



## City of Leavenworth

700 Highway 2 / Post Office Box 287  
Leavenworth, Washington 98826  
(509) 548-5275 / Fax: (509) 548-6429  
Web: [www.cityofleavenworth.com](http://www.cityofleavenworth.com)

**City Council**  
Carl J. Florea - *Mayor*  
Carolyn Wilson  
Mia Bretz  
Sharon Waters  
Clint Strand  
Jason Lundgren  
Anne Hessburg – *Mayor Pro Tem*  
Zeke Reister  
City Administrator - *Vacant*

April 14, 2020

Community Members,

This evening we will be holding our second City Council meeting without the benefit of being in the same room. Last time, three weeks ago, we used a conference call system to have everyone call in from their phones. And we actually had a couple of our community members call in and listen as we conducted this awkward meeting. It actually went fairly well, considering. But it was a bit clunky. Since we could not see one another, I simply did a roll call on every vote. I did the same thing for every discussion item – going down the line to see if anyone wanted to make comments or ask questions. Many times, they would just “pass” and we would move on. I also took the unusual step of asking each Council member if they would make a motion and another if they would second it (I took turns, of course)! Not the normal way to conduct business. But without any visual way to connect, it seemed like the most expedient way to get through the agenda. And we did do it without taking too much longer than normal. Will certainly be glad when we will be able to have our normal meetings once again!

Tonight’s virtual Council meeting is taking a giant step forward from that phone-in conference call of just three weeks ago. This meeting will be held using Zoom, so we will have visual representation from our Council and this will make it easier for a more “normal” meeting. I can ask who would make a motion and see the response, instead of going down the list. And I can ask if anyone has questions or comments and can see if they do. And when I call for a vote, a roll call won’t be necessary as we can see those who vote yea or nay. We are definitely expanding our horizons during this forced reworking of our routines. As I have told a few of you, last week there was one day I actually had 7 different Zoom meetings! I am really getting Zoomed out! But it is another good tool to have available for the City to use moving forward. It would allow for people to attend city meetings who could not otherwise be able to do so. I can see this going forward, not as a replacement to our face-to-face meetings of committees and council, but rather as a supplement. A way to expand our availability and our communication beyond those who can make it to City Hall. Sometimes it takes something difficult to get us to move and change. I think that there is something in human nature that keeps us in our comfort level. But at the same time, we grow personally and professionally when we are stretched beyond our comfort level.

I’ve had that experience so often in my life – I could give you a big list of when I’ve learned the most, and it has pretty much followed the path that led me to do something totally different and out of my comfort level. From heading to the “Bottoms” of Shreveport, LA, to becoming a nonprofit affordable housing contractor. I even had a stint selling cars. But what also is just as amazing to me is this: despite my history, despite knowing the truth that good growth has always been the result of my stretching and venturing out, I will still too often resist the most difficult choices. I will still choose comfort over growth too easily. Hmmmm, I wonder what that says? Probably not a commentary on human nature as much as a commentary on Carl’s psyche and only lukewarm spiritual development. Oh, well, fortunately for me, life itself forces me to grow, whether I choose to or not. And, I guess, I am glad for that! Keep safe, keep healthy, keep loving and caring!



**Carl J. Florea, Mayor**

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