

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION – COUNTY OF KERN
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, California 93301

Special Meeting
Monday, March 16, 2020
3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Agbalog, Holt, Price, and Rose

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Maria Murbach, Eric Nesbitt, and Brian Van Wyk

NOTE: Ag, Ho, Pri, and Ro are abbreviations for Commissioners Agbalog, Holt, Price, and Rose. For example, Ho/Pri denotes Commissioner Holt made the motion and Commissioner Price seconded the motion. The abbreviations “ab” means absent and “abd” abstained.

COMMISSIONER ACTION IS SHOWN IN CAPS AFTER EACH ITEM

Brian Van Wyk, Commission’s legal counsel, announced due to California Governor Newsom’s recent announcement and recommendations regarding Coronavirus, the Brown Act has been suspended in a limited sense allowing for teleconferencing as reasonably necessary to respond to ongoing issues with Covid-19. Along those lines, we have arranged for Commissioner Rose to appear telephonically at today’s meeting.

Commissioner Rose thanked everyone.

President Agbalog announced waiting a few minutes for Commissioner Price to arrive.

President Agbalog called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Public Presentations

Eric Nesbitt, Deputy Chief Human Resources Officer, announced that a press conference was currently being held where the County was declaring a local state of emergency. This building will be closing to the public and closing most County facilities. The County will be seeking to send as many employees, as it can, home through April 13, 2020, with the exception of essential job classifications.

President Agbalog asked for an example of essential job classifications. Mr. Nesbitt explained the essential job classifications would include sheriffs, fire, some employees at Human Services, and some behind the scene services such as employees processing payroll. County Counsel and other skeleton crews throughout other County departments, it will be similar in operations to the winter recess. As a point of discussion with Commission staff, Mr. Nesbitt suggested discussing how the Commission will want to operate for the next several weeks.

Commissioner Rose asked if the April Commission meeting date would fall during the closure time. Mr. Van Wyk suggested, as the situation might progress rather quickly, postponing a discussion of calendaring a date and time until closer to that date.

Commissioner Rose asked if the Commission would be able to arrange a conference call meeting if something should come up or if there were pressing items on the agenda and the Commission needed to meet. Mr. Van Wyk stated this was addressed in the Governor's executive order last week, Brown Act bodies may hold meetings completely by conference, but they do have to hold open some location to the public where members of the public may attend and comment on the meeting. Commissioner Rose stated then if the County is shut down to the public then we cannot offer that to the public, and we would have to be shut down. Mr. Van Wyk stated that is correct.

Mr. Nesbitt stated that HR would also be suspending all recruitments currently underway because of the traffic required. All of that is being put on hold until things return to normal.

Commissioner Rose asked if this would be through April 14, 2020. Mr. Nesbitt responded yes.

Mr. Nesbitt stated HR senior staff would be working remotely and would be available via email.

2. Commission Member Presentations or Announcements

None

Adjourn to Closed Session: at 3:12 p.m. the Commission adjourned to closed session to consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, discipline, or dismissal of public employees or to hear complaints or charges brought against employees by another person or employee.

CLOSED SESSION (Government Code § 54957)

3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. (Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2): Facts and circumstances that might result in litigation, which facts and circumstances are not yet known to a potential plaintiff or plaintiffs, which facts and circumstances need not be disclosed; **NO REPORTABLE ACTION**)
4. Reconvened from Closed Session; President Agbalog adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting to be held on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.