

DORA - The city council met via telephone conference call on Thursday to discuss business. The group passed Resolution #4-2020, a temporary change in polling locations from the council room in the city hall to the civic center, which is a few hundred feet away across the parking lot.

This change will give voters more social distancing space if COVID-19 restrictions are still in place when municipal elections occur in August. "The civic center has a lot more space, and we can spread out poll workers and voters so they can have more space to vote," Mayor Randy Stephens said.

In other action, the council:

- Approved Resolution #3-2020 Back to School Sales Tax Holiday on July 17-19. This is an annual resolution that gives residents a break from paying city sales tax for back-to-school supplies.
- Approved a request from the fire department to purchase new commercial-grade furniture for the fire station behind the city hall. Dora Fire Chief Brandon Key said that firefighters had raised \$500 last year to help fund the new furniture, but they need to spend more money to get what they need. The quote for the new furniture was from a vendor outside the city.

Councilmembers Marion Combs and Arthur Lee Taylor wanted to ensure that the fire chief purchased the furniture locally, if possible. There was some question about whether local stores had commercial furniture in stock or could order the needed items.

The majority of the council approved the request with the stipulation that the furniture be purchased locally if possible. The \$2,700 for the purchase will come in part from the \$500 fundraiser proceeds, and the remainder will come from the fire department fund.

- Approved a revision to the current firefighter job description. Key said the current wording specifies those staffing the station has to be qualified as Firefighter #1 and Firefighter #2 and Emergency Medical Technician certification. "It's hard to staff the station with state-certified firefighters due to our limited hours," Key said.

Key would like the job description changed Firefighter #1 and #2 certification and/or Emergency Medical Technician certification. This change would allow the department to staff the station in compliance with state law.

By changing the wording, when there is not a firefighter at the station, an EMT can be there, according to Key.

- Heard Stephens report to the council that Dollar General is starting construction this week on a new facility at the corner of Sharon Blvd. and Hwy. 78. "This will be the biggest store that they build," Stephens said. The bad news, according to Stephens, is that once the new store opens, the existing store in Dora will close.

