

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND
Town Council Emergency Meeting
July 21, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

The July 21, 2020, Town Council Emergency 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 Town Clerk verified that the meeting was properly advertised according to the requirements of the SC Freedom of Information Act.

The Mayor stated that this meeting is being held to consider Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-04: An Emergency Ordinance to extend requirements related to social distancing and group congregations; to modify the requirements to certain businesses; to prohibit the sale or consumption of beer, wine or alcoholic liquor on the premises of all persons or businesses licensed to sell beer, wine or alcoholic liquor between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.; to extend the prohibition on temporary use permits; to extend the expiration date for active building permits; and other matters related thereto.

Councilman Crane made a motion to approve the ordinance in a final form that would include marked changes in the draft form. Councilwoman Finke seconded the motion. Mayor asked for discussion and comments. Councilwoman Finke commented that she wanted to stress again that it is not necessarily important how many people are on Seabrook Island but how people that are on the island behave. Everyone must practice social distancing, limit group size and wear your masks, even on boardwalks as we are encouraging everyone to do. She also wanted to remind everyone that problems Council discussed previously, that occurred on the beach did not involve visitors. They were property owners and citations have been issued. She also encouraged everyone to be nice to renters and encourage safety. Councilwoman Fox agrees with Councilwoman Finke and added that the community needs to work together – continue wearing your masks, continue to behave in an appropriate manner and stay socially distanced.

Town Administrator Cronin reported that the Town had received eight public comments that were recapped on a spreadsheet and distributed to Council earlier. The Town Administrator orally summarized the comments at the meeting for Council.

Mayor Gregg stated that the Seabrook Island Club is a not for profit club and would be affected by the part of the ordinance that deals with the sale and consumption of beer, wine or alcoholic liquor. Councilman Crane remarked that the comment about occupancy of short-term rentals is outside the scope of the Emergency Ordinance but he would like for the Town's ad hoc committee, dealing with short-term rental regulation, to determine whether that is something that might be incorporated into another ordinance at a later date. Councilwoman Fine stated that the ad hoc committee is looking into addressing occupancy limits and parking in conjunction with the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association. Mayor Gregg agreed that restrictions on occupancy limits on rental units would not be addressed with this ordinance since rentals have already been made for future dates and restricting occupancy on an immediate basis would have an unreasonable, adverse impact on those property owners. He does support the idea of undertaking to include occupancy limitations in whatever regulation the Town might undertake after consideration by the ad hoc committee headed by Councilwoman Finke.

The vote to approve Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-04 with the changes in a final form, that would include marked changes in the draft form was unanimous.

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Date: July 28, 2020



Town Clerk