



Special Emergency Council Meeting
Meeting held via Zoom. Livestreamed on City's Facebook
page

March 19, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

11:00 AM

Mayor, Billy Keyserling - The following members of Council were in attendance Mike McFee, Phil Cromer, Stephen Murray and Mayor Keyserling. Nan Sutton was absent.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Staff recommendation on delay of any payments from businesses due to COVID-19.

Motion was made by Murray and seconded by McFee.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, began by expressing he would like Kathy Todd, Finance Director, go into details of the City's concerns of cash flow this fiscal year and the possibilities of going into the fund balance with the approval of the Mayor. Mr. Prokop also discussed concerns he and Kathy received from businesses regarding assistance to waive/extend business license renewals, hospitality fees, etc... Kathy Todd gave an overview of the possible cash flow and of the options regarding extension/waivers of the business license renewals, hospitalities fee, etc...

Jonathan Sullivan, Beaufort Inn Manager, commented about his current hardship and what others are experiencing and offered his recommendations.

Vimal Desai, HMV Management, reiterated Mr. Sullivan's concerns and recommendations. Motion was made by Murray and seconded by McFee.

The Mayor and Council members urged businesses in the City that are not adversely affected by coronavirus concerns to pay their taxes by the normal due date. "Our availability to keep up services - police, fire, keeping parks open - depends of people paying their taxes and contributing to City's operations like they always have," said Councilman Stephen Murray. At the same time, Council members recognize that the restrictions placed on many businesses in response to the virus have placed burdens on businesses and their employees.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike McFee reminded local businesses that it is a violation of state law to use money owed for taxes for business operations to help with cash flow.

Motion to approve was unanimous.

B. Electronic Meeting Ordinance.

Motion was made by Murray.

Mayor Keyserling began with expressing as we are moving forward to electronic meetings, I will need to announce who is present and absent. Mr. Prokop expressed that the County and Port Royal already passed this same ordinance. He expressed that we are currently looking at

programs so citizens can engage. Kathy Todd went over a few options that had been looked and how they will work. Councilman Murray went over the ordinance.

Motion to hold electronic meetings was approved unanimously.

C. Update on Emergency Operations.

Mr. Prokop expressed to Council that we are currently in OPCON1, but we are not paying personnel emergency pay even though we are in a state of emergency. We are currently working regular hours. Public Works staff are doing an excellent job of cleaning the parks, City Hall, the bathrooms, etc. Restrooms will be closed at all City Parks.

Half of the administrative staff are either working from home or on rotations. We may cut back further next week to two days work week or less hours each day. We will post a notice specifically for developers that they can call for appointments. We are trying to reduce cost where we can. We do have concerns for our first responders of possible exposures. We do have protocols in place for both Fire and Police.

We are keeping the public notified by having a central location on our website. We established parking for curbside pickup for downtown. We are starting to look at how we can save cash for the next six months and may have to delay some things. We are trying to be as customer service friendly as we can with all the precautions and guidelines we have to follow. This pandemic is more serious than people are taking it.

Mayor Keyserling thanked the staff for all their diligence in preparing the City.

Councilman Cromer made a motion to adjourn meeting.

III. ADJOURN

11:45 AM

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