

City Council Agenda Memo

From: Paul Briseno, City Manager

Council Meeting: August 11, 2020

Subject: Brookings COVID Phased Plan and Metrics

Person(s) Responsible: Paul Briseno, City Manager

Summary:

The City of Brookings implemented various COVID-19 ordinances since March in an effort to reduce the impact to the community. The City has desired a plan and thresholds for movement between phases that impact businesses and residents. The proposed plan has a flexible designed that allows Council to adjust ordinances based on community metrics. More thorough data and knowledge now exists allowing considerations of movement between phases and provided by local professionals. The proposed plan and local strategic thresholds are provided as part of the Council COVID report.

Background:

In March, the City took action on the first of three ordinances designed to reduce the impact of COVID on the community. The decision to move through these ordinances was based on the information available. Ordinances included a Stay at Home 20-006, Closure of Social Businesses 20-005 and Re-opening 20-010. The ordinances regulate businesses and grants individual guidance.

Data available to date has evolved from the State Department of Health and local professionals. Knowledge at the time of implementation was gained from these sources and utilized to make the best decision at that time for the public health and local economy.

Discussion:

Staff has developed a phased plan for the City of Brookings based on existing regulations and recommended metrics. The plan identifies the specific phases, but allows Council the fluidity to adjust ordinances and move based on the existing conditions and known factors. Staff designed an outline of the plan and has updated the website.

The plan phases are based on past ordinances. Phases are detailed in the accompanied attachment and include:

Phase 1 / Severe – Stay at Home Ordinance
Phase 2 / High – Social Businesses Closed Ordinance
Phase 3 / Moderate – Re-opening Ordinance
Phase 4 / New Normal – No Current Ordinance TBD

Community partners with access to data, not available to the City will provide guidance of strategic community thresholds weekly. These partners include SDSU, USD, Brookings Hospital, Avera and Sanford. This information will be provided in our daily and weekly community updates found on our webpage and social media. The three major thresholds will include:

- Cases over the past fourteen days as it relates to the local epidemic
- Hospitalization and capacity to address any influx of cases
- Testing capabilities as it relates to a percentage of positives

Though each threshold provides a simple determination, the specific metrics within each criteria will need to be weighed to determine movement of the phases. These metrics are not available to the City, but our local partners can provide high level guidance. Though more specific information is desired, this is the best available resource the City has.

Once movement of the phases is warranted, Council can relax regulations with an ordinance that requires two readings. Council can take necessary emergency action passing a more restrictive ordinance quickly based on the thresholds.

Legal Consideration:

None.

Financial Consideration:

None.

Options:

This information is provided as part of the City Council COVID report

Supporting Documentation:

1. City of Brookings Phases