

Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes
Emergency Meeting (FY 2020)
April 23, 2020

I. **Call to order.**

Chairman Eliseo Cantu called to order the Emergency Commission Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 1:30 p.m. on April 23, 2020 via live [gotowebinar](#).

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum were present:

Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Chairman
Daniel Moran, Vice Chairman
Kevin Barber, Secretary
Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, Commissioner
Laura Koerner, Commissioner

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director. Also present:

See the attached list.

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag was led by Commissioner Laura Koerner and Vice Chair Dan Moran led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag. Chip Osborne led the opening Prayer.

II. **Public Comment.**

Members of the public participated by dialing 877 226-9790 and enter access code 5138892.

No public comment was received.

III. **Report, Presentation and/or action regarding update for the FVA Emergency Assistance Grant funding amendments.**

James (Jim) Bracken, Director, Funds for Veterans Assistance briefed the Commission regarding the FVA Emergency Assistance Grant funding amendments. On March 20, 2020 the Commissioners approved a policy provision for FVA Grant amendment process that allowed grantees to request emergency funding increases for their grant projects when a natural disaster or Health Emergency is declared by an official Authority governing the local area, City, County, Region, or in this case the entire state.

The Commission further delegated approval authority to the TVC Executive Director for those emergency funding request in order to enable expedition processing and resolution time. During that special commission meeting, FVA did not make a recommendation as to what conditions must be met for the Emergency funding amendments to cease. On Monday, March 23rd, the Executive Director approved the first of 17 emergency funding request received during the last four and a half weeks. To date, those 17 emergency funding amendments that have been approved, sum up to a value of \$930,788.

Commissioners at the end of this month we will only have two more months in the current 2019/2020 Grant cycle. When the regular commission meeting occurs on May 14th, only six whole weeks remain in the grant cycle. The FVA Advisory committee will present their recommendations for Grant Awards for next year's Grant cycle on May 14th at that regular commission meeting. Our current grantees at that point will know if they are renewed for next year or awarded a new Grant based on their application, as such they will need to begin the transition from their current Grant year, to next year's Grant as required. Commissioners we believe that with a decision today from the commission, for a deliberate end date of emergency funding request. Organizations who are still providing services will have ample time to plan and forecast their veteran clients funding needs and can make reasonable request based on those projections. Serving veterans starts here at the Texas Veterans Commission.

Commissioners as the Director of FVA, I recommended emergency funding amendment request be suspended on Friday, May 15th at 12 p.m. Our staff will have the time between 12:00 p.m. and 5 p.m. on that day to process all remaining requests and route them to the Executive Director for approval. Thank you for your consideration in this recommendation.

MOTION: Approve the ending of the period of performance.
MADE BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Commission training for upcoming Third Quarterly Commission meeting May 14, 2020..**

Commissioners participated in the rehearsal for the Third Quarterly Commission meeting for May 14, 2020.


V. **Adjournment.**

Chairman Cantu asked each Commissioner for closing statements. The Commissioners extended their gratitude to Texas Veterans Commission staff for all their support and hard work in serving our Texas Veterans.

MOTION: Adjourn
MADE BY: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cantu adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:



Kevin Barber
Secretary



Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr.,
Chairman