



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:00pm, Monday, May 4, 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 2020-05, including changing the expiration date for the entry checkpoints and access restrictions, considerations of road closures on Ocean Boulevard between Pavilion and J.C. Long Boulevard to allow restaurant outdoor overflow seating until Governor McMaster lifts the restrictions on outdoor dining, and other measures proposed for the safety and public health of the City of Isle of Palms

MOTION: Council Member Buckhannon made a motion to allow for outdoor seating at Isle of Palms restaurants directly outside the space of their establishments for the next fifteen (15) days as a City-sponsored event. Council Member Moye seconded the motion.

Administrator Fragoso pointed out that Ocean Boulevard between 10th-14th is City-owned so the same liability concerns remain. Chief Cornett said that there will need to be signs and clearly defined boundaries as to where alcohol could be consumed in those areas. Council Member Buckhannon clarified his motion applies to all restaurants on the island and not just those on Ocean Boulevard.

Administrator Fragoso pointed out that the public restrooms would not be open until the checkpoint is lifted. The City is currently looking for a new attendant to service the restrooms. Administrator Fragoso noted that according to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-31 requires that restaurants follow CDC guidelines as well as those guidelines put forth by the Restaurant and Lodging Association.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion to remove the checkpoints by Wednesday, May 6, 2020. Council Member Popson seconded the motion.

Council member Pounds and Bell expressed concern about the plan agreed upon at the Emergency City Council Meeting on Saturday, May 2, 2020 being abandoned in light of this

motion. Administrator Fragoso said that the checkpoint can be lifted by then, but it will be done without all of the parking restrictions voted upon by City Council. Chief Cornett stated that the parking plan would require the purchase of fencing and or cones at a cost to the City. He said that the easiest plan moving forward is to abandon the parking plan voted on at Saturday's meeting and aggressively enforce beach and parking violations, including social distancing and keeping people moving.

Council members also expressed concern about having enough staff to handle the volume of beachgoers absent of other beaches lifting their access restrictions. Chief Cornett said, "We can use less staff in a more responsive way without the parking plan."

MOTION: Council Member Moye made a motion to amend by having the City revert to its original beach parking plan while maintaining 50% parking capacity at the municipal lot upon the lifting of the checkpoints. Council Member Buckhannon seconded the motion.

Administrator Fragoso said that the County parking lot would open in conjunction with the City lifting the checkpoints. However, the lot would only be open at 50% capacity and no other amenities such as restrooms, changing rooms, concessions, and lifeguards would be available for another week or two.

MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion to move into Executive Session according to §30-4-70(a)(2) to receive legal advice related to the letter received from County Council Chairperson Elliott Summey. Council Member Popson seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Smith

Nays: Moye, Ward, Buckhannon, Popson, Bell, Streetman, Carroll

The motion failed 1-8.

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

Ayes: Moye, Buckhannon, Ward, Smith, Popson, Carroll

Nays: Bell, Pounds, Streetman

The motion passed 6-3.

Discussion ensued further about the motion to lift the checkpoints on Wednesday, May 6, 2020. Council members Pounds, Streetman, and Bell expressed the need to coordinate reopening with other beach communities so as not to compromise the safety of Isle of Palms residents. Council Member Smith said that opening the beach is a way to help the business community. Council Member Buckhannon pointed out that the Governor has lifted restrictions and the City is not exempt from his order to open the island.

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

Ayes: Popson, Smith, Buckhannon, Ward, Moye, Carroll

Nays: Pounds, Streetman, Bell

The motion passed 6-3.

3. Adjournment

Council Member Buckhannon made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Bell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk