



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

3:00pm, Saturday, May 2, 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. Consideration of amendments to Emergency Ordinance 2020-04 and other measures proposed for the safety and public health of the City of Isle of Palms

Mayor Carroll stated the purpose of the meeting was to address the directive from Governor McMaster to reopen the short-term rentals as well as amendments to Emergency Ordinance 2020-04 specifically dealing with the checkpoint hours and short-term rentals.

City Council members discussed changing the hours of the checkpoint versus opening the checkpoint. It was suggested that Mayor Carroll, Administrator Fragoso, and Chief Cornett reach out to the other area beaches to try to coordinate opening the beaches simultaneously so that not one single community gets overrun with visitors. Chief Cornett shared that both the Sheriff's Office and the North Charleston Police Department have offered the help of their officers. He noted officers from outside of the Isle of Palms can enforce social distancing but would not be able to enforce the "keep it moving" ordinance. He also said that it is safer for his officers to be on the beach than to interact with people at the checkpoint. Whenever the beach is opened, Chief Cornett said there would be a zero-tolerance policy with regards to beach violations. He agreed it would be easier if all the beaches worked on opening simultaneously.

Plans for limiting parking on the island were discussed as a means to help enforce social distancing and to keep the beaches from being overcrowded. Chief Cornett said that there will need to be additional resources, such as staff and fencing, utilized in order to restrict parking areas. He said that additional Beach Service Officers have been hired in anticipation of the beach reopening. Mayor Carroll reported that the County is delaying the opening of the park as they are in the midst of hiring and training staff.

MOTION: Council Member Bell made a motion to move into Executive Sessions according to §30-4-70(a)(2) to receive legal advice regarding short-term rentals and checkpoint restrictions. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

City Council moved into Executive Session at 4:18pm.

City Council returned from Executive Session at 4:58pm. Mayor Carroll reported no decisions were made.

MOTION: Council Member Popson made a motion to immediately open the island to short-term rentals while implementing the sanitation and hygiene measures suggested by City staff. Council Member Ward seconded the motion.

MOTION: Council Member Moye made a motion ordering the creation of a task force made up of members of the rental and medical communities to determine a phased approach aimed at opening short-term rentals prior to May 12, 2020. Council Member Bell seconded the motion.

As there was another motion on the table, Council Member Moye then withdrew his motion and Council Member Bell withdrew his second. Council members agreed it was critical to confer immediately with the members of the rental and medical communities to review the sanitation guidelines ahead of reopening.

Council Member Bell noted that the sanitation and hygiene document suggested by staff has not yet been reviewed by City Council and members of the rental community.

MOTION: Council Member Pounds called the question. Mayor Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: A vote on the motion to immediately open the island to short-term rentals was taken as follows:

Ayes: Popson, Ward, Carroll

Nays: Streetman, Bell, Pounds, Smith, Moye

Council Member Buckhannon recused himself from the discussion and the vote. The motion failed 5-3.

MOTION: Council Member Moye made a motion ordering the creation of a task force made up of members of the City staff and short-term rental and medical communities to build a phased approach aimed at opening short-term rentals prior to May 12, 2020. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion.

MOTION: Mayor Carroll made a motion to amend requesting the task force meet no later than Wednesday, May 6, 2020. Council Member Moye seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Nays: Popson

Council Member Buckhannon recused himself from the vote and discussion. The motion passed 7-1.

MOTION: Mayor Carroll made a motion to remove the checkpoints on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 and to limit parking to the ocean side of Palm Boulevard and reduce the parking in the Municipal Lot B to 50%. Council Member Ward seconded the motion.

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to amend the motion to eliminate parking between 3rd and 9th streets. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows:

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

The motion passed 8-1.

Discussion ensued about the most effective way to block off these parking areas and prepare for the lifting of the checkpoints. Council Member Buckhannon pointed out that the restaurants have been opened per Governor McMaster and the City cannot limit access to them after today.

VOTE: A vote taken on the amended motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Buckhannon made a motion to allow patrons of island restaurants and businesses be allowed through the checkpoints. Council Member Ward seconded the motion.

Chief Cornett pointed out anyone can say they are a restaurant or business patron. Council Member Buckhannon said the impetus for the checkpoint was to control crowds on the beaches and that Governor McMaster has opened the restaurants.

VOTE: A vote was taken on the motion as follows:

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

The motion failed 5-4.

3. Adjournment

Council Member Bell made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Moye seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk