



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

6:00pm, Tuesday, April 28, 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

MOTION: Council Member Bell made a motion to reorder the agenda to allow for the discussion of the Emergency Ordinances to occur before the discussion of the phased reopening of the Recreation Department. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of amendments to Emergency Ordinances 2020-01 and 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

Administrator Fragoso reviewed the areas needing City Council's attention in the emergency ordinance as several restrictions originally put in place are set to expire on April 30, 2020. Other considerations may include extending the allowance for virtual meetings and the use of alternative containers by island business.

Dr. O'Bryan of MUSC provided City Council members with a COVID update for the state and Charleston area. He stated there are still approximately 100 cases/day in the state, noting that is not much of a decrease from last month. He said he would like to see a consistent drop in the number of cases over a 14-day period and the widespread availability of testing before allowing a large scale opening of businesses. He noted that South Carolina is approaching Phase 1 as outlined by the White House. He also suggested testing all frontline Isle of Palms staff and possibly all full-time residents. Dr. O'Bryan agreed that social distancing is effective, and he expects it will last until June. He did note the success of the social distancing efforts done by Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island and Folly Beach. He also agreed that a gradual easing of the checkpoint restrictions onto the island seemed logical and could be quickly changed, if necessary. He stressed the need for businesses to work with public health officials to create new and better cleaning practices before any large-scale reopening. Administrator Fragoso asked Dr. O'Bryan to participate on the panel of a webinar she is setting up with island business owners on

how to properly reopen their businesses. Regarding a soft re-opening of the Recreation Department, Dr. O'Bryan said it seemed reasonable especially in light of the fact that UV light does kill the virus over time.

MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to extend the current hours of the checkpoint of 7am-7pm to May 12, 2020 in accordance with the Governor's State of Emergency. Council Member Bell seconded the motion.

MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion to change the times of the checkpoint from 8am-5pm. Council Member Moye seconded the motion.

Council members discussed the pros and cons of shortening the checkpoint restrictions. Chief Cornett said that monitoring social distancing on the beach is safer for his officers than manning the checkpoint. He also said he has enough staff to effectively monitor the beach. Administrator Fragoso pointed out that Sullivan's Island Town Council opted to keep their checkpoint times to 7am-7pm. If the Isle of Palms changes theirs to 8am-5pm, it will require Sullivan's Island to establish a checkpoint at Breach Inlet from 7am-8am and 5pm-7pm.

VOTE: A vote on the amendment to change the checkpoint times to 8am-5pm was taken as follows:

Ayes: Popson, Smith, Moye, Ward, Buckhannon, Carroll
Nays: Pounds, Streetman, Bell

The motion passed 6-3.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to amend the ordinance to allow property owners to access the beach through the checkpoint with proper proof of ownership. Council Member Popson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Buckhannon made a motion to amend the ordinance to allow cyclists and runners to access the island for exercise purposes. Council Member Ward seconded the motion.

Chief Cornett expressed concern about language needed to further differentiate cyclists and runners who are exercising as opposed to just coming to the island.

VOTE: A vote on the motion to allow cyclists and runner to access the island for exercise purposes was taken as follows:

Ayes: Buckhannon, Ward, Popson, Carroll
Nays: Bell, Moye, Smith, Streetman, Popson

The motion failed 5-4.

VOTE: A vote was taken on the original motion as amended, and the motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Fragoso noted the changes go into effect on May 1, 2020.

MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to extend the date in Section 8 of Emergency Ordinance 2020-04 prohibiting rentals, use of short-term rentals, hotels and other overnight accommodations to May 12, 2020, Council Member Moye seconded the motion.

Council Member Buckhannon recused himself from the discussion and vote on this motion.

Administrator Fragoso pointed out that Governor McMaster's Executive Order 2020-19 notes that "short term rentals... in the State of South Carolina are prohibited from making or accepting new reservations or bookings from or for individuals travelling from any country, state, municipality, or other geographic area subject to or identified in a CDC travel advisory or other CDC notice as a location with extensive community transmission of COVID-19" and as the whole world is under a Level 3 Travel Restriction and this Executive Order limits travel into the state by people from areas affected by the virus, it would seem to limit all travel into the state. As this Executive Order is to remain in place through May 12, 2020 at this time, the City Council cannot do anything to violate that order.

VOTE: A vote was taken with all in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Council members decided at this point in time to defer discussions about requirements for property managers regarding the proper cleaning of rental units until such time as consultations can be held with public health officials and proper guidelines can be crafted.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to amend Section 5 of Emergency Ordinance 2020-04 to authorize the City Administrator to cancel and revoke any special events permits issued prior to the date of this ordinance for events taking place until May 30, 2020. Council Member Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to amend Section 6 of the Emergency Ordinance 2020-04 to prohibit public gatherings larger than 3 persons. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion.

MOTION: Council Member Moye made a motion to amend the original motion to exclude groups of family members who live in the same household. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: A vote was taken on the motion as amended with all in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion of phased reopening strategy and plan for the City of Isle of Palms.

Director Page said her staff is prepared to accommodate the limited use of the outdoor facilities at the Recreation Department, including use of the soccer field, tennis courts, and dog park. All spaces will be limited to three people at a time and any necessary cleaning will take place as there are turnovers in occupation. Chief Cornett said that his patrol officers would be able to respond to any calls from the Recreation Department in a timely manner, if needed. The new access will start Monday, May 4, 2020 and will be available to island residents Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion to implement the phased reopening of the Recreation Department on Monday, May 4, 2020 as described by Director Page and to include the basketball courts in that opening. Council Member Buckhannon seconded the motion.

Director Page indicated that she would like more time to look at the inclusion of basketball courts in the reopening as basketball involves more contact and could require more regulations than the other outdoor areas.

MOTION: Mayor Carroll made a motion to amend the motion to remove the use of the basketball courts from the reopening of the Recreation Department. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. A vote on the amendment was taken as follows:

Ayes: Popson, Pounds, Streetman, Moye, Ward, Bell, Carroll

Nays: Smith, Buckhannon

The motion passed 7-2.

VOTE: A vote was taken on the motion to approve the phased reopening of the Recreation Department on May 4, 2020 with all in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Isle of Palms City Council will be Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 6:00pm.

5. Adjournment

Council Member Buckhannon made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Moye seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk