do we have a second? That was seconded by Alder from the 5th I believe. Further discussion? Yes. Yup, no, that's a good point. So any further discussion on items two, and three? We haven't gotten to item four yet. So any further discussion on item two? Alder from the 9th.

- Thank you, mayor, Director Faulds, two things. One you had mentioned, and I apologize, because I, I think you, you guys may have sent that policy late this afternoon, and I haven't seen it, but you mentioned that there was a broad definition of extended family. Can you explain what that means, and if you could also tell us what our current policy is.

- Sure, so when I talked about the broad definition of what family member is, I was talking about the proposed legislation that's in the federal government, and it's just broader than what FMLA is, and I don't know if it's gonna stay in the bill, or not, but I think what it included was more family members outside of FMLA. So it could be someone who is a grandchild trying to look at the difference here. It just extended it to more family members. It's like a senior citizen that you're taking care of, or maybe someone outside of an immediate family, you can take care of. So currently right now our policy is for immediate family members. I believe it's for parents. It doesn't include someone like an uncle, or a cousin, or something like that. So the broader definition, the federal legislation, I'm sorry, I don't have the exact answer, because I don't know if it's gonna get passed, or not, just is outside of what our current one is.

- [Man] Okay, thank you. So again, just to clarify that particular comment was referring to the federal legislation, and not anything locally that you're referring to?

- That's correct.

- Okay, and actually my other comment I think I'm gonna hold for when we talk about the next item.

- [Eric] Alder from the 4th. Alder Galvin?

- [Galvin] As far as I understand, when you and when other alders are asking questions, I don't if they're not speaking into their mics or what, but was there a timeline on this as to how long this policy will last, or is this gonna be our policy moving forward?

- April 17? That's April 17th. April 17th is the date in the emergency declaration. Further questions? Alder from the 10th.

- Thank you your honor. Director Faulds, thank you for the work you've put into this with your department, and others. you were talking, and the mayor mentioned too that you were talking about the opportunity to think longterm about ongoing improvements in various offices, departments, the city at large. This might be a simple question, but can the council, and such be kept up to date on these improvements, and efficiencies that may come forth from all this? That's all.

- Yeah, and I'll have to echo what Chief Litton said. This is definitely a team effort, and we have to thank a Alder Dorff for asking for us to put this together, and kind of getting us going on this, because there was a lot of work put into it by HR, but also all the department heads that had input on it. So we can keep the common council up to date. What I can tell you right now is I did talk to Director Kewoods on how some drivers can come into work right now, and get some training that they weren't able to get to throughout the year, and I think what we're gonna try to do as much training for job, excuse me, job related training for our positions, and then also I think just catch up on work that's been back-loaded a little bit.

- [Eric] Thanks alder, further questions on this item? Alder from the 12th.

- Thank you mayor. Now, just so I understand this will be in effect until April 17th when the current emergency protocol?

- [Eric] Unless extended.

- Unless extended, and one thing I will just say, and I'm a obviously an employee of an organization as are many people, I represent family, you name it, and so what we can extend to our employees is very important, because we all rely on a paycheck one way, or another, and to make their lives easier during this situation is definitely something we should be in favor of. One thing as we move forward to keep in mind that the reality is if the federal government doesn't step up, and provide reimbursements, that we still have to, you know, generate revenue in some way, and so for a lot of businesses, and a lot of property owners who perhaps are ready to pay taxes in July, their half of their property tax, if they're not able to make those payments, or revenues that come in, we'd have to reevaluate it at that time. So I know I'm looking into the future, but that's just a consideration that keep mind revenue might hurt, but loss of revenue might hurt the city going forward if this thing extends into July, or August. Thank you.

- That's a good point alder, and that's why I've also, in my mayor's report mentioned the fact that I've called on our state, and federal leaders to really step up, and in a unified way provide support to businesses, and community members here, because this is going to be a very difficult time economically, and socially, and as an entity, we just don't have the resources to keep up. The federal government's really the only one that is

capable of doing that. So it's a good point. Further comments or questions on two? I think three has also been sort of addressed, but any specific questions on that item? Alder from the 9th?

- Thank you mayor. And I know it's embedded with the proclamation with the revised file that was sent out, but I think this might be an appropriate place maybe to pose this question to Director Faulds. As we have the discussion about continuing to compensate employees at full value which would obviously be on sort of the taxpayers clock if you will, has there been any discussion about the utilization of unemployment compensation, and how that factors into this equation? And has the the state in particular made any type of a statement, or decision regarding how that modifications that they might make to how that process works?

- Yeah, I'll just say quickly that the governor did make as part of his announcement today, alluded to some changes in the UI system that could be a potential benefit, but discuss that with Director Faulds, and he had some concerns with what the impact that that might have on our employees, so director--

- Mayor, if I could just make one additional comment before Director Faulds, and I know that unemployment typically you know, will pay at a lower percentage than the compensation. What I'm wondering, particularly at the state level, if they might entertain a suspension of that temporarily so that you could use that fund, you know, for the 60%, or whatever that they normally cover, and that the employer could then, you know, cover the balance so that it sort of helps relieve some of that pressure on the local municipality in the interim.

- [Eric] So yeah, it's definitely a possibility, Director Faulds.

- Yeah, I definitely think that that'd be a unique situation. I guess how I, you know, reading this, I just read this this afternoon, about the unemployment, I think, and I'm reading into this, it might be geared towards a lot of small businesses, and restaurant owners, bar owners. Because it came out at the same time that they're being closed, that they're able to get into unemployment earlier, and kind of wave the waiting period, and I think that then helps the small business to not have to then pay to keep them on. That's what my guess is, but I think your idea of trying to work with the state offset some of the pay for our employees would be great. I concern I have is whether, or not an employee who would be accepted for unemployment, could then still have benefits through the city without having to go through COVRA. I think that'd be a big impact on the employee.

- Okay, so again, and I under, you know, and of course we've got sort of two trains of thought here, and I think it's worthy to talk about both, and of course, one of those falls into the state's court, which is how they manage the state unemployment. You know, the problem with that particular item is that small business owners, particularly LLCs generally would not be eligible to receive those benefits, and of course the state will have to take that issue up, but as it relates to to the city, again, for me, it's trying to recognize, I mean state unemployment, that fund, if you will. I mean, we've contributed to that. So it would be nice again if we could lobby state officials for a suspension of how that is traditionally managed so that we might be able to utilize it, that if we do make the decision, to offer 100% emergency paid sick leave that that fund could potentially be used to help offset that immediate expense on the city's annual budget. So I guess I would just make that request, whether it comes from the mayor's office, or otherwise, that we make that request of the governor's office.

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- Yeah, absolutely. Any Further comments? Alright, we will move to move to item four. Discussion with possible action on the proclamation declaring state of emergency for the city of Green Bay COVID-19 response. We did have a motion, and a second to adopt the amendment. Is that true alder Dorff?

- [Dorff] Yeah, that's very true. I mean, I could absolutely move to adopt the whole thing, and adopt it collaboratively when you do that.

- Do you need the amendment? Yeah, yeah, we still need the amendment, alder.

- [Dorff] Okay, so we vote on the amendment first, okay. So the alder moves, is there a second again? Alder from the 1st moves for adoption of the amendment to the emergency declaration, seconded by Alder from the 5th. Any further discussion? Yes, Attorney Chavez?

- Thank you mayor. So just briefly, I wanted to put on the record what the amendment is going to state. So there are a number of, 'whereas'. The first one that's modified just reflects today's date, and the up date to the confirmed cases, and the counties. That is up to 72 from the 33 that we had on Sunday. There is a new 'whereas' statement stating that, or modified 'whereas' statement saying that, because of the emergency conditions, Mayor Genrich declared a local state of emergency for the city on March 16th until the council was able to meet. A new, 'whereas' statements saying that on March 17th, the council met to consider this matter, a new 'whereas' statement saying that the city recognizes the large scale medical events can affect the health, and wellbeing of city employees, and a result in employees needed to stay home. And then for the substance there is a new number six providing for paid sick leave as you all just discussed, and then the last major change is that this one is now a ratified proclamation by the common council, and amending the action is identified hearing.

- Chavez. So we do have the motion, and the second to amend? Alder from the 12th.

- Thank you mayor. This question is for Attorney Chavez. One thing I noticed when I was reviewing this talks about state action, but is it necessary to include what the federal actions have been, state of emergency from the federal authorities? I know there's a mention of the CDC, but is that something that should be added?

- I mean it's really up to the council as to what they want to include in it. We are specifying the purposes for it, in declaring the emergency, and so it's entirely up to the council as to whether, or not they feel additional information is warranted to be placed in here. There is no requirement that there is additional information placed.

- And I understand that this was probably prepared much of it anyways, prior to that federal declaration. I think that's quite possible, but would it be appropriate, Attorney Chavez, do you have just like a single

sentence prepared, or that you could offer as an amendment to explain that federal action outside of the CDC has been taken?

- I can look to add some in, yes.

- If you could, I don't want to disrupt the meeting, but given all of the federal actions that have been taken place and orders that now we're being recommended, not recommended, but enacted, I think it would be appropriate. So I don't, if it's okay, take a short break, or wait here, whatever you think, mayor.

- [Chavez] I don't think that it's necessary for us to have the exact language placed into it. If you're just asking me to add a statement, saying something to the lines of whereas the CDC, and then federal agencies have identified numerous actions that need to be taken in response to COVID-19.

- Sure, that would be fine. Thank you.

- [Eric] Acknowledging that those details will be incorporated. We have the amendment, and the motion to amend, and second.

- [Man] Are we just taking up the amendment right now to add the sick pay?

- [Eric] Yup. So all in favor of that amendment, please signify by saying aye.

- [All] Aye.

- [Eric] Those opposed, nay. The aye's have it. The amendment is adopted. Now we're on to the declaration itself. Alder from the ninth.

- Thank you mayor. I am looking at under the, it's on page three, in the now therefore clauses item number two, where it states all in person meetings, and gatherings, et cetera, et cetera. I would like to, I'm gonna move to amend this to strike elected officials. And so the second on the floor, I would just offer up an explanation for that. I just feel it's a dangerous precedence for us to step to in times of crisis, and emergency to needlessly restrict the ability for the elected body to meet as necessary, and so it's for that reason, I strike this, not because I think we need to get together. I think it's important for us to preserve the ability to do it if the circumstances call for it.

- [Eric] So just to clarify, we're talking about point two on page three?

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- Correct, so it says where meetings, and gatherings involving city employee, staff, and, or elected officials are suspended for the duration of this emergency, and so again, I'm comfortable with, with obviously your office having the ability to make decisions about taking great care for our employees, and staff. However, I do think, because we are directly responsible to the voting public, I do think it's important for us to preserve, preserve the ability to make that decision, if we feel it's necessary to meet. My sincere hope is that we don't need to, but I'd hate to see it embedded in here. That has maybe an unintended consequence that prevents us from making that decision if it's needed.

- [Eric] Right, so just to, again, to clarify this. The suggested change, or amendment would not impact that second sentence with regard to meetings of the common council committees, boards, and commissions.

- Yeah, I think that's still perfectly acceptable, because it says that it may be conducted remotely with access, and I think that's a perfectly acceptable way to word that.

- [Eric] Understood, further comments? Alder from the 7th?

- [Man] The alders teams, it doesn't prohibit us from meeting. I don't understand why he wants that removed. It makes no sense to me since we can still meet remotely. The purpose as I understand this, is to, well, to lead by example, how to not be gathering in groups, but if we need to meet, we use the online session that allows us to do that. So I don't understand how the alder thinks having elected officials in that first sentence prevents us from meeting. I see no reason to take it out. We can still meet.

- [Eric] Thank you Alder. Alder from the 8th.

- My apologies. That was for a future comment.

- [Eric] Alder from the 1st.

- [Dorff] It's hard to hear. Did you just call Alder from the 1st?

- [Eric] Yup.

- [Dorff] Okay, I would also disagree with taking that out. The governor himself has prohibited meetings of 10 or more. So ability to meet remotely, we need to be setting an example for our public. I mean we were forced to close the bars and restaurants, because people were still going to, in particularly the bars in great numbers.

So we need to also set that example. This is not mean we're shirking our duty as elected officials. We are not, we are here. We spent time trying to make sure everyone was connected. We're seeing that we are going to model, what president Trump, what the CDC, what the white house committee has asked all Americans to do, and that is to not meet if it's not necessary, and it's not necessary. There are other ways to do this. So I am very, very much opposed to this amendment. Thank you.

- [Eric] Alder from the 12th.

- I thought you said fourth, I'm sorry, mayor. I'm in favor of fixing the sound, no. Shocking. So one thing that, I'm in favor of the amendment, and just to clarify why. The way that it reads, it's all how a person interprets it. I agree that we should as of now, because of the several things the governor put in place, and the president, we should be meeting as a body as little as possible, and when doing so, do so remotely. The way that I read this though is that elected officials are barred. I don't know if that's the right word, but we're not allowed to meet perhaps as individual alders. So for example, if I have an issue that I need to consult with alderman Johnson about, or aldermen Wery, or any other alder, that the way that this reads is that I would be prohibited from an in person meeting with another elected official. And I just don't feel comfortable doing that. Perhaps that's not the intention, but if you were to read the wording of this, you could certainly get that outcome. So that's why I'm in favor of the amendment for that purpose, and furthermore, what alderman Johnson stated, we should restrict ourselves if we have to meet. Obviously going forward, I think we've all identified when we need to meet, it should be in the manner in which we're meeting now remotely, but I don't want to restrict our ability to have these conversations amongst elected people.

- [Eric] Thank you. Thanks alder. Attorney Chavez, if you want to just weigh in on that.

- Yes mayor. So two things. So first the way it is currently drafted there, in person meetings, and gatherings involving city employees, and staffs are suspended. Keep in mind that there is no way for the council to meet without staff being present. We have to have the clerk here. We have to have the attorney here. We have to have a number of people here. So there is no way for the council to meet in its official capacity without having staff present. Second this was not intended to address instances where council members are talking to each other. We never ever address that other than what's addressed with walking quorums. So nothing in here should under any circumstances be interpreted as is addressing what you guys do on a personal level, regardless of what whether it's an elected in your role as an Alder, but when you're doing it personally, that is different. Your actions, or your authority as a council comes when you all come together and meet, when you guys are acting as a quorum, and so that is really what this is intended to address.

- [Eric] Thanks Attorney. Alder from the 9th.

- Thank you mayor. I do think that there is a time, and a place for us to have a discussion about the merits, and the necessity of meeting in person. However, I don't think this document is the place to do that. There's a way for us to have that debate if somebody were to call for an in person meeting, my fear is that this is a little bit too narrowly focused, and that heaven forbid, the city were to face a crisis that is not the Coronavirus, and we have now prohibited ourselves from meeting to address that crisis, which might take a stronger precedence

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than the current situation. Again, I feel it's just unnecessary. I think our responsibility to the public is to be able to, to meet as needed, to make decisions that best represent the safety, and security of our residents, and our community, and so I stand behind the need to eliminate this, because I don't see the point of prohibiting ourselves from our responsibility in the event that an alternative crisis should strike us. Thank you mayor.

- [Eric] Thanks alder. Alder from the 7th.

- [Man] This is only in effect until April 17th. Unless it is needed to be extended, and again, I don't think it for prohibits, I think the intent is, aspect can be clarified more in the language, is that we're not calling meetings with staff, and gathering groups together, that we agree we should not be gathering groups together, and we'll meet remotely. If we need to meet with staff, we'll do it remotely. I think that's all we're doing is agreeing that in person meetings should be suspended at this time, and again, that's the guideline with 10 people or more. So I think that's the guidelines to be followed. I think we can use some common sense here with how we behave and the intent of the emergency declaration proclamation. I think it's very good to proclaim that we intend to abide by guidelines that have been established by the CDC, and other medical professionals. I don't think we're inhibiting ourselves in any way by doing that. So I'm still in not in favor of removing it like 6th proposed. I think it's important that elected officials are listed. We can still do our job, and this is only for, I mean this declaration doesn't go on forever, and ever, which is cool, makes you think. We're not really handicapping ourselves in any way, size, shape, or form that I can see. I think it's important that we model, that we accept that the CDC says to not meet in large groups, and we're gonna follow that. We should make that a public statement, yes. So I see no reason how this inhibits us from doing our job, or that this is there any way a dangerous precedent, or anything like that. It's an emergency situation, and we're taking emergency action, and I believe the elected officials. It's appropriate for it to be there. So I, I did not support the amendment, thank you.

- Thanks alder. We have an amendment to excise. I can take a point of clarification.

- And I believe this would fall under that point, but if Attorney Chavez could comment, if this statement were to be retained as is, does this in fact prohibit counsel from meeting in person if they felt the need to do so?

- The language does not actually state that anything is prohibited. It states that it is suspended, and it authorizes remote attendance at meetings.

- [Eric] Anything further? Alder from the 1st?

- [Dorff] I would say that, I do not support the amendment. Based on what attorney Chavez just said, nothing is prohibited.

- [Eric] Alder Johnson? I did not hear.

- [Eric] She asked if you want to withdraw. She asked if you're interested in withdrawing.

- Maybe another point of clarification on that before I would do that. Attorney Chavez, so what we're saying is that we are suspending for the duration, but if the council, again, for whatever unexpected reason were to want to meet in person, what would be required for us to do that if we pass this resolution as is?

- [Eric] Attorney Chavez.

- In that instance, I would recommend you lift the suspension, which will require a vote of the council.

- [Eric] How does that process work?

- The council would just vote on it as a matter of course that you, you know, it would be an agenda item. You vote on it to lift it.

- [Man] So we would need a meeting to undo that?

- Correct.

- [Man] Okay, thank you. In that case, I want to keep my amendment on the floor.

- [Eric] Thanks alder. Alder from the 12th.

- Oh no, no, I'm sorry. What? The light wasn't on, but what I want to clarify, I don't think that... I have a lot of respect for Alder Dorff, and Alder Scannel, and I know in times like this, it's really trying, and then we all try to do what's best given the people we represent, the people we love, people in our community, we all have that. So sometimes I think as a council, if you think about it, it's almost as if we're questioning each other's motives, and it's not that. I don't take all their Johnson's motion is sort of a, an insult to the council that we were not consulted, or that we're told we can't meet. I don't take it that at all. It's just that us, just like the mayor has made some decorations, and carried forth with decisions that were very difficult for him to reach, but he's doing so because he cares about the community, and he's doing what he thinks he needs to do. Likewise, the council, I think as a group we want to do, we want to keep what power we have to do what's in the best interest of those we represent, those we live, with our neighbors, our city employees, and the only way that we can take actions within our roles as a legislative body is if we meet, and so I understand what alders Dorff, and Scannell are saying, but if you kind of step back, and look at it from a fresh set of eyes, it's just us as a body

saying we don't want to limit what our ability, our abilities to do what we think is right. We'll work together. This community's coming together in ways that are very uplifting, and heartwarming, and we're kind of in unchartered territory. So if you step back, and say, let's just clean it up a little bit so that everyone is comfortable, because we all want what's best for our community, I think it's an easier vote to make. So I support the amendment, and I'm very happy with the way that the meeting's going. We're having very important discussions, and I think one thing that we can take from this, at least from my perspective, is that as a city where kind of united, and I think we're all dedicated ourselves to serving our community the best way that we can. Thank you.

- [Eric] Thanks alder. Alder from the 7th.

- [Man] I want to make it clear that I'm not suddenly capping anyone's disparagement, if I'm anyone. I believe everyone's intentions are very good, and I appreciate that. There's a concern that it's gonna be violent somehow, inhibit us from doing our jobs, but I think that's great that that was brought up, but I disagree that that's a necessary concern. I think the fact that cupboard, that we could still do our jobs with the second statement, and the purpose of the proclamation is to set forth what's necessary, and what's expected, and what we expect from others, we should expect from ourselves. I feel like we're telling everybody, well, you shouldn't be, but we will. I think that sends the wrong message, that's the anti proclamation. We want this, in this proclamation, that people know this is black is best practice. This is what we're following, and we're gonna do it too but we're gonna still do our job. The second sentence let's us do that. We can still do our job. So I believe the purpose, to take that out in a way defeats the purpose of the proclamation, which is to let people know this is best practice, this is what's being recommended, this is what we're all gonna be doing going forward, and we should not be doing anything different than anybody else. We could still do our job, and still follow the recommendations that the CDC is providing for us. So I appreciate that alders are concerned that we're not gonna be able to do our job. I'm glad that was brought up. I would like to, you know, I just don't see how the first sentence prohibits us from doing our job. You can still do it, and we can still proclaim to the public, these are the best practices, and we're gonna follow them too. And I think that's important. We need to lead by example. If I thought in any way that the alders concerns were, had any kind of validity, I would support them, but I really don't think it does, and if it takes a stance, well, let's play it safe, I think defeats purpose of the proclamation, we want to put proclaim best practices, and we're doing it too. So that's why I'm very adamant that I think it's a mistake to take on elected officials, and that we do not need to worry that we're not gonna be able to do our jobs. And so I appreciate everybody's concern, but I think there's another concern, and that's, we lead by example, and that's the trap, in that we fulfill the purpose of the proclamation. I think taking that out is sort of anti proclamation, we're gonna be going against the best practices of the CDC. I think that's counterproductive. I think, and it's unnecessary, especially with the second sentence in. We can do our job. So I still, I appreciate everyone's concern, and I certainly hope no one mistook me as catching any kind of dispersion, I think that this is a valid conversation to have, but I feel very strongly that we fulfill the purpose of the proclamation, that we're not setting ourselves above what we expect the public to do. So I still think it's unwise to delete elected officials. Thank you, your honor.

- Thanks alder. Alder from the 8th.

- Thank you Mr. mayor. My question's for Attorney Chavez, if this is not removed, could I, or any other alderman, alder person meet, let's say I wanted to meet with the council president Steuer to look at

something, to review something. We do that all the time. Would I be in violation? I mean, I'd be meeting with an elected official. I think that's where some of the concern for me is also.

- No. That would be a drastic reading of it that is not intended. No, like I said, we don't ever monitor what the alders are doing unless it involves a potential quorum. So no.

- [Man] All right, thank you.

- [Eric] Alright, a roll call has been requested. So we're gonna use the board on, well, why don't you restate your amendment alder before we vote?

- The amendment is to strike elected officials. I mean there's some minor technical revisions for grammar's sake to make that sentence flow, but it's really about striking elected officials.

- [Eric] Good, so we have a motion to amend the declaration with the alder's stated intent there. Did we have a second, by all Alder from the 8th? So moved by Alder from the 9th, second by Alder from the 8th, and we're gonna use the board on the amendment. Jessie?

- [Jessie] It didn't pop up. It popped up, but it must not be registered, but I'm a yes vote. So that amendment fails, seven to four. So the item before us is the declaration as amended. We have a motion to approve. Yeah, Alder from the 8th.

- Thank you Mr. Mayor. I do have a question on page two. Let's see here. Now, therefore, pursuant to different sections of Wisconsin statutes, the city of Green Bay here declares a local state of emergency for the city of Green Bay automatically expiring April 17th at 5:00 unless extended. Now, if we're not meeting, how would it be extended? Should we stipulate that we're meeting April 16th, or you know, who extends it and how is it extended right?

- Just just to clarify, nothing in this document says we're not meeting. It's an in person meeting that won't take place. So just to be clear, that's not a prohibition that exists within this document. But in terms of how it would be extended, I'll defer to Attorney Chavez.

- It can be done one of two ways. The first would be by proclamation of the mayor, just as happened to this yesterday, until the council is able to meet again. The second would be the council meets in order to, or calls a special meeting, or even in its April meeting. If it determines that there's adequate indications that the proclamation should be extended, even that early. That is entirely up to the council at that point.

- [Eric] Thanks attorney.

- The first meeting is still on tentatively. That hasn't been canceled. You're just looking at reconfiguring how we do it?

- [Eric] Correct.

- Okay, and to that point, I do have some concerns, you know, I think we've all heard numerous times tonight that people couldn't hear discussions, and I like to hear, and be able to absorb everything that's discussed, and I don't want to miss anything. Me, personally, you know, I think it's my duty, and right to be here at a meeting. I get if some people don't want to, but were elected to lead, and I feel that's best for me to be here, and not catch half the information, unless that technology improves greatly, which it can, I mean it's out there, but I'd prefer to be here.

- [Eric] Right, and I'll just respond briefly by saying I totally acknowledge that we have experienced some growing pains tonight with the technology, but I will also guarantee that things will be much improved if, and when we need to meet remotely, which I do anticipate that we will be doing. So appreciate that concern, and I'll echo, you know the criticisms of how the meeting has gone tonight.

- Some other comments, thank you. I do want to thank you Mr. mayor for taking, you know, myself, and other's request to have an emergency meeting, because we were feeling, certainly feeling a little out of the loop, and I, you know, I talked to you about that. We converse frequently. You're not alone, and it told you that we're here too. So if you need help with things, whatever it is, sending out information, a lot of our social media, send it to us, and we'll gladly help get it out there. Good example was the bus situation. I don't think any of us liked finding out through social media, or through the news that that happened. If we had been given a heads up, we could have posted that thing all over, and told people it was happening. So lean on us, you know? Perhaps during this next month, or until the next call through meeting, you could provide regular updates of activities taken, major ones in the general status, something like that. You know, since we won't be in person, but I think we'd all like to know what's going on, because people come to us, right? You might not be as accessible, but they come to us.

- [Eric] I think I'm pretty accessible.

- Well, I don't know if everybody in the city could reach you personally. You're accessible, but I've had people about this bus situation who've called city hall, and they get nothing, you know? You're probably being overwhelmed with calls on that. So they come to us. So it helps if we have the answers, and we know what's going on, and to that, I'm wondering on page three, on number six, the city shall, and the city obviously would mean yourself, shall take all further actions reasonable and necessary. I mean, do you have anything that you're thinking of that would be the next step, or are you kind of playing it by ear?

- No, and I'll just address, you know, some of those comments about keeping council informed. I do want to make the point that I just in the last 24/48 hours have sent two pretty detailed messages to council updating you all on actions that the city has taken to respond to this pandemic, and I will continue to do that. Certainly would have liked more notice you know, before moving forward with the transit announcement, but again, you know, this is not a time to second guess decisive action that's made to you know, to support the public safety of this community. And so I appreciate your comments about how we're all in this together, and that that is well taken, and reassuring. I don't expect consensus as we move forward here. I don't think that's anything we can ever expect in a democracy, but I do really expect cohesion on the part of the council, and hope that that will be the case, because I agree. I want to be moving forward with you with the united front, sending the right messages and taking the right actions. So appreciate those comments.

- Sure, thank you Mr. Mayor. Other councils have dealt with this when you, you know, grant emergency power, you know, you're seeding our elected power to one person, right? So we're trusting that you're gonna do something that most of us would agree with. So I'm hoping if before you do something, maybe you can reach out to us, you know? Are you looking at, you know, curfews, or drastic things like taking away different individual liberties like that. Those are major things that I feel uncomfortable giving up a decision on.

- Yeah, no point's well taken. Alder from the 9th?

- Thank you mayor. One of the things that I had requested when the agenda was crafted was the ability for us to openly discuss any of their ideas that might be out there, and I don't know if this is the appropriate place to do it.

- [Eric] I don't think it would be. I mean, the broader discussion was on the emergency plan that Chief Litton outlaid, and we had a pretty robust discussion about some of those issues. I don't think this is necessarily that time.

- So is that a ruling that we're no longer gonna be allowed to engage in discussion about?

- [Eric] There can be a discussion. It's gotta be related to this document however.

- So that discussion is closed, even though those items might not have been about emergency operations?

- [Eric] We all obviously have communications, petitions, and communications left on the agenda. So if there are things that you want staff to explore, I think that's the appropriate time, staff or myself to explore, that would be the appropriate time.

- Things that would have to go through a committee, and then back to council, before we could actually take action on them?

- [Eric] If you have suggestions of items that you'd like to include in the declaration now would be the appropriate time. If those are not things that you'd want included in this document. No, it's just not the time for that.

- Interesting, alright.

- [Eric] Alder from the 7th.

- [Man] I'm sure everyone who is in the room that yes, there have been some issues here, but I do not feel in any way that I've missed out on half the meeting, and I feel very well, pretty well informed, and able to keep up, even though there's a few things I might have missed. When I'm there in the room, to be perfectly honest, clear transparency here, I don't always catch everything either, and as far as communications, I don't know what's on the alder's mind, but there can be communication to the whole, or to the mayor's office, if he's worried about going through a committee. So just some thoughts there. Thank you your honor.

- [Eric] Thanks alder. Alder from the 12th.

- Alright, I'll withdraw my comment question.

- [Eric] Alder from the 10th.

- Your honor, you know, I think the point that Alder Johnson brings up is a valid one, only in the sense, because we're looking at a unique situation here. You know, it's unprecedented. You know, we haven't, you know, we're all a little edgy, as far as trying to figure out how to move forward, and like I said, you know, like he stated, if we bring out a communication, or do something that has to go through committee, it's gonna take time, and it just in the last week, you know, with, you know, shutting down bus service, and city hall, I mean that it was quick, you know? And there's not a lot of time to do that. So with that being said, I would implore the administration to come up with something for us that, that we can discuss this. I realize it's not on this particular agenda, but you know, I see some things coming down the pike that might need to be heard sooner than later. So you know, I throw it out to the council, and I throw it out to the administration to come up with something that we can deal with on this.

- Yeah, appreciate that. I mean, we do have legal obligations to stick to the agenda. So if there were questions about the city's response, emergency response, you know, we had that here. If we have concerns about the

declaration, now is the time to address those. So I'm not trying to squash any debate. I mean we have to run a meeting in a certain way.

- [Man] No, I understand.

- Alder from the 1st.

- [Dorff] For clarification, I think we have the ability have meetings even prior to have an item committee of the whole, where we wouldn't have to wait for something going through another sub subcommittee. Is that correct? I'm asking for clarification on that. Would that be a faster way for our next meeting to get something, rather than having to go to a committee meeting?

- Attorney Chavez?

- A couple of things on that. I'm not entirely sure I heard the question, but my understanding is--

- [Eric] Ability to go to committee the whole.

- Oh yes, so couple things. You are always able to send emergency items to committee of the whole. Second, the role of the council is to establish policy. So it must be coming up with some response that we'd be imposing for the entire community. There's not gonna be a lot that's primarily gonna be coming from the public health county public health anyways. What we're addressing now is primarily the city operations, and that's mostly gonna come from the executive anyways.

- Thanks Attorney Chavez. Alder from the 7th.

- [Man] Thank you, your honor. I would just like to make a point of clarification. I'm not sure if the council has forgotten that the transit authority is its own authority. It is not under the mayor's authority, or the council's authority, and so the decision to, any decisions to pursue cut back the routes and the times, and then to shut down completely was made by the transit authority, and I think our director does a great job, and she did what she thought was best, and is best, and I fully support her, but you know, there are some things that I know a lot of alders are very edgy about, you know, their responsibilities, and their authority, but our responsibilities and authorities have limitation, always have. and when it comes to transit that is its own authority. So I just wanted to make that point of clarification. There are gonna be decisions made, where we're gonna wish we were a part of them, but it's not our authority. So going forward, let's keep that in mind.

- Alder from the 12th.

- Yes, to alderman Wery's point. I guess the item six, the question is the city shall take all further actions reasonable and necessary, and I think the question is, the point is that we're concerned that some decisions are being made that perhaps we're not well informed about, or perhaps we wouldn't take, and so when we get the calls, and comments, and criticisms on social media, we want to be able to say it's a decision that we understood how it was reached, and so what the transit department, and Alder Scannell brought it up. So I like to have the same leeway from the mayor as he did, but the issue with the transit was that it was a decision that was reached. It was posted on your Facebook page. That's how I learned about it, and by then a lot of folks who are waiting for the buses on Monday mornings or waiting to pick up prescriptions, or go to work, and a lot of things that the public was really put out on. I guess, so my question to you, mayor is, is that a decision that you, I know Alder Scannell said that it went through the transit commission, or the transit director, but is that a decision that you endorsed after consultation with other alders?

- [Eric] No.

- So it's a decision you made independent of any? I, again, you know, I addressed this in my comments at the head of this meeting, stating that I was consulted by the director, and he was who consulted with her leadership of the transit commission, and I 10% endorsed the difficult decision that she made in the interest of public safety, the safety of her employees, but to Alder Scannell's point, that is a decision of the transit director in consultation with the transit commission.

- Okay, but so you made the declaration on Facebook, and then it was public?

- [Eric] I didn't make any declaration on Facebook.

- Sure.

- [Eric] I shared the statement that was made by the transit commission in order to give people as much time, recognizing the fact that this was an 11th hour decision.

- Sure, but do you see what I'm saying that?

- [Eric] No, I don't.

- Well, listen, then. The public perception is that you made that decision, and that it was posted on a social media page, and I understand that you shared the transit post, but that is how many people heard about it, and I'm not swayed necessarily by public input on social media, but I take it into account, because I think that's a fair representation of everyone throughout the city. So I'm not badgering you about the decision. You've made

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it, and you believe it was the right decision. I'm saying that the public had a different response to that decision. They feel they were not publicly notified. I feel as an alder, they were not publicly notified. So to alder Wery's point is if we approve this as written, we are basically seeding our input as a counsel to you, and you state that you did not consult with any other alders prior to making?

- [Eric] I didn't make the decision, alder.

- You had no input in that decision?

- [Eric] I already said repeatedly that I consulted with Director Kewoods and endorsed her decision 110%. I don't have the authority to make that decision, and I did not make it. I don't know how many times do you want me to say this?

- Well, I'll be point, because you're being blunt, and my question is, is that as you make these decisions, will you be consulting with specific alders who perhaps share your opinions, or will you be--

- [Eric] I will be informing counsel as much as absolutely necessary, as much as possible I should say, in these decisions. Informing, but not saying, hey alder, what do you think about this?

- [Eric] We're getting very far afield of this declaration, but I think it's important to reiterate what Attorney Chavez said, which is that their executive responsibilities, and there are council responsibilities. Council is the policy making body for the city of Green Bay, and that is something that I absolutely respect 110%, but I have the obligation to act as an executive, to make decisions, many, many decisions every single day, and I can't be consulting with every member of council before I act on something. Now with regard to the transit commission's decision, the transit director's decision, that's something that I endorsed. However, to reiterate, it's not a decision that I made.

- Okay.

- Thank you.

- Thank you.

- [Eric] Alder from the 7th.

- [Man] I would just like to repeat, this is an emergency, and as I appreciate the alder's feeling, they're losing their grip on our responsibilities, and we are, and that's going to happen. We're gonna be getting orders from the federal government, from the state government that we have no, that are gonna usurp our power, and make decisions for us. This is an emergency, and decisions that are gonna be made, and they're gonna be made quickly, and we're not gonna have any input in on it. We just have to accept that as a fact. That's not abnegating our responsibilities. It's acknowledging that it's an emergency, and there are other authorities who are gonna be acting out, and we just have to go along as best we can, and I do agree that it'd be great if we could be more informed, but sometimes things are gonna happen pretty quick, and we just all have to do the best we can. Thank you, your honor.

- [Eric] Thanks alder, alder from the 4th. Alder Galvin?

- [Galvin] Thank you, your honor. I just think we need to remind all of ourselves that moving forward through the next at least 30 days, that we have to be cognitive of the fact that, again, like I said before, things are not normal. They're not the way they used to be. We don't have the right to be making decisions about things that we don't have the right to be making decisions about, and we need to be cognizant of that. Transit authority is transit authority, and it's not the council's decision to be making those kinds of decisions. It's the transit authority's right, and responsibility to do that, and there's gonna be other items that are gonna be coming up that we're probably gonna have questions about in the past that we were able to talk about back and forth amongst each other, but we don't have necessarily, those rights, never did, and so I think maybe it might help counsel if the legal department, the fire departments could put forth some information for us, what we do have the right to have our voices heard on them, and what we don't have the authority to have our voices heard on, and that might help us moving forward. But I approve of what transit did. It was not an easy decision, and it inconvenienced probably the people that really need the most help when it comes to transportation, our community, but at the same time, I also think it's gonna be doing something that's good down the road as it relates to this virus. So thank you.

- [Eric] Thanks alder. Any further comments? Alright, Do we have a motion to adopt the declaration?

- [Man] Motion to adopt.

- [Dorff] Second!

- [Eric] Motion made by alder from the 7th. Seconded by alder from the 1st. Another roll call has been requested on this item. Use the board. Alder Nicholson? One last time, Alder Nicholson. That item is adopted nine to one. Onto referrals of petitions, and communications. Alder from the 12th.

- No mayor, that was a mistake.

- [Eric] Apologies.

- Thank you.

- [Eric] Any communications? Seeing and hearing none. Alder from the 9th.

- Thank you mayor. I have one communication at the redevelopment authority for consideration and possible action on the creation of an emergency relief fund to provide loans to assist small business owners with the impacts of coronavirus. Number two, I had protection policy, but I guess I'll change that to committee of the whole to consider establishing set hours exclusive for our vulnerable populations to access grocery stores outside of general public hours, and the third item to personnel committee to draft a resolution requesting the state to suspend roles on utilization of the UI fund to allow employers, and or governments to access the fund in tandem with matching subsidy payments to fully compensate employees affected by Coronavirus who are temporarily, and, or partially displaced.

- [Eric] Thanks alder. Any further communications? Motion to refer? Who was it by? Alder from the 12th, seconded by alder from the 8th. All in favor please signify by saying aye.

- [All] Aye.

- [Eric] Opposed, nay. Those have been referred, adjournment. Motion made by Alder from the 8th, seconded by Alder from the 10th. All in favor, please signify by saying aye.

- [All] Aye.

- [Eric] Apposed nay, we're adjourned.