



EMERGENCY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1:00pm, Monday, April 20, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom call due to COVID-19 Pandemic:

Broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Council members Popson, Streetman, Moye, Ward, Buckhannon, Bell, Pounds, and Smith, and Mayor Carroll

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Attorney Copeland, various department heads

2. Update from Raymond Barteet, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Regional Public Health Preparedness Director.

Mr. Barteet shared statistics updating City Council members on the number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19 in South Carolina. He also gave demographic breakdowns of those affected by the virus. Referring to modeling data from the University of Washington, Mr. Barteet suggested that South Carolina could have seen its peak of COVID-19 cases on April 9. He believes the data shows restrictions could be relaxed after June 1, but modeling data suggests continuing social distancing measures through May.

Council members engaged Mr. Barteet in questions about reopening the island to visitors and tourists. While Mr. Barteet could not give specific recommendations about reopening the island, he did say that increased testing will help understand how many are infected and that he expects increased availability of testing moving forward. He said that more testing helps better the modeling data. His recommendation to relax social distancing after June 1 "is based on modeling, and with the modeling it specifically says that after June 1st relaxing social distancing may be possible when containment strategies that include testing, contact tracing, isolation, limiting gathering size and stuff are in place." He said he did not see danger in lifting access to the beach as long as it remained to restricted to residents and groups were kept to small numbers. He was unable to provide a recommendation for opening short-term rentals.

3. Update from Dr. Edward O'Bryan, Emergency Medicine physician at MUSC, the Executive Director of MUSC Health Solutions, Chief Medical Officer for MUSC Business Health, and the Director of Business for Telemedicine Services for Business Health.

Dr. O'Bryan suggested following a guideline of ten people or less in a home or unit once short-term rentals are reopened. He also agreed that opening beach access to residents is acceptable but noted that current models do not factor in the effects of opening tourist areas. Regarding the reopening of short-term rentals, Dr. O'Bryan said it would be important to limit the number of

people coming from locations outside the state, especially from known virus hotspots. Neither Mr. Barteet nor Dr. O'Bryan could provide any additional guidelines or recommendations for cleaning of short-term rental units or hotel rooms between visits. Dr. O'Bryan said that a slow reopening of places within the economy allowing for time in between to note any changes in the spread of the virus would be a prudent line of action. He did agree that requiring movement for beach and water-related activities was a good idea.

4. Consideration of amendments to Emergency Ordinance 2020-02 to implement further measures to protect the citizens of the Isle of Palms, including but not limited to extending the access restrictions and the prohibition of future check-ins for short-term rentals, hotels and other accommodations and other measures proposed for the safety and public health of the City of Isle of Palms

MOTION: Council Member Bell made a motion to move into Executive Session according to §30-4-70(a)(2) to receive legal advice regarding Emergency Ordinance 2020-02 and about a potential claim related to a violation of the Emergency Ordinance. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

City Council moved into Executive Session at 2:32pm.

City Council returned from Executive Session at 3:30pm. Mayor Carroll reported that no decisions were made. Council member discussed the reopening of the beach in light of Governor McMaster's upcoming press conference.

MOTION: Council Member Moye made a motion to open the beach for exercise only. Permitted exercise to including running, walking, dog walking, surfing, and other recreational activities consistent with social distancing. Sunbathing, loitering without moving in groups of three or more people will be prohibited. This motion is to be effective in conjunction with Governor McMaster's order. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion.

MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion to amend the motion to allow people with disabilities to have proof available through a placard that they be allowed to be stationary. Mayor Carroll seconded the motion.

Chief Cornett agreed that the enforceability of the amendment remains the same as it has been in the past. Council Member Buckhannon asked why limiting activities on the beach is necessary and why movement is necessary, suggesting it seems like overreach.

MOTION: Council Member Ward called the question. Council Member Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: A vote on the amended motion regarding activity on the beach was taken as follows:

Ayes: Smith, Moye, Bell, Popson, Streetman, Pounds

Nays: Buckhannon, Ward, Carroll

The motion passed.

5. Adjournment

The next meeting of City Council will be held Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 6:00pm. Council Member Buckhannon made a motion to adjourn and Council Member Moye seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk