

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA  
CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

BE IT KNOWN that the City Council of the City of Lake Jackson met on Saturday, September 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in an Emergency Meeting at the Lake Jackson City Hall with the following in attendance:

Bob Sipple, Mayor  
Vinay Singhania, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Matt Broaddus, Council member  
Gerald Roznovsky, Council member  
Buster Buell, Council member  
Jon J.B. Baker, Council member

Modesto Mundo, City Manager  
Meagan Borth, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Sally Villarreal, Assistant City Secretary  
Sherri Russell, City Attorney

DISCUSS THE BRAZOSPORT WATER AUTHORITY'S "DO NOT USE" ADVISORY FOR ALL WATER IN THE CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

Mr. Mundo stated the Emergency Meeting was called to bring everyone up to date from yesterday.

The city had a meeting late Friday afternoon with the CDC, state, and the county. They notified the city that there were three locations out of eleven that were tested that showed a preliminary positive result for a brain eating ameba.

On Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> we were notified by the county that a young boy had tested positive for this brain eating ameba. At that time, the family stated there were two locations that the young boy had played with water which were at his residence and the LJ Civic Center splash pad.

When the city got that call, the LJ Civic Center splash pad was shut down. At that point in time the city acted and located a company in Conroe to do a test for this ameba. We collected a sample on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at our site and we received results on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Those results came back negative at the splash pad.

On Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> the CDC with the state opened a case for further research. At that time, we were told that they could do other testing. The understanding was that the city asked for testing at the splash pad and the family asked for testing at their house. The CDC then coordinated with the county and the state to collect samples at the two sites and in addition a dead end of a fire hydrant to check for this ameba. That test was scheduled for Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, but the storm pushed it back to Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Texas DSHS collected those samples with a kit provided by the CDC and then those were sent to CDC for the analysis.

Yesterday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> we were notified by the CDC late in the afternoon of the results. Out of the 11 tests, 3 came back preliminary positive. The tests that came back preliminary positive were from drawing the water and putting it in a filter and sending it to a lab. The 3 sites that tested preliminary positive were the Civic Center fountain under a small pit showed an initial genetic material of the ameba, the fire hydrant showed an initial genetic material and the hose bib at the family's home. This then triggered the possibility of a problem within our system.

Conversation continued with the CDC and distribution personnel. TCEQ notified that they wanted to get further details of what had happened. They informed Mr. Mundo that the city could anticipate a notice of not using the water. The city would need to follow exact wording from the TCEQ and follow their orders. Mr. Mundo then notified the Mayor and individual Council members with a brief update. Also, contact was made with the local contact from BWA.

TCEQ will be out this morning to test our system for chlorine residuals and they will also be testing BWA. We are waiting for guidance from TCEQ. We did not want to flush, drain, or switch the system without knowing what water source this could be in. The city uses a 50/50 blend of 50% well water and 50% BWA water.

The city has 7 wells throughout the city.

Council member Baker asked if the city's wells were tested. Mr. Mundo said they had not been tested. The City is working with TCEQ to test the system and provide all our records of chlorine tests.

Council member Roznovsky asked what actions were taken last night to provide water to the City. Mr. Mundo stated the city is working with TDEM to set up PODS at the college, a location in Angleton and Freeport to distribute bottled water to the public. We will be informing our citizens with information as we get it.

Council member Buell asked if this affects the animal shelter. Mr. Mundo said at this time the only safe use of the water is for flushing toilets per the State. People should take the same precautions with their animals as themselves.

Council member Roznovsky asked when the decision is made to do the chlorine burn with our system, what will be the turnaround time. Mr. Mundo said he would need to get that information from Ms. Webb.

Council member Roznovsky asked if he had gone over the chlorine levels from the three sites that tested positive. Mr. Mundo said the fire hydrant chlorine residual was .51 with the minimum state regulations being .50. The hose bib at the home was 2.52 and the splash pad was .05. The splash pad has been shut down since September 8<sup>th</sup>. It has not been chlorinated or re-circulated. It has been collecting rainwater for 14 days with nothing running through it, so it is not surprising that the chlorine level is that low.

Council member Singhanian asked if we would be testing all the water wells in the city. Mr. Mundo said he believed so and he would verify that with TCEQ. This is not a normally occurring ameba in well water.

Council member Broaddus asked if the test that was being done is only for chlorine residuals. Mr. Mundo said that was his understanding.

Council member Roznovsky stated they are getting calls from people about bathing. Mr. Mundo stated he felt it was safe to bathe. The ameba must go up your nasal cavity. The hose bib and fountain have been tested because that is where the young boy may have been exposed. The City is taking every precaution.

Council member Roznovsky asked if we had any type of indication on why the State would take this level of action? Will boiling water also destroy this ameba? Mr. Mundo stated DSHS learned about the water boiling advisory at the same time and we are trying to get up to speed. CDC has said they have only known of one other time when the ameba was found in a system, but it was in a system with low chlorine residuals. Our system does not show low chlorine residuals.

Council member Roznovsky asked Mr. Mundo to bring everyone up to date on what the City is doing behind the scenes at this time. Mr. Mundo stated the EOC was opened today at 7:00 a.m. to bring staff together. First, to coordinate public utility staff and then to work with the State and TDEM and surrounding cities on pushing water out to all our citizens.

Mayor Sipple mentioned he had received a call from Senator Huffman, and she has been in contact with the Governor. The State has resources available to us as we require.

Mr. Mundo stated the CDC has also said there is another test that has to be performed on the culture because the first preliminary test shows there is genetic material in the water. The following test shows if the ameba could be viable. It will not negate the first test, but it will further show if the ameba could be viable in that sample. Those results will take 4-5 days.

Council member Roznovsky stated the City is basically under the guidance of the CDC. Mr. Mundo said, yes.

Mr. Mundo stated all the businesses that were using water from our system, have been contacted. They have been told to only use bottled water. Restaurants have also been contacted.

Council member Roznovsky stated they are receiving calls about communication. Mr. Mundo stated the City has worked on getting all notifications sent out via the alert system, Facebook, and the City website. A press release will be issued after this meeting with all the information that has been covered.

Council member Roznovsky asked if help was needed to hand out the water at the PODS. Mr. Mundo said the City already has teams set up for that. No help is needed at this time.

Council member Singhanian asked in the likelihood of contaminated surface water, would the City be ready to switch to 100% well water supply and get back to normal for our citizens? Mr. Mundo said he has asked that same question. It will just take time to drain the system. Right now, we have to assume everything is 50/50 and if all of the sudden it is determined that one source is safe, it will take time to switch to that safe source.

Mr. Mundo stated the Mayor has been asked to declare a Disaster Declaration. The Disaster Declaration puts in place the ability for the Mayor to make orders quickly and puts us in a position to ask for help from the State.

Mayor Sipple asked if the call had gone out on the emergency system. Mr. Mundo stated it had gone out late evening around 10 PM. We are still waiting for TCEQ's guidance for further communication.

Council member Baker asked Mr. Mundo to explain to everyone how to get set up on the alert system. Ms. Borth stated to go to the website and press the button that says, "emergency notifications" and enter how you would like to receive notifications.

The POD will be set up for the Brazosport area, not just Lake Jackson.

Mr. Mundo stated he would keep everyone updated and if necessary, call another emergency meeting.

Juan Longoria, BWA President.

Mr. Longoria stated that BWA supplies water to 7 communities. Freeport and Brazoria get 100% BWA water, if the problem developed back on the 8<sup>th</sup> of this month, all the citizens receiving 100% BWA have not reported any problems with BWA water.

Council member Broaddus asked if all the results will be for the eleven sites. Mr. Mundo said, yes.

Rhonda Seth asked if there had been any communication for the local health facilities. Mr. Mundo said that is why the EOC has opened to start these discussions and get the necessary information out to everyone.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

These minutes read and approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Sipple, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sally Villarreal, Asst. City Secretary