

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND
Emergency Town Council Meeting
June 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

The June 30, 2020 Emergency Town Council meeting was conducted as a video conference using Zoom and was simultaneously made available to the public via YouTube live stream and by conference call, all in keeping with practices adopted to address the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Mayor Gregg, Councilmembers Crane, Finke, Fox and Goldstein, Town Administrator Cronin and Town Clerk Allbritton participated in the meeting.

The Mayor verified from the Town Clerk that the meeting had been advertised to meet the requirements of the SC Freedom of Information Act. In addition to advertising the meeting agenda to the public, individuals were encouraged to make comments on the Emergency Ordinance on the Town website, by emailing the Town Clerk or by dropping off written comments at the Town Hall.

Mayor Gregg stated that the agenda was a single item, which was to take up consideration of Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-03, an Emergency Ordinance to require the wearing of face coverings at all business establishments within the Town; and other matters related thereto.

Section 1 of the proposed ordinance states that the Town's Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-02 remains in effect and is not amended or rescinded by Emergency Ordinance 2020-03 except that the Governor's latest Executive Order No. 2020-40, which was issued June 11, 2020 that deals with the reopening of bowling alleys, is included.

The Mayor read the portion of the Emergency Ordinance contained in *Section 2. Face Coverings Required* and asked if Council had questions or comments pertaining to that section.

Councilwoman Finke asked questions about several different scenarios and whether a mask would be required. Mayor Gregg stated that outdoor gatherings are harder to monitor but those would be covered in *Section 3* and masks would be encouraged. Curbside deliveries and employees at business establishments that have face to face interaction, such as outdoor dining, would be required to wear a mask. Councilwoman Finke commented that she thought people should be required to wear masks on the boardwalks to the beach because they were so narrow and at the hand washing stations because crowds gather to wait for their turn.

Councilman Goldstein recommended changing *Section 2(b)* to include anyone waiting in line to enter a business establishment and he also agrees with Councilwoman Finke that people on boardwalks should be required to wear masks. Councilman Crane said that his research has lead him to believe there is little chance of passing the virus on the boardwalk because it is such a brief encounter but he is more concerned about what happens when beachgoers get off the boardwalks. Councilman Crane and Councilwoman Finke agreed that people should wear a mask when waiting in line. Councilwoman Fox had concerns about wearing a mask when waiting in line.

Town Administrator Cronin reminded the Mayor that, before having a motion to amend the Emergency Ordinance 2020-03, someone needs to make a motion to approve the ordinance as presented, get a second and then discuss amendments. Councilman Crane made a motion to approve Emergency Ordinance 2020-03 as presented to Council. Councilwoman Finke seconded the motion.

Councilman Goldstein made a motion to have *Section 2 (b) (2)* read as follows: “All persons waiting in line to enter a Business Establishment.” Councilwoman Finke seconded the motion. Councilmembers Crane, Finke and Goldstein voted in favor of the amendment and Mayor Gregg and Councilwoman Fox voted against. The vote was 3 to 2 in favor and the amendment was approved. The Mayor made a motion to change the wording of *Section 2 (b) (2)* to “All persons waiting to enter a Business Establishment or any building in the Town open to the public” so that people waiting in line to come into Town Hall would have to wear a mask. The Town Administrator stated, in his opinion, that the Town Hall would be a Business Establishment. The Mayor withdrew his motion to amend.

Councilman Goldstein made a motion to amend *Section 2 (b)* to add: (4) All persons using the wooden boardwalks, which access the beach, must use face coverings.” Councilman Crane seconded the motion. After discussion about the motion, Councilman Goldstein rephrased his motion to read “All persons using beach access, including wooden boardwalks, and wash stations.” Councilman Crane seconded the motion. Councilwoman Fox stated she had a problem adopting something that was not enforceable. The Town Administrator questioned if this amendment would apply to property owners who had boardwalks on their property. Councilwoman Finke offered a substitute amendment worded as follows: *Section 2 (b) (4)* All persons using Seabrook Island Property Owners Association’s beach access points, designated 1-9, and wash stations. Mayor Gregg’s concern was that this part of the ordinance could only be enforced when the Town’s part time Code Enforcement Officers were present at the boardwalks and he thought residents would be complaining if the Town was not aggressively enforcing it. Mayor Gregg, Councilman Crane and Councilwoman Fox voted against the substitute amendment. Councilmembers Goldstein and Finke voted in favor. The substitute amendment failed by a vote of 3-2. When Councilman Goldstein’s original amendment – “All persons using beach access, including wooden boardwalks, and wash stations” was addressed. the amendment was unanimously defeated.

Mayor Gregg asked if there were any suggested amendments to *Section 2.1* which contains exemptions to face coverings. Town Administrator Cronin commented that Tommy West, Manager of the Seabrook Island Utility, suggested that an exception be made for workers at the water company. Mayor Gregg made a motion to amend *Section 2.1 (a) (7)* to add “persons engaged in repair or maintenance of the Seabrook Island Utility Commission infrastructure.” Councilwoman Finke seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Because of challenges in enforcement, *Section 3* deals with instances where the use of face coverings is encouraged but is not mandated. Councilwoman Finke offered an amendment to be added as *Section 3 (a) (4)* All persons using Seabrook Island Property Owners Association’s

beach access points, designated 1-9, and wash stations. Councilman Crane seconded the motion and the vote to approve the amendment was unanimous.

Section 4 pertains to enforcement and penalties for violation of the ordinance. There were no suggested amendments from Council. *Sections 5, 6 and 7* contain language that is standard for most ordinances.

Section 8 states the effective date of the ordinance. The Mayor made a motion to set the effective date as July 1, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. Councilman Crane seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Councilman Crane made a motion to approve Emergency Ordinance 2020-03 as amended. Councilwoman Finke seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Town Administrator Cronin stated that, due to the spike in coronavirus cases, he had been asked by Shred360 if the Town still wanted to proceed with their shred event that is scheduled for July 17. After discussion, Council decided to proceed with the event as long as residents and vendor employees adhered to certain precautions. The Town Administrator warned Council that the vendor may still choose to cancel as all their other events in July have been cancelled.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Date: July 28, 2020



Town Clerk