



MINUTES
SPECIAL FORMAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL, 206 S. MAIN STREET, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Thursday, April 8, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Knox H. White

2. ROLL CALL

The following members of City Council were in attendance: Mayor Knox White, John DeWorken, Lillian Flemming, Ken Gibson, Wil Brasington, Russell Stall and Dorothy Dowe

3. NEW BUSINESS – (Emergency Ordinance – First and Final Reading)

- a. Emergency Ordinance requiring individuals to wear face coverings in certain circumstances, and matters related thereto
(Presented by City Attorney Michael Pitts)

Councilmember Gibson moved, seconded by Councilmember DeWorken, to approve first and final reading.

City Attorney Mike Pitts provided an explanation of the mask ordinance and stated it is an extension of the prior emergency ordinances passed by City Council.

Mayor White read a statement in support of the Ordinance from Dr. Marcus Blackstone with Bon Secours St. Francis and introduced Dr. Wendell James with Prisma Health and Dr. Brannon Traxler with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) who both provided comments in person sharing their support and providing information on the status of COVID. Dr. James and Dr. Traxler shared comments regarding a recent increase in the numbers and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and to continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Councilmember Brasington asked what the threshold is that officials are working towards concerning a reduction in the community reducing the level from widespread to a more favorable threshold. Dr. Traxler responded they will make that determination by considering the percent positive in the County, the number of tests being performed, and cluster locations of the virus.

Councilmember Dowe asked if the percent vaccinated can be tied to immunity and when would that percent be reached. Dr. Traxler responded there is some natural immunity from individuals who have been infected, however, the fastest way to achieve that level is through a high vaccinated rate, which is dependent upon the dosages coming in and the number of individuals receiving vaccinations.

Councilmember Flemming commented on work taking place to encourage the elderly and people of color to get vaccinated and asked about obtaining statistics on those

vaccinated. Dr. Traxler responded that SCDHEC has a link on its website providing the demographics and percentages.

Councilmember Gibson asked if there are any metrics in determining when to reduce or eliminate the restrictions. Dr. James responded the hospital is attempting to determine the same, however, there is not going to be one indicator to look at in making a decision. Dr. James stated the hospital is currently seeing a shift in less nursing home patients and an increased in younger patients. Dr. James stated hanging a decision on one metric will be misleading and commented on recognizing a spike when social gatherings or holiday events are held. Dr. James also stated he believes if we continue to use mitigation strategies, everyone will be in a better place by next fall.

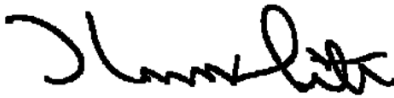
Mayor White stated the City wants to show its support encouraging vaccinations and masking which provides additional precautions.

Councilmember Stall was recognized in attendance.

After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

4. ADJOURN.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.



KNOX H. WHITE, MAYOR



CAMILLA G. PITMAN, MMC, Certified PLS
CITY CLERK

MEETING NOTICE POSTED AND MEDIA NOTIFIED ON APRIL 7, 2021.