



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

2:00pm, Friday, May 8, 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, Sandy Stone of the Short-Term Rental Task Force

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to suspend the rules of order and add a discussion of the “keep it moving” requirement in Ordinance 2020-03 to the agenda. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Smith abstained from voting on the motion as she said the ordinance affects her family business.

2. Discussion of Ordinance 2020-03

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to rescind the requirement that those on the beach be in constant movement and eliminate the regulation that the beach is open for exercise only effective immediately. Council Member Streetman second the motion.

Post motion, Council Member Ward noted for the record a statement that this amendment is due to the exigent circumstances of public health measures and the inability to enforce the current ordinance.

Chief Cornett shared that most beach goers have been successfully practicing social distancing and sees no issue with rescinding that requirement. Chief Cornett also noted that the wording of the Governor’s Executive Order makes enforcing group size at restaurants very difficult, but he can still enforce the limitation of group size on the beach to three or less unless they are from the same family and live in the same household.

VOTE: The motion was passed unanimously. Council Member Smith did not vote.

Council Member Ward expressed concern about enforcing the groups of three or less on the beach but not in the restaurants.

3. Presentation and consideration of the recommendations developed by the Short-Term Rental and Hotel Phased Re-Opening Task Force

Council Member Buckhannon recused himself from the discussion and any votes regarding short-term rentals.

Director Kerr reviewed the creation and makeup of the Short-Term Rental and Hotel Phased Re-Opening Task Force. He then shared the considerations and their final recommendations as provided in a document to City Council. He said the recommendations are to be effective immediately and in place for the next 61 days.

Council members thanked the members of the Task Force for their service. Mr. Stone said that rental managers are not asking for waivers be signed by renters. Council members Streetman and Ward noted that the rental managers have more at stake for not following the guidelines.

When asked about a requirement for cleaners to wear PPE, Director Kerr indicated that rental property managers have no control over the cleaning companies and what they do.

Dr. Edward O'Bryan of MUSC said the guidelines were "very good" as presented. He shared that MUSC is developing a program through their Public Health Team to help any business or municipality to do walk-throughs and help them develop a playbook for implementing the guidelines provided by Federal, state, and local governments. Council Member Ward encouraged Administrator Fragoso to follow up on that program with Dr. O'Bryan.

Director Kerr said that all of the Task Force recommendations will be sent to rental property owners and will include information about the MUSC program described by Dr. O'Bryan.

Administrator Fragoso noted that a requirement for cleaning employees to wear face masks and gloves when available needs to be added to §B(3). She also said that reservations can be taken for check-ins on or after May 13, 2020.

MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to accept the sanitation and hygiene recommendations as presented by the Short-Term Rental and Hotel Phased Re-Opening Task Force. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion.

The effective date for these measures would be May 13, 2020 following the expiration of the short-term rental ban on May 12, 2020.

VOTE: A vote was taken with all in favor. Council Member Buckhannon did not vote.

3. Adjournment

Council Member Pounds made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Bell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

Public Comment For City Meetings

Name

James King

Address

2705 Cameron Blvd, Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451

Comments for Council Meeting

Thank you for scheduling this special City Council Meeting to discuss the planned palm tree removals by Dominion Energy and soliciting questions from IOP residents.

Overall, I am interested in seeing a process that effectively BALANCES the needs of the residents with the needs of DE.

My questions:

1. What specific data points were presented by DE that justify the removal of 97 palm trees from the island? Specifically, over the past year, 5, and 10 years, how many palm trees caused downing or outages of island power lines on IOP? What is the documented risk of power grid compromise?
2. Was there any involvement of an arborist (independent/not by paid by DE), representing the interests of IOP residents, in the palm tree risk assessment process? If not, should/could there be?
3. Is there an opportunity to establish "one palm out, one palm in" policy to ensure palm tree replacements and maintenance of the IOP natural island environment? Will the City Council take on a proactive approach island tree preservation, on behalf of the IOP residents?

Longer term, it would be great to understand the possibilities for putting the power lines underground for grid preservation and tree preservation. There are several sections of IOP where the power lines are underground already and making this an island wide standard would be ideal.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim King

Meeting This Comment is Intended For:

City Council

Public Comment For City Meetings

Name

Mr Frank W Barnes

Address

Ocean point, Iop, South Carolina 29451

Comments for Council Meeting

Thank you for all of your hard during this difficult time .

I own three properties in wild dunes which I rent two of them through wild dunes rental management.

I am more concerned with keeping the residents safe and healthy than I am about renting my homes.

Please continue to stay strong on your convictions regarding the safety of the people you have agreed to look out for on isle of palms . We are counting are you to go slowly as we open the island and keep the the curve flat . Remember the hospitals are prepared however we do not have a large hospital system here which means we could get overwhelmed very quickly in Charleston. Keep safety first money second .

Without healthy what good is money

Data is important to understand.

Again many thanks

Stay well

Frank W Barnes

Meeting This Comment is Intended For:

City Council

Public Comment For City Meetings

Name

Ms. Monica Kubican

Address

1300 Ford Hampton Rd, Winchester, Kentucky 40391

Comments for Council Meeting

Why is there an exercise only restriction on the beach? People can sit together at a restaurant but not on the beach? Hilton Head beaches are open with no beach restrictions.

Meeting This Comment is Intended For:

City Council

Public Comment For City Meetings

Name

Mr Paul J Stress

Address

9002 Palmetto Drive, Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451

Comments for Council Meeting

Based on what I was hearing in your video meeting concerning beach access (i.e. primary concern social distancing with keep moving as a means to enforce it), I would respectfully suggest modifying Ordinance 2020-03 to read: "Access to the beach will be for recreational activities consistent with social distancing. Loitering and congregations of people greater than the governor's order are prohibited."

The above modification would save public safety resources by eliminating the need for police officers to request responsible "socially distanced" people to keep moving. It would also lead to more consistent enforcement. I think that this modification would also go a long way to reduce existing tensions within the local communities and encourage vacationers to support IOP businesses again.

Meeting This Comment is Intended For:

City Council

Public Comment For City Meetings

Name

Brittany L

Address

1800 Indigo Market Drive, Mt Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

Comments for Council Meeting

Thank you for working to keep the public safe. Could you explain the logic behind the keep in moving policy? What is the difference between a couple or family who lives together sitting on the beach versus running on the beach?

Thank you.

Meeting This Comment is Intended For:

City Council

Public Comment For City Meetings

Name

Michael Ramsey

Address

7600 Palmetto Drive, 429D, Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451

Comments for Council Meeting

I am a full time resident of Isle of Palms and the owner of a short term rental condo. I hope that the purpose of the short term rental task force is to find the best way to get back to allowing renters to return and not how do we keep them away as long as possible. Like it or not our community is based on tourism and many peoples income including the town comes from short term rental activities. It is time to stop hiding behind we have to keep our residence safe. People that want to stay sheltered in their homes are more than welcome to but the rest of us are moving on with or lives the best we can. Whoever came up with the "keep it moving" rule should be ashamed. It has nothing to do with safety because there is no way you can justify that a person sitting in a chair or on a blanket alone or with people they live with is harmful to them or anyone else on the beach. One of the safest places you can be is outside. I looks to me that the town council does not like the fact that the beach should be open to everyone and is trying to make it as unattractive as possible. If you want to enforce gatherings over 10 then that at least has some merit. We just lost a week rental because the people cannot be sure that by the time they wanted to come they could sit and enjoy the beach. Maybe that is what the city council was hoping for, but if this goes on we as owners will have to look at legal options. We have already lost 2 months of income from our unit and it is reaching a boiling point. Please revisit the "keep it moving" rule now!!

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